

## **Wooligans – Method Statement**

For Explorer Scouts at the Blair Atholl International Jamborette

Wooligans is a supervised craft and heritage skills activity base where Explorer Scouts will learn and participate in a range of wool and fleece-related activities. Participants will rotate through practical stations including:

- Hand-cranked knitting machines
- Knitting using needles
- Crocheting
- Table-top weaving looms
- Flower loom weaving
- Pom-pom loom making
- Wool spinning from raw fleece using drop spindles or simple spinning methods

The activity encourages creativity, patience, teamwork, sustainability awareness, and practical handcraft skills with aim to provide Explorer Scouts with a safe, engaging, fun and educational experience using wool and fleece crafts while developing practical skills, creativity, and understanding of traditional fibre crafts.

## Risk assessment

Name of activity , event , and location	Wooligans Blair Atholl J amborette Target Field Inside the activity marquee	Date of risk assessment	21/05/26	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Sharon Fleming
		Date of next review	21/05/27 or when required		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
<i>A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.</i>	<i>For example: young people, adult volunteers , visitors</i>	<i>Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment, or you might change the way you do the activity.</i>	<i>Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.</i>
<b>Hazard:</b> Wool, fleece, fibres & thread <b>Risk:</b> Allergic reactions, inhalation of loose fibres, tangling hazard	Volunteer Staff, Explorer Scouts, Scouts and Staff children	Ask participants to disclose known allergies. Encourage hand washing after activities. Keep work areas tidy and avoid excessive loose fibres. Monitor participants for signs of allergic reaction.	
<b>Hazard:</b> Scissors <b>Risk:</b> Cuts or minor injury to hands/fingers	Volunteer Staff, Explorer Scouts, Scouts and Staff children	Use age-appropriate scissors where possible. Demonstrate safe carrying and use. Store safely when not in use. Adult supervision maintained throughout activities. First aid kit available on site	
<b>Hazard:</b> Sewing needles <b>Risk:</b> Puncture wounds, scratches	Volunteer Staff, Explorer Scouts, Scouts and Staff children	Participants briefed on safe handling. Needles counted in/out where practical. Needles stored in containers/pin cushions when not in use. Immediate reporting of dropped needles. Adult supervision in place.	
<b>Hazard:</b> Knitting needles & crochet hooks <b>Risk:</b> Puncture injury, misuse during play	Volunteer Staff, Explorer Scouts, Scouts and Staff children	Safety briefing before activity. Participants instructed not to run or walk around with equipment. Equipment used only while seated where practical. Supervision maintained.	
<b>Hazard:</b> Hand-cranked knitting machines <b>Risk:</b> Pinched fingers, trapped clothing/hair	Volunteer Staff, Explorer Scouts, Scouts and Staff children	Demonstrate correct use before activity starts. Ensure machines are stable on tables. Long hair tied back and loose clothing secured. Close supervision for younger participants. Stop use immediately if faults identified.	
<b>Hazard:</b> Tabletop weaving machines <b>Risk:</b> Finger trapping, snagging of clothing or yarn, equipment tipping	Volunteer Staff, Explorer Scouts, Scouts and Staff children	Equipment checked before use and secured on stable tables. Demonstrate safe threading and weaving techniques. Participants supervised while operating equipment. Keep loose clothing, jewellery and hair secured.	
<b>Hazard:</b> Flower maker looms and pompom makers <b>Risk:</b> Finger pinching or puncture from pegs/hooks	Volunteer Staff, Explorer Scouts, Scouts and Staff children	Demonstrate safe use before activity. Participants use tools while seated. Equipment checked regularly for damage or sharp edges. Adult supervision maintained.	

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for Section Volunteers and at [scouts.org.uk/safety](https://scouts.org.uk/safety)

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## Risk assessment

<p><b>Hazard:</b> Buttons, beads or small craft items  <b>Risk:</b> Choking hazard for younger children</p>	<p>Volunteer Staff ,  Explorer Scouts, Scouts  and Staff children</p>	<p>Activities matched to age group. Small items kept supervised and contained. No unsupervised access by very young children. Clear tidy-up procedures.</p>	
<p><b>Hazard:</b> General craft equipment on tables  <b>Risk:</b> Trips, slips, clutter-related injuries</p>	<p>Volunteer Staff ,  Explorer Scouts, Scouts  and Staff children</p>	<p>Maintain tidy workspaces. Bags and personal belongings stored away from walkways. Clear access/egress routes maintained. Regular checks by leaders and volunteers.</p>	
<p><b>Hazard:</b> Misuse of tools/equipment  <b>Risk:</b> Injury to self or others</p>	<p>Volunteer Staff ,  Explorer Scouts, Scouts  and Staff children</p>	<p>Clear behaviour expectations explained at start. Adequate adult -to-young-person ratios maintained in line with Scouts guidance. Participants removed from activity if unsafe behaviour continues.</p>	
<p><b>Hazard:</b> Cross contamination of shared equipment  <b>Risk:</b> Spread of germs/illness</p>	<p>Volunteer Staff ,  Explorer Scouts, Scouts  and Staff children</p>	<p>Encourage hand hygiene before and after activities. Clean shared equipment regularly. Do not share personal items unnecessarily. Follow current event hygiene guidance.</p>	
<p><b>Hazard:</b> Manual handling of boxes/equipment  <b>Risk:</b> Strains or minor injuries to volunteers</p>	<p>Volunteer Staff ,  Explorer Scouts, Scouts  and Staff children</p>	<p>Use correct lifting techniques. Team lifting for heavier items. Avoid overloading boxes. Store equipment safely at accessible height.</p>	
<p><b>Hazard:</b> Fire risk from materials  <b>Risk:</b> Burns or smoke inhalation</p>	<p>Volunteer Staff ,  Explorer Scouts, Scouts  and Staff children</p>	<p>Keep wool, fleece and fabrics away from heaters, open flames or cooking areas. Maintain clear evacuation routes. Follow site fire procedures.</p>	
<p><b>Hazard:</b> Lost or broken sharp items  <b>Risk:</b> Injury from hidden needles/scissors</p>	<p>Volunteer Staff ,  Explorer Scouts, Scouts  and Staff children</p>	<p>Immediate stop-and-search procedure for missing sharps. End-of-session equipment checks completed. Dispose of damaged sharps safely.</p>	

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.

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