



RISK ASSESSMENT

Activity Category:	Waterborne – Paddle sports	Reference Documents/Comments
Sub Activities:	Canoe Construction Maintenance Canoeing / Kayaking Paddle Sports	Including • Sprint & Marathon • Slalom • Surf Kayak • Wild Water Racing • Polo • Freestyle • Dragon Boating • Stand-up Paddle Boarding • IBOS • DRBS SOP's
Risk Assessment Ref No:		
Risk Assessment Type:	GENERIC	
Date of Assessment:	Thursday, 01 January 2026	Location:
Review Frequency:	ANNUAL	Unit or Site specific
Next Review Date:	Wednesday, 31 March 2027	

Activity Category- Sub Activities	Hazards (something with a potential to cause harm)	Consequences Likelihood/Severity	Who and/or What is at risk	Control Measures (CM) Practical and evidence based, including assurance activities. New CMs required in RED Text:
Strategic (Covers all sub activities)	Undertaking Waterborne Proficiencies without due diligence and risk mitigation processes	Undertaking activities with poor management leading to significant risks: - Injury - Ill health - Reputational - Legal	MSSC Organisation CFAV Cadets Public Emergency services	- List key procedural documents - IBOS - DRBS SOP's - List assurance activities
Canoe Construction FRP (New Build)	Lack of expertise in FRP construction methods.	Lack of expertise in FRP construction methods, leading to exposure to hazards substances causing serious health issues	Participants Instructor/Coaches	- Activity deemed beyond the scope of Sea Cadet Experience. Due to risk level, this activity is to be listed on the RED list.
Canoe Construction canvas on frame (New Build)	Lack of expertise in canvas on frame construction methods.	Lack of expertise in chosen construction methods, leading to exposure to hazardous substances causing health issues. Use of equipment causing physical injury	Participants Instructor/Coaches	- Robust site-specific risk assessment and planning. - To cover, for example, PPE, COSHH, briefing and supervision and the use of appropriate design/plans. - Once constructed any use of this craft is to be controlled by Inshore Boating Operating - Standard for the recording and checking of boats and equipment.
Sprint & Marathon	Capsize Entrapment Collision at speed Fatigue Muscular strains	Hyperthermia Drowning Upper Body Injuries Damage to equipment Muscular damage	Participants	Supervision in accordance with: - IBOS 9.5.1 (Paddle sport Supervision ratios) and by competent/certificated instructors as per IBOS 5.0

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				- Racing/race training focused on framework of organised racing activity only
Surf Kayak	Capsize Entrapment Wave Action - stuck underwater Riptides Collision - other participant Collision - Shoreline	Hypothermia Drowning Severe Injuries Damage to equipment Muscular damage Risk of being swept out to sea	Participants Instructor/Coaches	- Supervision in accordance with: IBOS 9.5.1 (Paddle sport Supervision ratios) and by competent/certificated instructors as per IBOS 5.0 - Appropriate Water Safety Equipment Prerequisites for attendees as per Course Catalogue - Only delivered when approved on a case-by-case basis (controlled numbers)
Polo	Capsize Entrapment Combative paddling Collisions	Hypothermia Drowning Upper Body Injuries Damage to equipment Muscular damage	Participants Instructor/Coaches	- Supervision in accordance with: IBOS 9.5.1 (Paddle sport Supervision ratios) and by competent/certificated instructors as per IBOS 5.0 - Appropriate Water Safety Equipment - Competition/training focused on framework of organised competition activity only -
Stand-up Paddle Boarding	Fall from board Fall off into shallow water Collisions Moving water Entrapment	Fall onto board or hard water's edge or underwater object Head injuries Hypothermia Drowning	Participants Instructor/Coaches	Supervision in accordance with: - IBOS 9.5.1 (Paddle sport Supervision ratios) and by competent/certificated instructors as per IBOS 5.0 - Appropriate Water Safety Equipment

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	Fatigue Other water users	Strains and muscular injuries Loss of participant Loss of group control		- Majority of supplied boards inflatable (soft contact) - Pre-requisites for attendees as per Course Catalogue - Delivery only on sheltered or very sheltered water (MSSC only supports delivery up to first discipline specific award) Expeditions delivered In accordance with IBOS 9.7 - Expeditions
Canoe	Capsize Fatigue Swamping Collisions Other water users	Hypothermia Drowning Damage to equipment Muscular damage	Participants	Supervision in accordance with: - IBOS 9.5.1 (Paddle sport Supervision ratios) and by competent/certificated instructors as per IBOS 5.0 appropriate Water Safety Equipment Pre-requisites for attendees as per Course Catalogue Expeditions delivered In accordance with IBOS 9.7 - Expeditions
Placid Water Kayaking	Capsize Entrapment Collisions Other water users	Hypothermia Drowning Damage to equipment Muscular damage	Participants	Supervision in accordance with: - IBOS 9.5.1 (Paddle sport Supervision ratios) and by competent/certificated instructors as per IBOS 5.0 - Delivery only on Sheltered or Very Sheltered water

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White Water Kayak/Canoe	Capsize Entrapment Pinning Impacts in moving water Swept Away by moving water	Hypothermia Drowning Upper Body Injuries Damage to equipment Muscular/Skeletal damage	Participants Instructor/Coaches	Supervision in accordance with: - IBOS 9.5.1 (Paddle sport Supervision ratios) and by competent/certificated instructors as per IBOS 5.0 - Appropriate Water Safety Equipment Instructor requirements include White water Rescue techniques - Prerequisites for attendees as per Course Catalogue - Course Organisers to complete Extended Area of Operations request per activity
Touring	Capsize Entrapment Tide/River Flow Fatigue Benightment Loss of bearings	Hyperthermia Drowning Upper Body Injuries Damage to equipment Muscular damage Missing Persons	Participants Instructor/Coaches Emergency Services	in accordance with: - IBOS 9.5.1 (Paddle sport Supervision ratios) and by competent/certificated instructors as per IBOS 5.0 - Appropriate Water Safety Equipment - Prerequisites for attendees as per Course Catalogue - Course Organisers to complete Extended Area of Operations request per activity Expeditions delivered In accordance with IBOS 9.7 - Expeditions
Sea Kayak	Capsize Entrapment Tide/River Flow	Hypothermia Hyperthermia Drowning	Participants Instructor/Coaches	- Supervision in accordance with: IBOS 9.5.1 (Paddle sport Supervision

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	Fatigue Benightment Loss of bearings	Upper Body Injuries Damage to equipment Muscular damage Missing Persons	Emergency Services	ratios) and by competent/certificated instructors as per IBOS 5.0 - Appropriate Water Safety Equipment Prerequisites for attendees as per Course Catalogue - Course Organisers to complete Extended Area of Operations request per activity Specialist Boats (in packs) provided to deliver Sea kayak specific training - Expeditions delivered in accordance with IBOS 9.7 - Expeditions -
SPARE ROWS TO BE ADDED IF NEEDED TO MAKE IT SPECIFIC				

ACCEPTANCE AND AUTHORISATION	Name	Role/Post	Date
Assessor	A Simpson	Facilities Manager	01/01/2026
Controls agreed by:	D Finlay	Principal	07/01/2026
	W Shepherd	Chair	01/01/2026
Additional/Exceptional controls implemented by?			