

**LIVERPOOL CANOE CLUB SUMMARY ASSESSMENT OF RISK**

**VENUE – Liverpool Docks**

Liverpool Canoe Club  
Reviewed annually and as required by the club safety officer

Assessment made in July 2024  
Assessed by K. Steer



HAZARD	WHO MIGHT BE HARMED?	IS THE RISK ADEQUATELY CONTROLLED?	WHAT FURTHER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO CONTROL THE RISK?
<i>List hazards here.</i>	<i>List groups of people who are especially at risk from the significant hazard identified.</i>	<i>List existing controls here or note where the information may be found.</i>	<i>List the risks which are not adequately controlled and the actions you will take where it is reasonably practicable to do more.</i>
1. Supervision	All	<p>The club is to ensure that a coach, officer or experienced member will be in overall charge of a club session.</p> <p>Where adult members are suitably experienced (either; Paddle UK 2 star or higher, competition paddlers of Division 4 or higher, hold the <b>Paddle UK</b> Foundation Safety &amp; Rescue Training (FSRT) Award or higher, regularly paddle grade 3 water or Sea kayak 1 mile offshore) they will be able to paddle in small, self-contained training groups.</p> <p>Less experienced club members and those under 18 must be supervised by a club coach, officer or experienced member who will take responsibility for them while on the water. The club has adopted the policy of a parent or suitable adult acting in “loco parentis” always being present during club activities for those under 18.</p>	<p>She / He will remain at the Docks throughout the session unless replaced by another suitably approved person.</p> <p>At all times the paddlers <b>MUST</b> be able to self-rescue in the relatively deep water of the Dock. A competent 100% roll / self-rescue or minimum of 2 kayaks who can rescue each other.</p> <p>Any coaching session will be organised in accordance with current Paddle UK guidelines as to supervision ratios and number of participants. Beginners should work under the supervision of a coach, officer or experienced member until competent to paddle without direct supervision.</p>

*Reference: Paddle UK guidelines, BW Conditions of use at Liverpool Waterfront, discussion with R.C.O., club coaches and officials.  
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2. Drowning	Paddlers	All paddlers who participate in club sessions must be competent. They should be confident in the water and wear an approved PFD at all times whilst on the water.	Continual monitoring by the club member in overall charge of each session and by all club members generally.
	Non-Paddlers	Non-paddlers may wait for friends/children in the car park area / public walkways / Marina Restaurant. There are well-managed guard rails and signs to warn of the dangers	Throwing lines and reaching aids are available at many locations along the docks. Non-paddling club members should be warned of the deep water if they approach the edge of the dock walls.
3. Cold and Hypothermia	All those on or in the water.	<p>Paddlers will wear appropriate clothing for the prevailing weather conditions which may include wet shorts, long or short-sleeved thermal tops, and long or short-sleeved cagoules.</p> <p>However, if any paddler complains of being cold, or appears to show any signs of hypothermia, they should be taken ashore immediately and re-warmed.</p>	<p>Hot drinks and food are available at the Harbourside Club if required to assist in boosting the body temperature. Warm showers are available in an emergency in the changing rooms at the marina. Immersion hypothermia only.</p> <p>Updated Coaches and a large number of members have current first-aid qualifications.</p>

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3. Personal Injury	Paddlers / Parents or helpers	<p>Paddlers/helpers are advised to wear suitable wet footwear with a non-slip sole, or training shoes when using the access steps / Slipway to Coburg Dock. Some form of footwear must be worn at all times.</p> <p>Canoeing is an "assumed risk sport" and adults should ensure that they are suitably experienced and equipped for any paddle. <b>All paddlers MUST be members of the club</b> and will have agreed to the above disclaimer. Any medical conditions which may affect their ability to participate in paddlesport <b>MUST</b> be notified to the coach, officer or experienced member in charge of their session or paddle.</p> <p>Safe handling techniques should be taught during rescue practice. Modern Paddle UK coaching practices help to reduce the chance of shoulder injuries.</p>	<p>The designated overseeing club coach or official should ensure safe practice from all club members. Mobile phones are readily available to summon help should it be required.</p> <p>All updated coaches hold a current first aid certificate. All injuries should be entered into the club's accident book.</p> <p>All coaches are encouraged to attend regular regional update conferences and training.</p>
4. Water Quality	All Members	<p>Environmental scientists under contract to English Partnerships regularly monitor water quality. Details can be obtained from the Harbour Manager.</p>	<p>Any notice of closure/warnings will be circulated to all in the club. This will be circulated from the <a href="mailto:website@liverpoolcanoeclub.co.uk">website@liverpoolcanoeclub.co.uk</a> email address.</p>
5. Boats / Manual Handling	All Members	<p>All members are advised that two people should be used to lift boats. Failure to do so could lead to injury.</p> <p>Cars and boats should be kept clear of Coburg Slip at all times as it may be required for emergency access.</p>	<p>All new members to be advised of Paddle UK recommended safe handling techniques at their first session. Safe practise will be continual monitoring by all members.</p>

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6 .Canoe Polo	All players	Canoe Polo is an "assumed risk" and "water contact sport" that may carry attendant risks. To minimise risks all players are required to wear a helmet, which incorporates a full-face guard, and they must wear a buoyancy aid, which will protect their body from accidental collisions during games. In addition, the front and rear of all polo canoes must be padded and comply with the standards laid down in the current copy of the Paddle UK Canoe Polo Yearbook.	Polo training and games should always be supervised by a qualified referee or experienced paddler.
7 Moored and manoeuvring boats.	All Members	Moored boats and pontoons should be given a wide berth. Larger craft should always be given room to manoeuvre.	Paddlers should be aware that traffic is more likely above half-tide and that congestion occurs at bridges.
8 Paddling into dusk / Dark	All Paddlers	Coburg dock has floodlights and is extremely well illuminated by streetlights, buildings and marina lights on the access ramp. This area can be used safely during the winter evenings by groups of experienced paddlers.	If paddling in other areas/docks during the spring and Autumn evenings, then paddlers MUST have a white light to show to avoid collision and to comply with maritime law.
9 All Activities.	Canoeists and Officials	<p>All participants must comply with our Docks Licence. <a href="#">LCC rules and guidelines should be followed at all times.</a></p> <p>The utmost respect must be given to other water users at all times.</p> <p>All participants must observe all club guidelines and paddle safely at all times. This should apply to boats and equipment. Specifically, all craft must have adequate buoyancy for flat water use in the docks.</p>	<p>Ongoing continual review to ensure that all British Waterways conditions are being observed and adhered to during all club activities.</p> <p><b>“WE WILL ALWAYS KEEP CLEAR OF OTHER WATER USERS”.</b></p> <p>Each user to be made aware of any Emergency and Standard Operating Procedures issued by Canal and Rivers Trust and the Harbour Master (especially following any updates).</p>

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10: Anti-social Behaviour	All	Session leader to actively monitor the docks for signs of anti-social behaviour (groups of youths at the dock walls, jumping in, etc) and avoid paddling in those areas.	All incidents of anti-social behaviour affecting club sessions are to be reported to the club safety officer who will keep a log in order to liaise with docks and local authorities.  Any incidents involving threatened, attempted or actual physical anti-social behaviour (such as throwing items, attempting to board/grab boats, etc) should be immediately reported to the police.
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