

Aberdeenshire Council

Outdoor Activity Generic Risk Assessments

1.5 Paddlesport: River Rafting

Risk to: Instructors/Group members

Hazard	Risk	Control measures
1. Lifting, inflating and moving rafts.	Manual handling injury.	Raft Guides will be trained within the NGB coaching scheme on correct lifting, handling and inflation techniques. Group members will be briefed by instructor and are supervised.
2. Access to/egress from water.	Slips and falls. Capsize. Immersion.	Raft guides will check the access point to ensure that entry is safe. Raft Guides will brief groups on safe and appropriate access and egress. Group members will be kept safely on shore whilst rafts are launched. Group members will be instructed by the raft guide on how to get aboard safely.
3. Water activity.	Immersion. Entrapment. Collisions. Biological infection. Water level/state.	Raft Guides will be trained to NGB standards in group management, rafting safety and raft control appropriate to the level of the activity. Raft Guides will choose a suitable venue taking account of the nature of the activity, the ability level of the group, water and weather conditions and the equipment available. Group members will wear or carry clothing appropriate for the specific activity and venue. Group members will wear a buoyancy aid, which meets the appropriate specifications. Group members will wear a safety helmet, which meets the appropriate specifications. Group members will be briefed on hazards specific to the craft and area of water being used and will be instructed in the skills and techniques needed to avoid them/deal with them. The instructor and the group will carry safety and rescue equipment appropriate for the specific activity and venue.
4. Equipment.	Unsuitability. Failure. Damaged. Wrongly fitted.	All equipment will meet current specifications and/or accepted standards where applicable and will be suitable for its intended use. Equipment will be regularly maintained, serviced and tested to current specifications where required. Instructors will carry a repair kit suitable for the activity. Raft Guides will visually check equipment at time of issue. If group members are using their own equipment the Instructor will ensure it is suitable for the expected conditions and nature of the activity. Raft Guides will make a final check of equipment prior to the activity starting ensuring that buoyancy aids and helmets are correctly fitted and fastened, rafts are properly fitted out and equipment carried is properly secured.
5. Weather water/conditions.	Possible increased risk level. Cold. Hypothermia. Wind. Sunburn.	Raft Guides will obtain information on weather, water levels and other relevant factors and make an assessment of local conditions prior to any activity taking place. Raft Guides will modify or curtail the activity if prevailing conditions are inappropriate for the group or the planned activity. Instructors will ensure that each member of the group is appropriately clothed, carries sufficient food and that additional food, clothing and equipment is available to suit the expected conditions and nature of the activity. Raft Guides will be First Aid trained to the level required by the NGB for the activity.

Aberdeenshire Council
Outdoor Activity Site/Route Specific Risk Assessments

Activity:

Risk to:

Hazard	Risk	Control measures

Continue on separate sheet if required.