

Shark Risk Assessment for canoeing on the canal at Harefield from Rickmansworth Sailing Club

Risk	Actions	Responsibility	Other
Getting boats and kit out of cage	Instructors to supervise and get boats out	Instructors	
Trips and slips on the path to the canal. This is an uneven track, with some loose stones.	Suitable footwear needs to be worn.	Paddlers/parents	
Getting in and out of boat	There is a good landing stage to make this easy, however, during Spring there may be nesting birds nearby. In which case instructors are to advise getting in at the mainline of the canal.	Instructors	
Falling in the water	All participants must wear Buoyancy aids. Participants are informed of what action to take if they should fall in, prior to getting in a boat.	Instructor Instructor	At entry level lessons, at least one instructor must be on the water. Entry level lessons are designed to minimise the chances of falling in.
Ill effects of immersion in water	Cuts and open wounds should be covered before participants take part. Participants are advised that if they fall in they should shower as soon as possible. If any ill effects are felt, to seek medical advice as soon as possible and to inform doctor of the fact you have been canoeing in the canal.	Paddlers/parents/instructors Instructor to advise Instruction to advise parents	

Injury from tripping or falling over	No running on the canal side, near equipment, or moored boats	Instructor to enforce rules	
Injury from lifting canoes	Juniors not to lift boats on their own	Instructor	Boat should only be carried under supervision by juniors and the always two people per boat.
Injury from bumping into each other on the water	Deliberate crashing is not allowed Buoyancy aids are designed to give all round protection from minor collisions.	Instructor to maintain behaviour whilst on the water.	At entry level lessons paddlers will not be travelling sufficiently fast to cause any major issues
Injury from being accidentally hit by another person's paddle.	Lessons to be run to ensure that paddlers have their own space. Deliberately hitting other paddlers is not allowed.	Instructor.	
Hypothermia	Paddlers should wear appropriate clothing. If participants fall in they should follow the teacher's instructions and get back in the boat as soon as possible.	Instructor to advise	Survival blankets are available at all sessions.
Exhaustion	Paddlers should wear appropriate clothing for the conditions, on hot days bring water to drink	Instructor to advise	
Sun burn	Wear appropriate clothing and sun cream	Parents/paddlers/instructors	Being in close proximity to water, the sun is reflected onto the skin and participants need to be aware of additional risk on sunny days.
Paddlers becoming entangled with fishing wires	Lessons to be managed to avoid being too close to anglers	Instructor	

Other Canal traffic	<p>Lessons to be managed to move paddlers to the relevant side of the canal when motorised craft come along.</p> <p>Paddlers to be fully briefed of the dangers of other craft.</p> <p>An instructor would be on the water when there are beginners on the water</p>	Instructor	
Moored craft	Paddlers need to be told to keep away from moored craft, beginners sessions to be supervised from the water, with instructors aiding paddlers to keep away from moored craft.	Instructors	

Additional Risks for paddling on Weir stream

Greater risk of falling in	Same precautions as for falling in elsewhere.	Instructors	Inexperienced paddlers will not be on the weir, so paddlers will be well aware and trained in what to do if they capsize
Injuries from hitting slalom poles	Crash hats to be worn	Instructors	
Additional risks of being pushed by flow in to the path of other canal traffic	Instructors to ensure paddlers are in safe locations when other traffic is passing.	Instructors	Particular danger is that the other craft may not estimate the weir and not be in control of their boat. Paddlers should not be between moving boats and the tow path.