

Blair Atholl Risk Assessment 2024

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| Name of activity, event, and location | Water Activities SUP, Mega SUP, Kayaking & Canoeing At Loch Faskally As part of Blair Atholl Jamborette 2024 | Date of risk assessment | 8 June 2024 | Name of person doing this risk assessment | Steve Powell |
| | | Date of next review | 29 July 2024 | | |

| What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it? | Who is at risk? | What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs? | Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled? |
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| A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard. | For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors | Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity. | Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review. |
| For example: Hazard: fire Risk: smoke inhalation or burns | Leaders, vistor, Young Leaders, Scouts | Smoke: use dry wood, check wind direction, stand people out of smoke direction. Burns: stay a safe distance from fire, place extra wood on caefully, teach Scouts good practice around fires, have a burns first aid kit easily available. | |
| Participants fall overboard due to capsize, not holding on, gust or wind change – injury on impact with water or boat. | All participants | PPE (helmet, buoyancy aid) Is worn thus giving some protection (Severity - Marginal, Frequency - Occasional | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Participants fall overboard - Drowning | All Participants | All participants wear a buoyancy aid. All activity is undertaken with an instructor acting as safety/rescue at hand (Severity – Critical, Frequency – Improbable). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Participants fall overboard – Boat proceeds out of control hitting person in water or other craft. | All participants | Very unlikely as boat will tend to veer off and drift down wind clear of point where person has fallen in (Severity – Critical, Frequency – Improbable). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Helm falls overboard – Loss of concentration or gusting wind. Boat proceeds out of control hitting person in water or other craft. | Instructors / participants | Boat will tend to head to wind and drift without intervention from these left onboard (Severity – Critical, Frequency – Improbable). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Helm / Crew being overpowered by strong wind. – Crew trapped and unable to release themselves. | Instructors / participants | Instructors to carry rescue knife; | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Cold weather or windchill – Scottish weather and incorrect clothing, repeated capsizing Participants suffer hypothermia | All participants | Correct clothing is worn, instructors monitor condition of all participants. Survival bag is available in rescue vehicle if severe effects develop. (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Supervisors / Instructors are acquainted with the signs of hypothermia and their first aid training includes treatment for hypothermia.. Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |

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| Grounding - Depth insufficient for boat. Being blown ofcourse / ashore. Damage to craft: Injury to participants onboard. Impact with parts of boat or being thrown overboard. | All participants | Grounding not considered a hazard. (Severity – Critical, Frequency – Remote). | Classification = C All boats to proceed at slow speed when operating close to shore. Participants standing are advised to kneel when close to shore/shallows. Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Objects being propelled by personnel on shore – Injury to people or damage to boat. | All participants | Activity afloat will generally be well away from the shore. (Severity – Negligible, Frequency – Remote). | Classification = D Vigilance by all. Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Hypothermia - poor clothing, weather, repeated immersion, Injury to participants | All participants | Instructor supervision, all instructors and leaders first aid trained. (Severity – Marginable, Frequency – Improbable). | Classification = D Sheltered facilities close at hand and transport back to main site. Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Polluted/Contaminated water/Algal bloom – Discharge from a sewerage source - algal bloom – Personnel ingest water and become unwell | All participants | In general, the quality of the water is good: Leader to review following heavy rain if there is contamination; notices are posted should blue!green algae be prevalent and loch may be closed. (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Remote). | Classification = C Instructor to check on water quality and ascertain if capsize practice is to be undertaken. Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Objects in the water – semi submerged objects in water, injury to personnel or damage to boat | All participants | Vigilance by instructors and crew. (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Risk is heightened when there has been recent rain or there has been recent launch of another craft. Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Collison with other water users. Lack of observationof surroundings, sudden movement of other craft. Injury to personnel or damage to boat. | All participants | Keep clear of public using the loch. (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Remote). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Lightning/Adverse weather. Lightning strike; burns or severe injury to participants | All participants | Check weather forecast, return to shore before storm arrives or as quickly as possible ofr arrival. (Severity – Critical, Frequency – Remote). | Classification = C Be prepared to take defensive action and get participants off craft. Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Boats overloaded and becoming unstable - too many participants onboard, boat capsizes | All participants | Adhere to maximum numbers for each craft. (Severity – Critical, Frequency – Remote). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Injury from moving parts on craft. Trapping of fingers. Injury to head, Injury to hands and fingers. | All participants | Crew briefed by instructor; helmets worn by all under 18s on the water. (Severity – Critical, Frequency – Remote). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Slips trips and falls – on the bank and accessing the craft | All participants | Ensure that all involved in this activity is wearing suitable footwear and are made aware of the ground round about them. (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |

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| Getting Hit by paddles (All Craft)- either before accessing the water or during activities on the water | All participants | Ensure that all involved are informed to keep a safe space away from each other and that paddle blades are kept low and away from head height. Helmets to be worn by all under 18s. (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Drowning / struggling in the water – participant in the water struggles | All participants | All involved at the water will wear life jackets or buoyancy aids anytime they are near the water or slip way. (Severity – Critical, Frequency – Remote). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Manual handling – carrying boats from trailer, unloading, loading | All participants | Ensure that all involved safely lift all equipment and do not strain themselves. Ensure that all staff remove the equipment from the trailers. (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Cuts and Grazes – suffered in advance or on the day | All participants | First Aid Kit available. Thoroughly wash any areas which have been cut or grazed to avoid infection. Consider more than just a bandage to maintain a barrier (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Sun and Heat – Hyperthermia effects of ‘double sun’ from above and the water reflection | All participants | Avoid excessive clothing if it is very warm. Observation of participants. Appropriate clothing/hats, etc. should be worn, along with high factor sunscreen. (Severity – Negligible, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Medication – may be needed on the water or immediately after | All participants | Any medication with immediate need to be carried in a dry bag by the relevant boat leader/permit holder (Severity – Critical, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Weather – can be changeable Thunder/lightening rules – if heard/seen then off the water ASAP for 30 mins from last instance | All participants | Planning should consider most recent weather forecasts. Anticipated conditions should be explained as part of the pre-launch briefing. Thunder/lightening rules to be followed (Severity – Critical, Frequency – Remote). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Animals (especially swans) – serious injury if antagonized or threatened | All participants | Briefing about action to take near swans and especially cygnets (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Changing/safeguarding – limited space and ability to change, limited privacy | All participants | Safeguarding to be considered as paramount. Box trailer available to be used where possible to create privacy To be encouraged to wait until return to camp to change if possible (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Common). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Vehicle movement around the lake during the activity and in the vicinity | All participants | Awareness to be made of other vehicles and traffic around the launch area (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Water depth and sudden variations – depth of water can vary suddenly, more significant for SUPs | All participants | SUPs to kneel in less than 6ft of depth Caution to be taken by all other craft. Swimmers to note that sudden changes are possible (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Common). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Loch bottom could be mud, get stuck in it, sinking, struggling to become free | All participants | All to be warned and instructors to pay particular attention in known higher risk areas Assistance to be provided to any stranded participant. Closed toe shoes required to protect feet (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |

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| Paddling injuries such as pulled muscles. . | All participants | Are addressed by the warm up and warm down (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Cold Water Shock – shock and panic on any capsized or fall in | All participants | Participants to be encouraged to see the temperature of the water using hands (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Windy Conditions – paddling will be harder, SUPs are likely to drift, may not be possible to return to original get off | All participants | Wind to be judged each day and boats to be rafted or alternatives used if required (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Occasional). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Loss of Paddle / Balance on the Board – instability and falls could cause injury | All participants | Safety on top of the board is instructed. Briefing that if unstable then go onto knees. Participants must know how to paddle like a surfboard. (Severity – Marginal, Frequency – Common). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
| Overhanging Trees / Weeds – potential to become tangled or trapped | All participants | Paddlers advised to negotiate around trees, both overhanging and floating. Advised as to correct action in event of entanglement (Severity – Critical, Frequency – Remote). | Classification = C Risks reduced to a level that is As Low As Reasonably Practical (ALARP). |
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Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.

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