

Foxies Future Risk Assessments



Location:	Foxlease Park	Assessor:	Alison Dixon
Date of Assessment:	05/05/2026	Date of review:	05/05/2027
Description of area or activity:	Paddlesports	Technical Advisor:	Alison Dixon
Equipment used:	18 x Kayaks (closed cockpit), 6 x Canadian Canoes, Paddles and Bouyancy Aids		

Hazard	Discription of potential accident/injury/loss	Who is affected	Precautions/controls already in place	Risk S	Risk L	Risk F	Further control measures applied	Action by	Net S	Net L	Net F	Comment
Paddle hitting head	Head injury	All participants	The group is told to be aware of others around them. Safety rules are added to tasks/challenges / games where the likelihood is higher. Participants are to be warned about the dangers of striking another paddler with their paddle if it is swung around carelessly. Sessions are checked by safety by an appropriate experienced/qualified person—qualification and equipment checking.	3	2	6	Kayaking: Helmets to be worn by participants / instructor s at all times. See activity policy for information on staff training. Canoeing: Helmets to be worn by participants / instructors at the discretion for the instructor / lead instructor.	Instructor	3	1	3	
Falling into the water from the bank	Possible injuries	All participants	Beginners to be assisted when getting in or out crafts. Participants instructed to sit down whenever and as soon as possible in craft.	1	3	3		Instructor	1	2	2	
Falling into the water from the boat (capsizing)	Possible swallowing of water and injuries.	All participants	The safety brief at the start will include 'What to do in the event of a capsize'	1	2	2	Instructors should be alert and have a visual view of the participants at all times, and set boundaries/goal points.	Instructor	1	2	2	
Weak or Non Swimmers	Possible drowning	Weak or non swimmers	Group leaders to inform Foxlease Park of weak/non-swimmers. Instructor to check in safety brief if everyone can swim. If the instructor finds more than 3 non-swimmers in the session they should ask for help. All weak/non-swimmers will wear a 100 newton lifejacket.	3	3	9	Weak or non-swimmers can take part in paddlesports activities. Group leaders are sent the definition of a non-swimmer on swimmer in the joining instructions.	Group Leaders/Instructors/Foxlease Park	2	2	4	

Trapped in boat	Drowning	All participants	Participants to be briefed on rescue before going afloat. Groups will receive a demonstration of what to do if they capsize before going on the water. Spray decks not used except by instructors or participants with specific training. All participants must wear buoyancy aids or lifejackets. Instructors ensure appropriate size Kayak is matched to participant to lower the chance of entrapment.	5	2	10	Large cockpit kayaks to avoid entrapment. Instructors will receive in-house training covering the suitability/size of craft available.	Instructor	3	2	6
Equipment failure	Craft may sink, entrapment, drowning	All participants	All staff trained in procedures and methods of checking equipment. Equipment is checked before use in addition to inspections at least every 6 months by qualified members of staff.	5	1	5		Foxlease Park	3	2	6
Strong winds - falling branches	Injuries from falling trees/branches	Everyone	Trees are inspected annually. Any dangerous branches will be removed. If winds are above 20 mph the instructor should seek advice from the activities manager for the session to go ahead.	5	2	10		Activity Manager/ Instructors	3	1	3
Adverse weather (lightning)	Hit by lightning possible death	Participants / instructors	If there is thunder and lightning the activity is stopped and the 30/30 rule is followed (if the flash to bang is 30 seconds in length or less you should seek shelter. Staying inside this shelter is advised until 30 minutes past the last clap of thunder) Weather forecast to be checked at the start of the day by Activity Manager or Duty Manager.	4	1	4		Activity Manager	2	2	4
Low level branches	Lake users are becoming entangled in the branches, causing injuries or capsize.	Participants / instructors	Checks of the lake edges and removal of protruding branches that may cause injury.	3	2	6	Instructors should notify the activity manager if they deem any branches dangerous or have the potential to cause injury.	Foxlease Park Maintenance team	1	1	1

Effect of cold water	Hypothermia, cold water shock, panic, drowning	All participants	Instructor to check Participant are adequately dressed. Participant instructed to wear flat soft soled shoes. Trainers or wet boots or shoes. Appropriate sized buoyancy aids to be worn at all times and they must be correctly adjusted when on activity. No planned capsizes will take place. Any participants who capsize in cold weather are rescued quickly, monitored for sign / symptoms and sent off the water to change / warm up if needed.	4	1	4	Demonstration and checks to be made by instructor prior to going afloat.	Instructors	3	1	3
Multiple capsizes	Many people in the water adding to time in potentially cold water	All participants	Kayaks: Maximum ratio of 1:8 staff to participant, 1:10 at activity managers discretion. Canoe: Maximum ratio 1:12 instructors to keep the group in the same area and to be within easy reach of all participants. In the circumstances where there are many participants in the water all remaining participants should be instructed to the bank	3	3	9	All instructors will have completed Paddlesport Rescue Safety Training or equivalent as part of their instructor qualification. Increasing ratios 1 to 10 for kayak, assistance can be provided to ensure the safety of the participants and to assist the instructor in getting participants onto the water.	Instructors	2	2	4
Injury from emptying boats, carrying boats and storing boats	Back injury	Everybody	Everyone moving craft must be instructed in good lifting practices before activity starts. The safety / rescue toggles can be used for lifting. Groups told how to empty boats at the bank and how to safely move boats on land, minimum 2 person to a boat. Ensure surrounding area is kept clear and Participant to be briefed on rescue before going afloat.	2	2	4	Staff trained in how to safely empty boats on and off the water as part of their Paddlesports qualification.	Instructors	2	2	4
Lone working	Unable to get help	Staff	All staff to carry radios on water sessions in waterproof bags.	3	1	3		Session instructor	2	1	2

Contact with / ingestion of blue / green algae	Skin rashes, nausea, vomiting, stomach pains fever and headaches. Occasionally it can cause more serious illness such as liver and brain damage	Customer staff	Low levels of algae: warn participants of the hazard, run sessions away from bloom(s), don't play wet games, provide fresh water to rinse off with after the session. Mid-levels of algae: run all sessions as rafted canoe sessions, run sessions away from the bloom(s), don't play wet games, provide fresh water to rinse off with and showers back on site after the session. High levels of algae: Cancel all sessions.	5	2	10		Instructor Group leader	3	2	6	
Launch jetty	Jetties can become slippery when wet or when participants have wet shoes. Participants slipping into the water whilst climbing in and out of boats. Slips, cuts and potential bone injuries on hard surfaces.	All participants and onlookers	All participants to wear a buoyancy aid when around and on the water. Instructors to help participants into and out of boats or providing instructions for participants / supervising adults to do. Brief participants on hazards of the launch areas.	2	2	4	At the start of the day, instructors are to check the jetty and pontoons and clean if necessary. Jetty to be cleared and cleaned at the start of the season and after high water over the jetty area, monitor throughout the season	Instructor	1	1	1	
Entrapment within reeds / plants	Lots of aquatic plants with deep roots potential entrapment issues	All participants	Boundary and hazard areas explained before getting on the water. Lake is assessed on a regular basis and 'gardening' to be performed when necessary.	3	3	9	If required, a weed cutter will be brought on-site to cut back or uproot the plants.	Instructor / Maintenance team	2	2	4	
Loose jewellery	Entrapment injuries such as fingers, ear injuries from long earrings	All participants	All participants advised to remove or tuck out of the way all jewellery before the start of the session	4	1	4		Instructors Group leaders	2	1	2	
Insufficient adult supervision	Crowd control causing the instructor to need to intervene. Group behaviour causing instructor to intervene, Child protection level is higher due to only one staff member present	All users	Group leader / supervising adult is responsible for the behaviour and pastoral care for the group, however on occasion the leader may need to step away from the activity.	3	1	3	Staff have Safeguarding training and are aware of their position within the group. Staff aware if they need to, they can end / pause the session or have participants sit out. Staff can radio or contact other staff members, or office / senior staff for backup.	Foxlease Park	2	1	2	

Water borne infections	Nausea / vomiting / upset stomach	All participants	Provision for participant to wash hands in clean water before consuming food. Anyone who suffers from an open wound (Bleeding) must have it washed and dressed immediately. Only if the wound can be covered by a waterproof dressing may the participant continue the activity. Group leaders are to be aware of any illnesses after the activity and seek a doctor's advice immediately.	5	1	5	Prevention measures against water-borne infection groups leaders are advised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to cover all cuts and abrasions with waterproof plasters. • that participants need to wear footwear to avoid cutting the feet. • that participants shower soon after the activity, especially if they have capsized. • that participants, always wash your hands after paddling and before eating or drinking. 	Group leader	3	1	3	
First Aid provision	All participants not receiving the correct 1st Aid treatment	Praticipants and Session Leaders	Foxlease Park instructor led sessions will have a 1st Aid kit on the session. Self-led sessions the hirer should provide a 1st Aid kit	1	3	3	The reception will have a 1st aid kit and a first aider on standby. All Foxlease Park instructors will hold a 1 day first aid certificate (6hrs min) as a minimum requirement.	Foxlease Park Instructors Session leaders	1	3	3	

