

Risk Assessment: Kayak sessions at The Garden Court swimming pool, St Margarets

Last updated: November 2023

This assessment covers activities in a shallow and well-heated kids' pool, approximately 3 x 8 meters in size. Activities likely to be limited to spray deck tests and rolling practice.

Hazard	Who might be harmed?	How might the risk be controlled?	Further mitigating actions	Risk owner	Reviewer, review date & comments
Drowning	Paddlers taking part in pool sessions	<p>Pool is shallow. Adults can always stand with head above water.</p> <p>Every session to begin with every participant practicing rolling a paddler in a kayak upright from in the water</p> <p>No participant to be alone unattended in the pool</p> <p>Coach has been assessed as competent to perform unconscious paddler rescues</p>	<p>All participants briefed on spray deck checks (pull handle is visible)</p> <p>Reinforce the shared responsibility to look out for each other</p>	Coach on the day	<p>Updated Nov 23, added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coach competence requirement
Hypothermia	Paddlers taking part in pool sessions	<p>Pool heated to 34 degrees Celsius.</p> <p>Participants briefed on appropriate clothing during cooler months.</p>	<p>Heated changing room, hot showers and kitchen with kettle on site</p>	Coach on the day	<p>Updated Nov 23, added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief on clothing for winter sessions
Slips, trips and falls	Paddlers taking part in pool sessions	<p>Poolside well designed with non-slip tiling and wider area covered by soft astroturf</p>	<p>Coach to remind people that tiles are slippery when wet</p>	Coach on the day	<p>Updated Nov 23, added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change

Sprains, strains and soft tissue injuries	Paddlers taking part in skills development	Warm up Demonstrate safe techniques	MYABCDE briefing seeks info on any injuries or history that might affect teach paddler on the day	Coach on the day	Updated Nov 23, added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
Pollution and water quality	Risk of contaminating the pool with dirty boats	Boats to be sponged down with soapy water first	Chlorinated pool	Coach on the day	Updated Nov 23, added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
Other pool users	Paddlers taking part in pool sessions	We rent the whole pool	Brief participants to be wary of/when wielding paddles in such a small space	Coach on the day	Updated Nov 23, added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be ware of paddles in small space
Weirs and man made features	Paddlers sustaining head injuries on the pool edge	Coach to warn of danger of hitting head on pool edge	Carry as many helmets as we have boats & offer to participants	Coach on the day	Updated Nov 23, added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer helmets
Injury from traffic	Paddlers unloading boats from vehicles	Make use of roadside parking close to the pool. No roads to cross to get to pool	Work together to look out for traffic while loading boats	Coach on the day	Updated Nov 23, added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
Injury from manual handling	Paddlers loading / unloading boats and carrying to the pool	Take small light kayaks Work in pairs	Remind people of good manual handling techniques	Coach on the day	Updated Nov 23, added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
Property and facilities	Damage to the pool lining from paddles and boats	Tape over any rough edges of paddle blades.	Remind people to take care of the facility	Coach on the day	Updated Nov 23, added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
Weather and environmental conditions	Paddlers getting cold waiting for their turn	Make use of the changing room that overlooks the pool	Winter: See Hypothermia Summer: Advise sun hats	Coach on the day	Updated Nov 23, added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advise sun hats in summer

Current version: v1, updated by Andrew Cockayne (BC Risk Assessment training last refreshed April 2023)

Version control:

- Version 0: First draft: Andrew Cockayne, Dec 2022
- Version 1: Updated: Andrew Cockayne, November 2023