

Standard Shark Risk Assessment for paddle sports on unspecified (flat water) sections of the canal

| Risk | Actions | Responsibility | Other |
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| Falling in the water | <p>All participants must wear Buoyancy aids.</p> <p>Participants are informed of what action to take if they should fall in, prior to getting in a boat.</p> | <p>Instructor</p> <p>Instructor</p> | <p>At entry level lessons, at least one instructor must be on the water.</p> <p>Entry level lessons are designed to minimise the chances of falling in.</p> |
| Ill effects of immersion in water | <p>Cuts and open wounds should be covered before participants take part.</p> <p>Participants are advised that if they fall in they should shower as soon as possible.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Paddlers/parents/instructors</p> <p>Instructor to advise, parents or participants to act</p> <p>Instructor to advise, parents or participant to act.</p> | |
| 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 | <p>Deliberate crashing is not allowed</p> <p>Buoyancy aids are designed to give all round protection from minor collisions.</p> | Instructor to maintain behaviour whilst on the water. | At entry level lessons paddlers will not be travelling sufficiently fast to cause any major issues |

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| Injury from being accidentally hit by another person's paddle. | <p>Lessons to be run to ensure that paddlers have their own space.</p> <p>Deliberately hitting other paddlers is not allowed.</p> | 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 | Paddlers or parents | 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 | This can be a busy stretch of canal, with boats pulling in to moor for the lock. |

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| 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 | There are residential mooring on one side and there are usually other boats moored on the towpath side near the lock. |
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