

Risk Assessment: Beavan Challenge Paddle Challenge Event

Delivered by: 4th Heswall Sea Scout Active Support Unit RN44

Name of activity/ event/ location	The Delph, Tawd Vale Adventure Centre, Lowry Hill Ln, Lathom, Ormskirk L40 5UL 📍 53° 34' 57.7265" N 2° 48' 2.6647" W	Date of risk assessment	18/05/2021	Name of who undertook this risk assessment	Andrew Everett Membership Number 11845787
		Date reviewed	17/03/2022 AE 10/09/2023 AE 19/09/2024 AE		

Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<i>Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Likelihood – the chance of it happening. Severity - the potential damage from the hazard</i>	<i>Young people, Leaders, Visitors?</i>	<i>Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way the activity is carried out. Core Leaders/Safety Crew have relevant experience and or qualifications and adequate first aid training.</i>	<i>Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even stop it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.</i>
Terrain Uneven ground, sharp objects, loose equipment. Occasional slips, trips and falls. Cuts, lacerations, grazes, breaks and puncture wounds.	Participants Leaders	Participants made aware of the boundaries and warned of any inherent hazards specific to a particular area. Appropriate footwear to be worn. No crocs, flops, sliders, barefeet NO diving from or pushing on the jetty General good housekeeping and all areas kept clear of loose equipment during event Prior to event excessive weed and detritus is removed from launch/recovery area Slipway, docks and pontoon areas checked for sharp objects. Launch and landing areas clearly marked First Aid kit carried by key leaders/safety boat crew.	Walk through/point-out the route with the leadership/safety team. Consider asking site team to clean the area the week prior. and marking/highlighting ground anomalies/roots with road marker spray.
Collision	All	Detail the route to participants on the white board prior to event start, ask them to explain it back	Consider additional keep out/boat crew only signs

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<p>Cuts, lacerations, grazes, breaks and puncture wounds.</p>		<p>Hold start until course is clear, including slipway & grassed area, and shore/water crews are safely in position and ready</p> <p>From the shore and prior to start ask participants to list possible hazards and point out any they see at the time.</p> <p>Ensure any existing cuts/wounds are covered and advise to clean and re-dress post event.</p> <p>Remove debris and overhanging thorny branches from the lake, consider asking the site team to manage this prior to event..</p> <p>Utilise obstacles and challenges to spread the field.</p>	<p>Consider barrier tape</p> <p>Consider flying group flags to define area</p> <p>Consider safety paddler demonstrates the route to participants prior to event start</p>
<p>Hard Surfaces</p> <p>Paddles and hard surfaces likely capsizing near dock, swinging paddles, incoming obstacles.</p> <p>Upper body and head injuries, knocks, scratches, entrapment</p>	<p>Participants</p>	<p>Helmets essential for all participants</p> <p>Helmet fit checked by a leader/safety crew prior to water entry</p> <p>Participants warned to avoid collision to prevent paddle/head strikes</p> <p>Correct sized paddles to be used.</p> <p>Safety craft to stand off unless required</p> <p>Check there are no scouts in the water and the route clear prior to start hooter.</p> <p>Check the safety teams, water and land based, are ready prior to start hooter.</p>	<p>Demonstrate correct paddle use on shore to participants.</p> <p>Consider no overhead blades if correct use is not adhered</p> <p>Emphasise no barging and to yield if too close</p>
<p>Water</p> <p>Always risk of drowning if they enter the water, either through fatigue, capsizing, falling, tripping from slipway, jetty</p> <p>Cold shock will cause rapid, involuntary, inhalation.</p> <p>Death.</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Leader in charge holds relevant adventurous activities permit/s for craft and water classification</p> <p>Clear briefing on behaviour, rescuing and hazards</p> <p>All participants are capable of swimming 50m open water unaided, signed permission slip checked and held by the team's organiser.</p> <p>All paddlers required to wear a buoyancy aid which complies with the CE 50 Newton standard at all times when afloat.</p> <p>BA fit is checked by leader/safety team prior to event area entry</p> <p>The relay format ensures craft and participants on or in the water at any one time to comply with adventurous permit ratios for 1 permit holder.</p>	<p>Leaders stationed at key vantage points for the duration of the challenge</p> <p>Consider a leader, young leader and safety paddlers training refresher session to ensure that all are fully conversant and up to date with current craft, rescue equipment and techniques.</p> <p>Consider a barrier tape/rope for spectators.</p>

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		<p>Paddle leashes/SUP leash/mooring ropes stowed or removed to prevent entanglement or strangulation</p> <p>Throw lines and or rescue rings readily available</p> <p>Safety boat helm, crew and paddlers are experienced on the water</p> <p>Safety craft manned and on standby away from route</p>	
<p>Pollutant</p> <p>Likely risk from: the presence of Blue/Green Algae and Weils Disease</p> <p>Vomiting, infection, illness, death</p>	<p>Participants Leaders</p>	<p>Make a visual check and pragmatic assessment of the water condition prior to start.</p> <p>Follow advice and recommendations from the local authorities and Environment Agency.</p> <p>Avoid contact with areas affected by scum or algal bloom.</p> <p>Reduce full contact or immersion activities to minimum where there is a perceived risk.</p> <p>Consider having hand sanitiser available</p> <p>Advise all wash hands before eating.</p> <p>Cover all cuts and abrasions prior to water activities, clean and re-dress post activity.</p>	<p>Check water safety with the warden prior to the event.</p> <p>Inspect the water condition and surroundings 24 hours prior or on the morning of the event.</p> <p>Fresh tap water on hand for drinking and rinsing</p> <p>Consider checking with local water authorities prior to the event.</p>
<p>Animals</p> <p>Unlikely, all at risk of being injured by dogs or wildlife especially if they are made to feel threatened.</p> <p>Bites, cuts, scratches, trauma</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>All participants warned of the dangers with wild and domestic animals and on how to behave near them if animals are close by.</p> <p>Vigilance by leaders throughout the session.</p> <p>Particular vigilance should be paid to the monster lurking in the depths, they feed on Beavers and Cubs mainly, but have been known to take the odd scout.</p>	<p>Area is checked for wildlife prior to the event, swans and hungry seagulls in particular.</p> <p>Consider hiring Quint, Hooper, and Brody.</p>

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<p>Weather September/October</p> <p>Probable that all may be affected by adverse weather.</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Monitor weather forecasts prior to the event Final go/no-go decision mutually agreed 24hrs before If there's doubt about the weather, there is no doubt, postpone or cancel. Organisers messaged the day prior to confirm the event is going ahead. Advise appropriate kit list based on forecast, Sudden severe/freak weather during event, lightning/hail/galeforce/flash flood, cease event immediately, lay down all equipment/craft and evacuate to appropriate shelter</p>	<p>Consider shortening the event if conditions are, or become extreme Consider cancelling if conditions are, or become intolerable.</p>
<p>Cold September/October</p> <p>Getting wet from splashing Cold shock response from water immersion, hyperthermia, trauma, heart attack and death.</p>	<p>All on water</p>	<p>Consider having portable AED on hand Safety briefing all participants aware of cold shock response Kit list calls for: Multiple synthetic layers Kit bag containing: Complete change of warm, dry snuggly clothes and warm coat Hat, Gloves and scarf Event in close proximity to warm shower block Most likely with Paddleboarders, consider leaders to hand pick the SUP paddlers.</p>	<p>Consider casualty care briefing with leaders, specifically hypothermia and cold shock response and recovery. Snug coats, fleeces, blankets and survival foils available in the base tent (hot tent). Consider a hot chocolate post event for fall-ins. Consider demanding one chaperone or escort per team to monitor for post rescue collapse up to 1 hour after immersion. Request for a member of Merseyside Emergency Aid team to be present.</p>

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Paddle Challenge Parameters

Race Overview

A relay race comprising multiple paddle disciplines with a seal-start off the jetty to spread the field. Each discipline sets off from the jetty and navigates the buoy/s and returns to the jetty to start the next discipline. Final discipline has a team finish.

Mandatory Safety Measures & Precautions

- First response first aider on standby
- Approved first aid kit, plus exposure equipment.
- Throw lines and safety rings on hand
- Leaders have clear line of site covering all on water activity
- Safety/s craft always on hand
- Two way radios on jetty, shore/base tent and on safety kayak/s optional.

Prerequisites

1. Participants have received (basic) instruction and appropriate briefing.
2. Suitable appropriate personal safety equipment is used.
3. The activity is appropriate to the ages of the participants.
4. All participants have been briefed.
5. There is appropriate supervision by a person who has sufficient skill/knowledge of the water activity.

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