

Bristol Canoe Club - Risk Assessment

Swimming pool / Canoe polo

V1.0 (2nd April 2018)

The following risk assessment covers typical canoe club pool sessions and polo training sessions in the UK and abroad.

These risk assessments are used as the basis of the Club's safety policy. Those using this risk assessment should note that the dynamic and varied nature of the sport of canoeing does not allow a completely comprehensive risk assessment to be made. Paddlers, particularly those leading groups, should carry out their own informal and dynamic risk assessments before and during any canoeing activity.

Hazard	Risks	Probability	Control measures	Notes
Travel	Road accidents	L	Follow the Highway code.	
	Insecure loads on roof-racks	M	Train members to secure boats (2* training). Check roof racks before travel.	
	Trailers	L	Tow at correct speed and take extra care.	
Water	Drowning	L	Require that all members are competent swimmers. Instruct on capsize drill, and rolling. Obey all instructions given by pool staff.	
Pool-side	Falling & slipping on pool-side and/or into water	L	Wear appropriate footwear. Avoid running. Obey all instructions given by pool staff.	
Equipment	Entrapment in boat	L	Inspect equipment. Teach capsize drill. Keep area between legs clear.	
	Breakage or loss	H	Inspect equipment and use appropriate equipment for conditions.	
	Manual handling injuries	M	Take care when lifting boats, particularly onto roof-racks. Teach good technique at all levels. Ask for assistance when required.	

Hazard	Risks	Probability	Control measures	Notes
Polo – setup	Goals swinging into pool	L	Ensure that all swimmers and paddlers are well away from the area while hanging goals.	
	Boat Storage	L	Take care when extracting and returning boats from storage, particularly when using the highest racks. Wear appropriate footwear in the storage areas.	
Polo - Other players	Impact injuries	M	Players are expected to abide by the rules of the game which are designed to minimise injury, rules related to safety should be strictly followed by all players at all times. 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 British Canoe Union Canoe Polo Yearbook. Polo training and games should always be supervised by a referee or club official.	
Polo - Outdoor pitches	Hypothermia (cold)	L	Dress correctly for the conditions.	
	Hyperthermia (overheating)	L	Carry cold drinks on hot days.	
	Cumberland Basin polo pitch	L	Be aware that there are some specific hazards at the Cumberland Basin polo pitch. Tournament organisers should be aware of the Polo Pitch's own risk assessment, available here: https://sites.google.com/site/cpfabristol/documents	