

Paddlesports Risk Assessment: Silver Wing Lake, Wraysbury (Silver Wing SC)

Last updated: November 2023

This risk assessment relates to paddlesports coaching sessions on Silver Wing Lake, home to Silver Wing Sailing Club. The environmental definition for the lake is Sheltered Water, with possibility of meeting the Open Water definition in the event of an Easterly (offshore) wind, blowing above Force 3. All risks are owned, managed and controlled dynamically by the coach on the day.

Controls and mitigating actions shown are cumulative to avoid repetition.

Hazard	Who might be harmed?	How might the risk be controlled?	Further mitigating actions	Risk rating, date & comments	Review date & notes
Drowning	All paddlers on the session	Wearing of buoyancy aids Instruction in capsize procedures Relevant supervision for novices	Coaches check BA fitting for each participant. All BAs tested according to recommended standards at least annually. Coaches design activities according to competence of the participants on the day. Only participants with rescue training can paddle more than 50m from the shore. All equipment used is checked for damage before each day's activities. Equipment is regularly maintained.	Low	Reviewed Nov 23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access is very safe. • Beaches and pontoons available.
Hypothermia	All paddlers on the session	Participants advised on the correct clothing to wear before the session. Adjustment to clothing as required	Coach to carry group shelter & spare gear as appropriate to weather on the day. Safety briefing for each session.	Low	Reviewed Nov 23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key provides access to changing rooms and hot showers.

			Continuous dynamic risk assessment while paddling. Coach must hold a valid first aid certificate.		
Weather and environmental conditions	All paddlers on the session	Coach to operate within remit No paddling when forecast of electric storms	Seek alternative dates or venues according to forecast & weather on the day	Low	Reviewed Nov 23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather station on island in lake provides realtime data
Head injuries	All paddlers on the session	Advise participants to wear helmets when practicing rescues	Coach to demonstrate safe techniques according to current guidance	Low	Reviewed Nov 23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottom is soft. Avoid rescue practice near concrete slipways.
Slips, trips and falls	All paddlers on the session	Pontoons and general area maintained and kept clean and free of debris	Assess entry points on the day	Low	Reviewed Nov 23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
Sprains, strains and soft tissue injuries / Injury from manual handling	All paddlers on the session	All participants to work together to un/load boats on cars	Park close to the waterside Coach to supervise	Medium	Reviewed Nov 23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
Pollution and water quality	All paddlers on the session	Venue is a non-thames venue, unpolluted by sewage discharges or pollutants	Check with the sailing club safety officer	Low	Reviewed Nov 23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWSC safety team lead is Malcom Weller.
Other water users	All paddlers on the session	Avoid sailing boats	Check race plans and coaching schedule with sailing club before each session & agree any areas to be off limits for paddling.	Low	Reviewed Nov 23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWSC has asked us to avoid paddling on race days

Weirs and man-made features	All paddlers on the session	None known at this venue	Check regularly with sailing club for any known obstructions in the water	Low	Reviewed Nov 23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWSC safety team lead is Malcom Weller.
Overhanging trees or strainers	All paddlers on the session	Safety briefing to advise paddlers to negotiate around trees, both overhanging and floating.	There is no flow, but coach to dynamically assess the risk of being blown into trees & adapt session plans accordingly.	Low	Reviewed Nov 23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
Injury from traffic	Course participants Other road users	Venue is behind a closed gate with no public traffic access		Low	Reviewed Nov 23: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change

Current version: v2

Version control:

- Version 0: First draft: Andrew Cockayne, May 2023 (BC Risk Assessment training last refreshed April 2023)
- Version 1: Updated: Andrew Cockayne, July 2023
- Version 2: Updated by Andrew Cockayne, November 2023