

Risk Assessment for Rolling Practice in Coburg Dock

This is in addition to South Docks' general RA.



Liverpool Canoe Club Date of Risk Assessment: 22/09/2025			Name of Risk Assessor: Allan Blanchard Club Safety Officer: Keith Steer		Review Date: Reviewed annually and as required by the club safety officer. (eg following any reported Incidents)
What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed?	Risk	What action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?
Cold water immersion	Paddler and Coach	High Risk of Hypothermia, shock	Wearing of suitable clothing, such as: Wetsuits/drysuits required; pre-session briefing; short immersion durations; warm-up breaks. Supply of hot drinks may be an option	Coach / organiser	Prior to entering the water
Capsize without recovery	Paddler and Coach	Medium Risk of Panic, water inhalation	1:1 or 1:2 coaching ratio; close supervision; rescue-trained assistants on standby	Coach and named assistants?	Continuously assessing
Collision with other paddlers or boats	Paddler and Coach	Medium risk of Injury	Clear zoning; staggered practice; visual markers for rolling zones. Suitable headgear (safety helmets) to be worn by both coach and paddler	Coach	Continuously assessing
Entrapment in a kayak	Paddler (Student)	Medium Risk of Drowning risk	Equipment checks; practice wet exits before rolling; coach within arm's reach. Check that footwear laces are tied correctly. They need to be neat on their shoes as they could potentially get caught on the footrest.	Coach / Participant	Continuously assessing
Fatigue or disorientation	Paddler (Student)	Medium Risk of Reduced performance, increasing risk	Regular breaks; hydration; monitor participant wellbeing	Coach	Continuously assessing
Environmental factors (wind, temperature, visibility)	All	Medium Risk of Reduced Safety Margin	Pre-session weather check; use more sheltered areas of Docks; cancel if conditions deteriorate	Coach/ Organiser	Continuously assessing
Medical emergencies	Coach or paddlers	High Risk of Delayed Response	First aid kit on site; coach first aid trained; emergency plan briefed to group. Knowledge of the locations of Defibs and access for Emergency services. Use of 999 and Egress of Patient. Coach to ask for students' medical details (?)	Coach / Organiser	Prior to entering the water

Inadequate supervision	All	Higher Risk of an Increased risk of incident	Maintain low ratios; assistants briefed; dynamic risk assessment throughout	Coach / Organiser	Continuously assessing
Poor Water Quality	All	Contamination from sewage or a diesel spill from Marina	Visual check of water quality in front of the compound, and move to the area in Queens dock if not suitable	Coach	At the start of the session and monitor throughout