

Risk Assessment for Liverpool South Docks (Home waters)



Liverpool Canoe Club Date of Risk Assessment: 16/4/2025		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.</p> <p>Where adult members are suitably experienced (either; Paddle UK 2 star or higher, competition paddlers of Division 4 or higher, hold the Paddle UK Foundation Safety & Rescue Training (FSRT) Award or higher, regularly paddle grade 3 water or Sea kayak 1 mile offshore) they will be able to paddle in small, self-contained training groups.</p> <p>Less experienced club members and those under 18 must be supervised by a club coach, officer or experienced member who will take responsibility for them while on the water. The club has adopted the policy that a parent or suitable adult acting in “loco parentis” must always be present during club activities for those under 18.</p>	<p>She / He will remain at the Docks throughout the session unless replaced by another suitably approved person.</p> <p>At all times, the paddlers MUST be able to self-rescue in the relatively deep water of the Dock. A competent 100% roll / self-rescue or a minimum of 2 kayaks who can rescue each other.</p> <p>Any coaching session will be organised in accordance with current Paddle UK guidelines as to supervision ratios and number of participants. Beginners should work under the supervision of a coach, officer or experienced member until competent to paddle without direct supervision.</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 Non-Paddlers	<p>All paddlers who participate in club sessions must be competent. They should be confident in the water and wear an approved PFD at all times while on the water.</p> <p>Non-paddlers may wait for friends/children in the car park area / public walkways / Marina Restaurant. There are well-managed guardrails and signs to warn of the dangers.</p>	<p>Continual monitoring by the club member in overall charge of each session, and by all club members generally.</p> <p>Throw lines and reaching aids are available at many locations along the docks. Non-paddling club members should be warned of the deep water if they approach the edge of the dock walls.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session

3. Cold and Hypothermia	All those on or in the water.	<p>Paddlers will wear appropriate clothing for the prevailing weather conditions which may include wet shorts, long or short-sleeved thermal tops, and long or short-sleeved gaiters.</p> <p>However, if any paddler complains of being cold, or appears to show any signs of hypothermia, they should be taken ashore immediately and re-warmed.</p>	<p>Hot drinks and food are available at the Harbourside Club if required to assist in boosting the body temperature. Warm showers are available in an emergency in the changing rooms at the marina. Immersion hypothermia only.</p> <p>Updated Coaches and a large number of members have current first-aid qualifications.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
4. Personal Injury	Paddlers / Parents or helpers	<p>Paddlers/helpers are advised to wear suitable wet footwear with a non-slip sole, or training shoes when using the access steps / Slipway to Coburg Dock. Some form of footwear must be worn at all times.</p> <p>Canoeing is an "assumed risk sport" and adults should ensure that they are suitably experienced and equipped for any paddle. All paddlers MUST be members of the club and will have agreed to the above disclaimer. Any medical conditions which may affect their ability to participate in paddlesport MUST be notified to the coach, officer or experienced member in charge of their session or paddle. Safe handling techniques should be taught during rescue practice. Modern Paddle UK coaching practices help to reduce the chance of injuries.</p>	<p>The designated overseeing club coach or official should ensure safe practice from all club members. Mobile phones are readily available to summon help should it be required.</p> <p>All updated coaches hold a current first aid certificate. All injuries should be entered into the club's accident record. Incident or Accident Form – Liverpool Canoe Club</p> <p>All coaches are encouraged to attend regular regional update conferences and training.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
5. Water Quality	All Members	Environmental scientists under contract to English Partnerships regularly monitor water quality. Details can be obtained from the Harbour Manager.	Any notice of closure/warnings will be circulated to all in the club. This will be circulated from the website@liverpoolcanoeclub.co.uk email address.	Club Safety Officer	When any water quality issues (or other issues) are circulated from Canal Rivers Trust and Harbour Office)

6. 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>Cars and boats should be kept clear of Coburg Slip at all times as it may be required for emergency access.</p>	All new members are to be advised of Paddle UK's recommended safe handling techniques at their first session. Safe practice will be continual monitoring by all members.	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
7. Canoe Polo	All players	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.	Polo training and games should always be supervised by a qualified referee or experienced paddler.	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
8 Moored and manoeuvring boats.	All Members	Moored boats and pontoons should be given a wide berth. Larger craft should always be given room to manoeuvre.	Paddlers should be aware that traffic is more likely above half-tide and that congestion occurs at bridges. All water users keep to starboard (right) when passing, especially at bridges.	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
9 Paddling into dusk / Dark	All Paddlers	Coburg dock has floodlights and is extremely well illuminated by streetlights, buildings and marina lights on the access ramp. This area can be used safely during the winter evenings by groups of experienced paddlers.	If paddling in other areas/docks during the spring and Autumn evenings, then paddlers MUST have a white light to show to avoid collision and to comply with maritime law.	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session
10. Other Water Users. (Rowing/Dragon boat/ Watersport Centre / Boat movements /	Canoeists and Officials	<p>All participants must comply with our Docks Licence. LCC rules and guidelines should be followed at all times.</p> <p>The utmost respect must be given to other water users at all times.</p>	<p>Ongoing continual review to ensure that all British Waterways conditions are being observed and adhered to during all club activities.</p> <p>“WE WILL ALWAYS KEEP CLEAR OF OTHER WATER USERS”.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session

Divers and commercial operations)		All participants must observe all club guidelines and paddle safely at all times. This should apply to boats and equipment. Specifically, all craft must have adequate buoyancy for flat water use in the docks.	Each user to be made aware of any Emergency and Standard Operating Procedures issued by Canal and Rivers Trust and the Harbour Master (especially following any updates).	Club Safety Officer	When any issues or directives are circulated from Canal Rivers Trust and the Harbour Office)
11: Anti-social Behaviour	All	<p>Session leader to actively monitor the docks for signs of anti-social behaviour (groups of youths at the dock walls, jumping in, etc) and avoid paddling in those areas.</p> <p>If in any doubt, the Activity Leader should turn the group around and paddle in the opposite part of the dock system.</p>	<p>All incidents of anti-social behaviour affecting club sessions are to be reported using the incident form on the website.</p> <p>Incident or Accident Form – Liverpool Canoe Club</p> <p>Any incidents involving threatened, attempted or actual physical anti-social behaviour (such as throwing items, attempting to board/grab boats, etc) should be immediately reported to the police.</p> <p>The club safety officer will review all incidents in order to liaise with the Harbour Master and local authorities.</p>	Session leader and group leaders (as identified on the club calendar)	Before and during the session