



WBC General Boating Risk Assessment For Members and Duty Officers

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Assessors:	
Reviewer:	

LIKELIHOOD		SEVERITY	
1	Remote / Improbable	1	Slight cut/bruise
2	Unlikely	2	Injury, probable 3 day.
3	Possible	3	Severe Injury
4	Likely	4	Fatality
5	Almost Certain	5	Multiple Fatality

RISK	RISK CATEGORY	ACTION ESSENTIAL?
1 to 5	LOW	NO
6 to 11	MEDIUM	YES
12 to 25	HIGH	YES

KEY TO RISK RATING:

LIKELIHOOD (L)	×	SEVERITY (S)	=	RISK
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Ref#	Risk	Description	Description of mitigating actions	Pre-mitigation risk				Post-mitigation risk				Category
				LIKELIHOOD	SEVERITY	RISK	CURRENT RISK CATEGORY	LIKELIHOOD	SEVERITY	RISK	RESIDUAL RISK CATEGORY	
1	Incidents leading to death or injury caused by lack of expertise on the water	It is imperative that all boat users are competent in the craft they are using. Members taking out boats must have appropriate experience, training and supervision for that boat type, as often the dangers will not be apparent to a confident novice.	Boats can only be taken out by members in accordance with club bylaws and rules for each boat category. These may include specific training requirements, minimum group sizes, and the presence of trained personnel as approved by the Club. These rules to be displayed clearly and communicated to members. Duty member to ensure that all boats taken out during general boating sessions align to these rules Duty members to be provided with clear instructions about rules for each boat category and named individuals who have permission to use them Establish an incident and near-miss register, to be discussed at Committee Meetings. Two duty members for General Boating sessions, must not be from the same household. Outside of general boating hours access to boats will be restricted to individuals with specific permission and training. Provide Fine Boat users with a means to inform others where and when they have taken out boats outside of General Boating hours and require them to do so.	4	4	16	High	1	3	3	Low	
2	Drowning caused by lack of buoyancy aids	Failure to wear appropriate buoyancy aids specific to activity and level of expertise.	Wearing of buoyancy aids in line with club bylaws and rules, which include: All children under 18 to wear buoyancy aids on club premises, unless they have passed a river swimming test All boat users must wear buoyancy aids for some categories of boat at all times. Members to provide own buoyancy aids which they can have tested annually by RNLI. WBC will stock a small range of buoyancy aids to be lent to non-members on specific occasions, such as Open Days. Regular checks on Club buoyancy aids by RNLI. Make available guidance on how to check buoyancy aids. Non swimmers advised to keep away from river bank	2	4	8	Medium	1	4	4	Low	

3	Death & injury caused by adverse water and weather conditions	The river is more dangerous when there is a high volume of water, strong winds, or even when the water is especially cold.	General Boating will not take place when the water conditions are dangerous. The Duty Member can make that judgment, and in addition should check the river state on the Environment Agency website (http://riverconditions.environment-agency.gov.uk/#listB) if weather conditions have indicated it. The Club will be closed for general boating outside of the summer season. Members will not be able to launch their own boats from the club outside of the summer season. Authorisation for the use of Fine Boats will include appropriate instruction as to the use of boats outside of the summer season and in adverse weather conditions.	4	4	16	High	1	2	2	Low
4	Risk of not responding quickly to water incidents near the club	There are many scenarios involving equipment or people entering the water in the vicinity of the club which may result in injury, loss or damage. These could be as trivial as recovering a dropped paddle or drifting boat or as serious as recovering someone from the water. The ability to provide rapid assistance on the water will mitigate these risks.	A boat should be available during club open hours and ready for immediate use. A life ring attached to a rope should be available at the waterside during club open hours. Emergency Response Plan must be in place and communicated to members and duty members.	3	3	9	Medium	1	3	3	Low
5	Members take boats into unsafe or restricted areas	Members who are unfamiliar with the waterways around WBC may encounter hazards and/or annoy neighbouring properties.	A map should be displayed showing the immediate area of WBC club to indicate weirs, known obstacles, private and restricted waterways. Coaches and Paddle Assistants to be aware of operational area and hazards marked. Clear guidelines for exploration of local waterways to be provided, including possible routes and the restrictions and dangers for each (e.g. underwater hazards). Members should record in the duty log where they will be taking boats out for each session during general boating.	3	4	12	High	2	2	4	Low
6	Risk of slips, trips, accidents and health problems around boat club and landing stage	When the club is crowded and equipment is being moved around, there is a heightened danger of injury and damage around the club house and landing stage	Regular maintenance of landing stages, river bank, steps and Club House floors Appropriate cleaning & maintenance of equipment after use by Members Continuous dynamic monitoring of slipway by Duty Member – not to be used except for launching of boats Observation of weather and bank conditions e.g. slippery surfaces Defibrillator installed and maintained with clear instructions on display to help in the event of heart attacks	3	3	9	Medium	1	3	3	Low
7	Sprains, Strains and soft tissue injuries	There is a risk to members of injury caused by mishandling of heavy boating equipment in and around the club.	Members given guidance in handling boats in the club and assistance from the duty member if appropriate. Kayaks and canoes on racks above the paddler's shoulder height must be removed by two people working together No climbing on the boat racks; suitable ladders must be made available	4	3	12	High	1	3	3	Low
8	Risk of injury or damage caused by overcrowding and obstacles on club premises	There is a risk to members and boating equipment if the land around the club and next to the river is crowded or there are trip hazards.	Vehicles should only be allowed onto club premises for specific reasons e.g. delivery or collection of items, rubbish, boats Dogs should only be allowed on club premises if they are kept under control on a short lead and away from the water's edge and boat handling activities.	3	3	9	Medium	1	2	2	Low
9	Antisocial behaviour annoying other river users	There is a risk of bringing the club into disrepute if members behave in an antisocial manner	Make available guidance to members on rules of the river for small craft Keep noise down and respect private property and its owners Always be aware of and respect other river users and their boats	3	3	9	Medium	1	3	3	Low
10	Aggravation to wildlife	Members may disturb birds and nests thereby causing damage and even injury to themselves and wildlife Nesting Birds / Aggressive Swans/ Geese protecting nesting sites	Provide advice to members on keeping clear of swans and geese protecting nest sites, and nesting birds generally during nesting season	2	3	6	Medium	1	2	2	Low
11	Infection risk (especially Weil's Disease and Legionella)	Risk that members may be exposed to infections such as Weil's and Legionella when using Club equipment and facilities	Weil's Disease symptoms and precautions to be advertised on club notice boards Members to be advised of the dangers of Weil's disease in Welcome Pack Weil's disease to be addressed in training courses as appropriate: Risks higher in spate conditions. Avoid intentional capsize in poor conditions. Precautions in place to prevent Legionella growth in showers, especially over the winter months. Committee will consider appropriate actions should any other infection risks be identified	2	4	8	Medium	1	3	3	Low

12	Inconvenience to members caused by boats not being shared	Risk that some members may not be able to take out a boat if boats have been monopolised by other members	Members should agree with the duty member how long they will be taking boats out for each session during general boating. Duty member may choose to restrict session lengths on busy days down to a minimum of half an hour.	4	3	12	High	1	3	3	Low	
13	Damage to property and injury caused by fire and electric discharge	Flammable materials and electrical equipment must be maintained, stored and handled appropriately.	All electrical equipment and wiring to be safety approved on a regular basis Fire extinguishers to be checked on a regular basis Gas canisters for BBQ to be stored securely outside of the club building	3	3	9	Medium	1	3	3	Low	
14	Safeguarding Risks	Risk that members may be subject to physical or psychological abuse while engaged in Boat Club activities	A Safeguarding Officer must be appointed with responsibility for defining safeguarding controls and training, and monitoring the implementation and observance of such controls. All children must have the explicit permission of a parent or carer when using Boat Club facilities. All trainers and other members of the Boat Club who are responsible for children must be DBS checked and receive appropriate training. A reporting mechanism must exist for complaints to be escalated.	2	3	6	Medium	1	1	1	Low	