Risk Assessment for AOAC use of paddlesports container at Avon Valley

*Includes briefing to be given to new users*

*‘Leader’ in this Risk Assessment refers to whoever is running a led activity, or the person responsible for the activity or supervision of the equipment/container access.*

**Land-based risks**

| **Hazard** | **Initial Risk****(Likelihood/****Severity)** | **Who might be harmed** | **Control measures** | **Remaining Risk** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Entrapment or impact from boats and paddles when loading/unloading container | LikelyModerate | Participants & helpers | If storing items upright, tie secure them to prevent them falling over.If storing boats horizontally on top of each other, place them so that any sliding will be away from the container entrance. | LowModerate |
| Trip hazard from poorly placed equipment | LikelyModerate | Participants & helpers | Place equipment on the ground away from pathways  | LowModerate |
| Sharp objects and slipping on access / egress | LikelyMinor | Participants & helpers | Access / egress only at slipway.Suitable footwear to be worn at all times.Prior to use, Leader to check areas for sharp objects, trip hazards and slippery surfacesNo running and care to be taken on uneven surfaces | LowMinor |
| Poor lighting / darkness | LikelyModerate | Participants & helpers | Aim to finish in daylight. Leader to have access to light to use in container | LikelyLow |
| Access for emergency vehicles | Possible/Serious | Participants & helpers | Parked vehicles must not obstruct access tracks. | LowSerious |
| Moving and handling boats & equipment | Very likelySerious | Participants and helpers | Use sufficient people to share loadsUse good lifting techniqueCoordinate the moving of many boatsCare taken when emptying swamped boatsCheck all boats are fitted with suitable buoyancy | LowSerious |
| Injuries | LikelyModerate | Participants and helpers | Use help to open and shut container if neededEnter and move around container with care – especially in failing light | LowModerate |
| Pedestrians - Impact with motor vehicle | LikelyFatal | General public, participants & helpers | Access to the container by vehicle is only permissible before 1000 and after 1800. Adhere to speed limits when driving vehicles.Be alert for vehicle movements when walking around the park. | LowFatal |
| Conflict with other Avon Valley users | PossibleLow | Participants and helpers | Only enter the park at agreed times or with Avon Valley’s permissionPark away from the area used by SUP companyNo shouting or musicGet changed modestlyBe sensitive to families with childrenDo not block or linger on the slipwayGive SUP company priority in use of slipwayDo not operate in stretches of water in use by SUP companyLook out for fishermen and give a wide berth | LowLow |
| Damaged Equipment | LikelySerious | Participants | On identifying damaged equipment, Leader to ensure that it Is identified as such and segregated from other equipment stored in the container. | LowLow |

**Water-based risks**

| **Hazard** | **Initial Risk****(Likelihood/****Severity)** | **Who might be harmed** | **Control measures** | **Remaining Risk** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Injuries | LikelyModerate | Participants and helpers | Warm up before the sessionHelmets to be worn on the waterGames organised to keep risk of paddle impacts lowCare taken when getting in and out of boats supervised to avoid capsize and finger entrapments | LowModerate |
| Drowning | Very likelyFatal | Participants & helpers | Correctly sized and fitted buoyancy aids to be worn when in the vicinity of the river and on it.Appropriate group/leader ratios for led groupsParticipants must be able to swim at least 10 m in a buoyancy aid or be supervised. | LowFatal |
| Hypothermia / hyperthermia | Very likelyFatal | Participants | Appropriate clothing to be worn for expected conditionsMonitor participants condition during led activitiesMake activities appropriate for the temperature | LowModerate |
| Entrapment in boats, vegetation or structures | LikelySerious | Participants | Avoid obstructing vegetation or structuresBoats to be correctly fitted for each participantCheck that fittings in boats are secureParticipants coached on getting in and out of boatsLoose clothing and laces to be properly secured | LowSerious |
| Adverse weather | LikelySerious | Participants | Weather forecast to be consulted, interpreted and assessedDynamic risk assessment to be undertaken by LeaderSuitable clothingNo paddling during fast flowing river conditions or high risk of electric storm.Leader to cancel or curtail session if conditions are considered to be unsafe, taking account of participants individual capabilities | LowMinor |
| Waterborne diseases | PossibleSerious | Participants and helpers | Water quality to be assessed prior to the activityCover cuts and grazes with waterproof dressingsWash hands and face before eatingAll participants to be aware of Weill’s Disease, symptoms and actions to be taken if they present. | LowSerious |
| Collisions with other river users | PossibleSerious | Participants | Monitor and assess activities of other usersModify activity if necessary | LowMinor |
| Illness or ability issues | LikelySerious | Participants | Participants to notify Leader of any medical conditions that could affect performance or behaviour during the session.Use suitable equipment (such as sit-on-tops, no spray deck) if boat entry/exit is impaired.Responsible person to monitor participant if needed  | LowMinor |
| Injuries | LikelyModerate | Participants and helpers | Warm up before the sessionHelmets to be worn on the waterGames organised to keep risk of paddle impacts lowCare taken when getting in and out of boats supervised to avoid capsize and finger entrapments | LowModerate |
| Paddling over Swineford Weir | Likely/Fatal | Participants | Portage around the weir and lock. Do not paddle over this weir – it has a long concrete sill. | None |

**Briefing to be given to new participants**

**Intro:** Leaders to be clearly identified.

All participants to follow instructions from leaders

**Clothing:** Buoyancy aids and helmets to be worn on the water

Buoyancy aids to be work when helping people on or off the water

Suitable footwear and clothing to be worn

**Injury:** Take great care in and around the container

Careful of trip hazards and slippery surfaces

No running

**Disease:** Symptoms and actions associated with Weill’s Disease

All cuts & grazes covered

Wash hands before eating

Is everyone feeling well?

**On the water:** Access / egress only from the slipway

Stay clear of other craft and swimmers

How to get in and out of a boat

What to do in the event of capsize

Swimming is not allowed