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 | Likely  Moderate | 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. | Low  Moderate |
| Trip hazard from poorly placed equipment | Likely  Moderate | Participants & helpers | Place equipment on the ground away from pathways | Low  Moderate |
| Sharp objects and slipping on access / egress | Likely  Minor | 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 surfaces  No running and care to be taken on uneven surfaces | Low  Minor |
| Poor lighting / darkness | Likely  Moderate | Participants & helpers | Aim to finish in daylight. Leader to have access to light to use in container | Likely  Low |
| Access for emergency vehicles | Possible/  Serious | Participants & helpers | Parked vehicles must not obstruct access tracks. | Low  Serious |
| Moving and handling boats & equipment | Very likely  Serious | Participants and helpers | Use sufficient people to share loads  Use good lifting technique  Coordinate the moving of many boats  Care taken when emptying swamped boats  Check all boats are fitted with suitable buoyancy | Low  Serious |
| Injuries | Likely  Moderate | Participants and helpers | Use help to open and shut container if needed  Enter and move around container with care – especially in failing light | Low  Moderate |
| Pedestrians - Impact with motor vehicle | Likely  Fatal | 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. | Low  Fatal |
| Conflict with other Avon Valley users | Possible  Low | Participants and helpers | Only enter the park at agreed times or with Avon Valley’s permission  Park away from the area used by SUP company  No shouting or music  Get changed modestly  Be sensitive to families with children  Do not block or linger on the slipway  Give SUP company priority in use of slipway  Do not operate in stretches of water in use by SUP company  Look out for fishermen and give a wide berth | Low  Low |
| Damaged Equipment | Likely  Serious | Participants | On identifying damaged equipment, Leader to ensure that it Is identified as such and segregated from other equipment stored in the container. | Low  Low |

**Water-based risks**

| **Hazard** | **Initial Risk**  **(Likelihood/**  **Severity)** | **Who might be harmed** | **Control measures** | **Remaining Risk** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Injuries | Likely  Moderate | Participants and helpers | Warm up before the session  Helmets to be worn on the water  Games organised to keep risk of paddle impacts low  Care taken when getting in and out of boats supervised to avoid capsize and finger entrapments | Low  Moderate |
| Drowning | Very likely  Fatal | 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 groups  Participants must be able to swim at least 10 m in a buoyancy aid or be supervised. | Low  Fatal |
| Hypothermia / hyperthermia | Very likely  Fatal | Participants | Appropriate clothing to be worn for expected conditions  Monitor participants condition during led activities  Make activities appropriate for the temperature | Low  Moderate |
| Entrapment in boats, vegetation or structures | Likely  Serious | Participants | Avoid obstructing vegetation or structures  Boats to be correctly fitted for each participant  Check that fittings in boats are secure  Participants coached on getting in and out of boats  Loose clothing and laces to be properly secured | Low  Serious |
| Adverse weather | Likely  Serious | Participants | Weather forecast to be consulted, interpreted and assessed  Dynamic risk assessment to be undertaken by Leader  Suitable clothing  No 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 | Low  Minor |
| Waterborne diseases | Possible  Serious | Participants and helpers | Water quality to be assessed prior to the activity  Cover cuts and grazes with waterproof dressings  Wash hands and face before eating  All participants to be aware of Weill’s Disease, symptoms and actions to be taken if they present. | Low  Serious |
| Collisions with other river users | Possible  Serious | Participants | Monitor and assess activities of other users  Modify activity if necessary | Low  Minor |
| Illness or ability issues | Likely  Serious | 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 | Low  Minor |
| Injuries | Likely  Moderate | Participants and helpers | Warm up before the session  Helmets to be worn on the water  Games organised to keep risk of paddle impacts low  Care taken when getting in and out of boats supervised to avoid capsize and finger entrapments | Low  Moderate |
| 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