

Risk assessment

Name of activity , event , and location	Blair Atholl 2026 Swimming and Beach zone.	Date of risk assessment	17/05/2026	Name of person doing this risk assessment	Anne Field
	River Garry, Timber -camp, Blair Atholl ///snowy.logged.fidgeting	Date of next review	04/07/2026		

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?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	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.	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 .
Accident / breakdown during transportation to site	Participants, staff , public	All persons MUST remain seated with seatbelt on when the vehicle is moving. All persons MUST not disturb the driver. Noise (e.g music) should remain at an acceptable level to not disturb the driver. Driver to drive inline with the highway code In the event of an accident including breakdown, a leader must take control of the incident and ensure safety and care of the members. In the event of a breakdown, everyone must stand in a safe place away from the vehicle and road.	
Slips, Trips and Falls – out of water (cold and warm zone)	Participants and staff	Site survey, clear debris clearly defined pathways to and from activity space . Suitable footwear to be worn	
Injury needing First Aid treatment	Participants, staff	Ensure that a first aid kit is available and leaders have first aid certificate Staff members to be aware of SOP and Emergency action plan	

You can find more information in the Safety checklist for Section Volunteers and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Risk of drowning	Participants and staff	Entry to water only permitted with supervision, leaders familiar with first aid for drowning and rescue techniques including Clear communication at briefing on what to do if someone gets into trouble in the water	
Incident in water – resulting in needing to clear participants of water	Participants, staff	Communication system – whistle and hand signals, to be shared with participants at briefing to ensure that they understand what the signal mean and will be able to take relevant action if and when required	
Access & Egress: Slips, trips, abrasions & Cuts (warm and hot zone)	Participants and staff	Site survey, clear debris clearly defined entry and exit points. Assist in/out of water where needed and brief participants on water depth. Suitable footwear to be worn in and out of water	
Swimming ability	Participants	Non-Swimmers to be identified ahead of the activity session. Non swimmers will not be allowed to enter the water. Weak Swimmers will be asked to wear PFD. PFDs to be checked by staff prior to entering water. Tow floats will be available for those who can swim should they wish to use.	
Water current and level	Participants and staff	visual check of site prior to start of session. Cancel session if weather or water level/ flow would make unsafe to run. If need to cancel during a session due to inclementing weather then emergency evacuation plan to be followed - briefing participants as necessary) swimming in designated area only – marked out no diving or 'stunts'	
Increase of water flow due to water releases	Participants and staff	Check SSE freshet schedule and sepa water levels data– cancel sessions if water level significantly increased or flow to great to swim safely	
Slips/Trips/ falls in water due to uneven surfaces and sudden changes in depth (hot zone)	participants and staff	Site survey, clear debris clearly defined entry and exit points. Appropriate footwear to be worn in/around water Rescue equipment available	
Infection control – contaminated water	Participants and staff	Visual check up-river to check for dead things that may contaminate the water. Check sepa water data	
Climate and Weather – sun/ heat exposure	Participants and staff	Sun glasses, sun cream, cover up and encourage all to keep hydrated	
Climate and weather – storms/ lightning, mist/fog/ heavy rain	Participants and staff	Check weather forecast, visual check of site. Cancel session if storm/ weather would make unsafe to run. If need to cancel during a session due to inclementing weather then emergency evacuation plan to be followed - briefing participants as necessary)	
Other water users in our area	Participants, staff and other water users	Liaise with other water users, establish activity zone. Clear swim zone to allow any paddlers to pass safely. Ask anglers to relocate further up/down river.	

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Debris in water –risk of entrapment or entanglement	Participants and staff	visual check of site prior to start of each session, make safe or mark off any debris in/over water that is a hazard.	
Swimmer separating from group	Participant and staff	Briefing prior to entry to water including group cohesion and what to do if they become separated. Regular head counts, clear swim area boundaries. Shore based safety cover. Clear stop and recall communications. If separation happens, evacuate all remaining swimmers from water. Follow incident management using emergency action model	
Cold water shock	Participants and staff	Pre-swim briefing, appropriate clothing to be worn (wetsuits if participants/ staff have their own)	
Exposure to cold – hypothermia	Participants and staff	Continuous observations of participants and leaders to identify anyone who may be getting cold – where cold setting in ask them to shelter in marquee, to warm up by changing out of wet clothes and hot drink. hot drinks available, blankets available, first aid provisions as necessary	
Equipment failure	Participants and staff	Periodic inspection of safety equipment, condemn and replace any equipment not fit for purpose	
Remote location	Participants and staff	Ensure mobile phones, with power, with leaders. Evacuation plan communicated with main camp and activities office	
Behaviour – disorderly behaviour presenting general risk to safety	Participants and staff	Communication of safety instructions and minimum standards. Restrict access to water for any participant who is not acting safely.	
Medical – medical events due to pre-existing conditions	Participants and staff	Ensure any medication (inhalers, epi-pens etc) needed is with participant prior to leaving sub-camp. Data re medical requirements to be provided by activity office, ensure individuals are identified to staff.	
Food Allergies and Intolerances	Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - records for known allergens and intolerances to be provided by activity office . - Avoid products containing allergens and inform those at risk. - Have epipens and allergy plans readily available. - Educate leaders on first aid procedures regarding allergen exposure. - Inform all participants about the presence of allergens. 	
Food poisoning and contamination	Participants and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Store high-risk foods at safe temperatures (below 5°C for refrigerated, below -18°C for frozen). - Keep raw and cooked foods separate at all stages of preparation. - Use clean equipment and utensils, and wash hands thoroughly before and after handling food. - Monitor use-by and best-before dates, and dispose of expired items. - Provide training on basic food hygiene for food handlers. - Use designated chopping boards for different food types to prevent cross-contamination 	

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Hygiene and infection control	Participants and staff	Wash hands before and after handling food. - Keep surfaces, equipment, and utensils clean and sanitised. - Provide hand sanitiser if handwashing facilities are unavailable. - Use food-safe cleaning products for surfaces . Encourage participants to wash upon return to campsite	
Burns from hot water	Participants and staff	Ensure urn usage is safe, urns are in steady position and are kept clear of slipping hazards. Encourage safe movement when carrying hot drinks.	

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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