

Risk Assessment for Austin Rawlinson Pool - Speke



Liverpool Canoe Club Date of Risk Assessment: 16/4/25		Name of Risk Assessor: 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?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?
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 and be responsible for all the paddling activities and conduct of participants. She / He will remain at the pool throughout the session unless replaced by another suitably approved person.</p> <p>Paddle UK coaches are trained to work from their boats to perform rescues and run paddling sessions. The coach in charge of the session <u>may choose to supervise or coach from either the bank or from the water</u> (in a kayak or standing in the water).</p> <p>NB The person in overall charge of the session should try to position themselves so that they can still oversee the whole of the pool.</p> <p>They will organise the session in accordance with Paddle UK's current guidelines as to supervision ratios and the number of participants.</p>	<p>LCC coach(es) or supervisor(s) will be identified by a coloured wristband. They will be in addition to any statutory poolside lifeguard provision.</p> <p>The use of a kayak could get a coach to the site of the emergency more quickly and prevent them from even having to enter the water (Entering the water is taught as a last resort in all Paddle UK safety courses)</p> <p>Pool lifeguards should communicate any emergency situation which concerns them to the coach(es) with a double blast on their whistle and point to the area of concern. LCC coach or supervisor is then responsible for the rescue or extradition of any participant from an upturned kayak. Once in the water, and if required, the casualty can then be handed over to the pool lifeguard.</p>	Session leader (as identified on the club calendar)	Before the session is approved and made visible to members on the calendar
2. Drowning	Paddlers	<p>All paddlers who participate in individual training and practice MUST be competent in capsizing and self-rescue. Most will work in pairs or groups in the main pool.</p> <p>Beginners should work under the supervision of a coach or supervisor until competent to paddle without direct supervision.</p>	<p>Canoeing in the pool is always a group activity so there will always be other canoeists/club officials immediately available to help rescue anyone in danger.</p> <p>Minimum of 3 controlled capsizes with spray decks in place.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session

2. Drowning	Referees / Officials / Coaches Swimmers	<p>Referees, officials and coaches will work in teams. A pool lifeguard and other experienced paddlers are always in attendance.</p> <p>General swimming is not allowed while canoeing is taking place unless a section of the pool is roped off. If coaches or the club wish to assess newcomers or other paddler's water confidence or swimming ability, this should be done in an organised manner at the very start of a session before boats are allowed onto the water. (Duty lifeguard to be informed)</p>	<p>Lifeguards carry torpedo buoys. First Aiders will be on hand throughout each session. Trip hazards along the poolside must be minimised. (See section 5)</p> <p>Peer coaching from the water is to be encouraged for rolling and capsized drills but should be restricted to the shallow end unless assisting "rescues" in the deeper areas of the pool.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
3. Head / Body Injury	Paddlers / Coaches in the water	<p>The risk is greatest with fewer boats in the water as this enables higher velocities of both boats and paddles. Teaching in groups and the use of canoe games can also greatly increase the risk.</p> <p>The shallow end should be used for one-to-one coaching where guiding the paddle is required. Coaches/peers should position themselves at the front of the kayak where possible.</p> <p>When paddlers are using the small pool they MUST wear a suitable helmet.</p>	<p>The designated overseeing official should ensure safe practice from all club members.</p> <p>Paddlers should always be aware of the possibility of capsizes and need to watch for such so as to avoid collision with anyone in the water.</p> <p>In general, junior paddlers use the small pool with 1:1 or 2:1 coaching.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
4. Boat numbers	All Members	<p>For general paddling, freestyle and polo, the pool can safely accommodate up to eighteen, 4-metre kayaks and/or canoes.</p> <p>Where structured coaching or sectioning of the pool is in place, these numbers may be increased by the coach in charge of the session to a maximum of twenty-eight (28). 14 for half the pool.</p> <p>The numbers allowed on the water must be assessed for each session and for each proposed activity and adjusted as appropriate. The responsibility for this lies with the designated club official or coach in overall charge of the session.</p> <p><i>Reference: The Canoeist and the Swimming Pool – Guidance to Authorities and Pool Managers</i></p>	<p>For competition polo, Paddle UK guidance will be used (teams of 5 with up to 3 reserves)</p> <p>For canoe games and forward paddling the maximum number will need to be reduced.</p> <p>Static (rolling) activities may allow an increase in numbers as approved by the designated club official. The use of sub 3 metre boats may also allow an increase in numbers as approved by the designated club coach/official.</p> <p>Numbers are controlled with a booking system where members pre-book all places.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session

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>Unused boats during the session should be carefully placed away from the pool edge to allow clear access along the poolside.</p> <p>If boats are brought to the rear entrance for washing then the help/guidance of a pool official should be requested.</p> <p>Use of diving masks is permitted as this protects the eyes and nasal passages from a constant ingress of chlorinated water when repeated upside down and underwater. <i>Paddlers may roll their kayak over 100 times in a session</i></p> <p>Use of canoeing clothing (Spray decks, Buoyancy Aids, towing lines, long trousers etc) is permitted to allow realistic training while paddling in the pool.</p>	<p>All new members to be advised at induction. Continual monitoring by all members. Boats only to be taken off racks after swimmers have left the poolside.</p> <p>All boats should be stored safely inside the pool complex.</p> <p>Danger from poor lighting, broken glass and sharp, rusty metal/locks should preclude club members from carrying equipment unless suitably dressed (ie not dressed for the pool)</p> <p>NB This is different from the centre's general swimming guidelines – NOP)</p> <p>NB This is different from the centre's general swimming guidelines – NOP)</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
6 .Canoe Polo	<p>All players</p> <p>Games will be refereed from the side-lines.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Referees should always be in control of the game using Paddle UK Polo rules. The game must stop on the blast of the whistle and any action be directed by the referee(s).</p>	<p>Polo training and games should always be supervised by a qualified referee or club official.</p> <p><i>Reference: The Canoeist and the Swimming Pool – Guidance to Authorities and Pool Managers</i></p> <p>If there is an incident, the referees and players are responsible for getting the person safely out of their boat and to the side of the pool where they can hand over to the direction of a Kingsway lifeguard.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session

7 First Aid / Injuries	All Members	Canoeing is an "assumed risk sport". All paddlers MUST be members of the club and will have signed a disclaimer when joining and declared any medical conditions thought to affect their ability to participate in paddlesport to the person in charge of the session.	<p>LCC Coaches and experienced paddlers will use their experience and specialist skills to deal with any paddling-related emergency that may arise through the use of the pool complex.</p> <p>All updated coaches are qualified First Aiders. Use of the pool's first aid room and staff should be available at all times. The leisure centre will always have a minimum of one First Aider on Duty.</p> <p>All injuries should be entered into the club's accident book and reported to the Duty Officer at the pool where it will be logged in the Leisure centre accident records.</p> <p>Incident or Accident Form – Liverpool Canoe Club</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
8 Contamination of Pool Water	All pool users	<p>All canoes must be clean and in a good state of repair. Club Coaches and members will ensure that pre-cleansing of the canoes takes place following the use of canoes in rivers/sea.</p> <p>The boats should be brought onto the poolside via the fire doors at the rear of the pool no more than 15 minutes before the session. They are to be stored carefully on the poolside to allow easy movement along the poolside by other users.</p>	<p>A suitable area for this should be identified with the pool manager.</p> <p><i>Reference: The Canoeist and the Swimming Pool – Guidance to Authorities and Pool Managers</i></p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
9 Leisure Centre Evacuation	All Members All employees Public	Coaches and club members should help in the event of any emergency evacuation of the Leisure Centre.	Centre Evacuation Plan and Emergency Procedures should be made available to club officials and coaches. All directions from Leisure Centre Staff should be followed during an emergency at the Centre.	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session