



Pool Risk Assessment

Date of Risk Assessment: **October 2024**
 Risk Assessment carried out by: **Cynthia McKay**
 Last Review Date: **October 2024**
 Next Review Date: **November 2025**

Canoeing is “an assumed risk”, “water contact” activity however serious accidents are very rare. More people drown whilst cycling than canoeing. Accidents can be avoided by a combination of training, based on the accepted code of technique and safety; and experience gathered over a number of years, where techniques are acquired and practiced under the shadow of a leader.

Accidents can be placed in three broad categories:

- Lack of understanding due to lack of knowledge – as the saying goes “fore-warned is fore-armed”. You can never know enough.
- Over-estimation of ability – common with inexperienced canoeist.
- Carelessness – may affect both novice and expert. Ensure you have sound knowledge of the skills, techniques and equipment you are using by undertaking adequate training and practice.

SEVERITY: 1 – minor injury; 2 – injury needing medical attention; 3 - injury needing 5 days off work/school; 4 - Serious injury/long term sickness; 5 – fatality.

LIKELIHOOD: 1 – impossible; 2 – unlikely; 3 – even chance; 4 – likely; 5 – certain.

RISK SCORE is calculated as Injury **Severity** multiplied by the **Likelihood**.

Risk Rating Result:

Maximum risk score	25
High risk score	17 to 24
Medium risk	9 to 16
Low risk score	1 to 8

A “Responsible Club Member” is considered to be either a member of the club committee or a long-term member of the club who has either coaching qualifications or sufficient experience.

Significant hazards	Persons at risk	Severity 1-5	Likelihood 1-5	Rating	Controls/Actions required
Risk of drowning as associated with water sports	All	5	2	10 Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Responsible Club Member” to supervise the pool at all times. • Absolute beginners to be given one-on-one attention. • Confirm that new participants can swim before they enter the pool.



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Entrapment in boat	All, but especially beginners	5	2	10 Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm new people are confident getting in and out of their boat both from the poolside and when in the water. • Beginners to perform a capsize drill – once they are sufficiently confident – before they are allowed more freedom in the pool (i.e. they no longer require one-on-one attention.) • Anyone using an unfamiliar kayak should be encouraged to check how they can exit the boat, i.e. pulling spray deck off etc.
Collision with other paddlers	All	2	2	4 Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Responsible club member” to make “dynamic” decision about how many boats and what activities are permissible within the pool during any given session. • During busy sessions, participants should be made aware of this risk and encouraged to moderate behaviour accordingly. • The Club Pool Sessions at Moray Leisure Centre currently limit the number of participants to 8 per session.



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Banging head or other body parts on poolside or other boats	All, especially play boaters	3	2	6 Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Responsible club member” to make a “dynamic” decision about how many boats and what activities are permissible within the pool during any given session. • If there are lots of play boaters in the pool, then “responsible club member” to have a conversation about the safest way for the session to continue – may consider dividing the pool in half or putting a time limit on one particular activity where ever possible, • Play boat type tricks should be practiced in the deep end of the pool and only at quiet times.
Collisions between paddlers and swimmers	Anyone swimming	3	2	6 Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Responsible club member” to exercise common sense whilst supervising pool and to ensure that any situations in which a kayaker is out of their boat is dealt with quickly. • Swimming, i.e. doing lengths, is not allowed. • Anyone providing support in the water should be made aware of the need to have their “wits about them” in order to avoid a potential collision. • Those providing support from in the water should not exceed chest depth. • No one allowed to swim / support from the water during any activity where kayaks are at speed.



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Slippery pool side	All	3	2	6 Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Responsible club member” to make all members aware of acceptable behaviour and to ensure that they comply. • Horse-play and high jinx such as pushing and shoving is forbidden. • No running within the swimming pool building.
Moving and handling boats	All	2	3	6 Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pool users encouraged to carry larger boats in pairs.