

Risk Assessment – Hovercraft Base

Last reviewed by Alan Wallace on 25/2/26

Hazard Identified & Risks from It?	Who is at Risk?	How are the risks controlled?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Hovercraft collision with object (tree, fence etc.), risk of injury.	Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to clearly mark out course using fibreglass poles. Sufficient stopping distance to be left between edge of course and any obstacles. • Staff to give each participant clear instructions for operating the hovercraft. • Young people instructed to release the power controller and hit emergency stop immediately if they leave the course. Warn young people that the instructor can remotely stop the lift engine, bringing the hovercraft to the ground if they think the participant is in danger of hitting something. • All young people to be wearing a helmet and buoyancy aid when riding in the hovercraft for impact protection. 	
Hovercraft tipping over, risk of injury.	Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to give each participant clear instructions for operating the hovercraft. • Staff to check the course for any objects that could cause the hovercraft to flip before starting the activity. • All young people to be wearing a helmet and buoyancy aid when riding in the hovercraft for impact protection. 	
Spectators hit by hovercraft, risk of injury.	Young People & Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All spectators must remain in the safe zone well away from the hovercraft course. • Staff to monitor the course for intrusion by members of the public and / or animals. • Course to be clearly marked with fibreglass canes. 	

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Person hit by flying debris due to hovercraft wake, risk of injury.	Young People & Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All spectators must remain in the safe zone well away from the hovercraft course. • Staff to ensure that nobody is standing directly behind the fan when hovercraft is started. 	
Body parts entrapped in hovercraft fan, risk of injury.	Young People & Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff must check that young people have removed neckies and name badges before entering the hovercraft. • Staff must check that young people with long hair have securely tucked it under clothing before entering the hovercraft. • Extra care to be taken if young people with long hair are riding in the rear seat of the hovercraft. • Staff to instruct young people not to attempt to remove any object which becomes stuck in the fan. • Staff to ensure that hovercraft is switched off and key removed from ignition before attempting to remove any objects stuck in the fan. 	
Dehydration and Heat Exhaustion	Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to check that young people bring a full water bottle with them to the activity. • Staff to monitor young people throughout the activity and advise anyone who is overheating to rest in the shade and drink water. • Water container to be available for participants to re-fill water bottles. 	

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Sunburn	Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If weather is sunny, or forecast to be sunny, staff to check that young people are wearing sun cream. 	
Cold and Hypothermia	Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If weather is wet or forecast to rain, staff to check that young people have brought a waterproof jacket to the activity. • Staff to check the young people are suitably clothed for the weather conditions, e.g. have jumpers / jackets with them. • Shelter to be available at the activity location, e.g. event shelter. 	