

# Adventure Sunderland

## Activity Risk Assessment



### Improvised Raft Building

**Location:** Sunderland Marina and Roker Beach

Hazard	Potential harm	To Whom	Control Measures
Remote Operation	Exasperate any injury or illness	Staff and participants	Activity only to be carried out by BCU qualified coach having undergone activity induction. Staff to take <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• VHF radio or mobile phone.</li><li>• Spare clothing or 'blizzard bag poncho'</li><li>• Group shelter</li><li>• Flask with a hot drink if in the expert opinion of the staff member the temperature and location dictates.</li><li>• Throw line</li></ul>
Heavy objects	Personal injury	Staff and participants	Staff to observe and instruct participants in correct manual handling of equipment. Staff to ensure a team lift is used when moving rafts and building equipment. Raft must not be 'flipped' once built. Participants to wear helmets at all times.
Collisions with other boats	Personal injury/drowning	Staff, participants and public	Staff to maintain a 360° look-out at all times. Staff to follow the 'rules of the road' and comply with the I.R.P.C.S. at all times. Rafts not to be used in areas of heavy/regular boat traffic.
Water	Hypothermia, drowning	Staff and participants	When negotiating ground swell or wake from another boat ensure the participants are aware of the effects on the raft. Staff to ensure group remains in line of sight and earshot. Appropriate support will be given by either canoe/ kayak or bank, powerboat can be used if applicable if the weather worsened. When (dis)embarking do so in a controlled manner such that the balance of the raft is maintained.

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			Correctly fitted BA's to be worn at all times.
Slips, trips, falls	Personal injury, hypothermia, drowning	Staff and participants	Care on the marina walkways following periods of rain or if there has been an overnight frost. Ensure that none of the participants run on the walkways. Staff to brief participants on potential hazards such as glass, seaweed and discarded rope and strategies to avoid hazards.
Effects of weather	Hypothermia, Hyperthermia, Sunburn	Staff and participants	Weather forecast obtained before activity, weather forecast posted on notice board in office. Visual inspection of weather conditions before the activity commences. Abandon if weather deteriorates. Ensure adequate warm and protective clothing for the prevailing weather. Advice all involved to use sun cream during sunny weather. Take rest breaks in hot weather. Use activity to keep participants warm in cold weather.
Entanglement/ Entrapment	Personal injury / drowning	Staff and participants	Staff to ensure ropes are tidy and where possible obey the clean line rule. Staff to brief participants about keeping feet/legs away from snags when on the raft. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor to carry knife and be familiar with cutting rope under tension.</li> </ul>
Heavy Sea / Surf	Personal injury / drowning	Staff and participants	Raft not to be used in swell above 1ft Staff to be aware of the surf conditions on the beach, rafts not to be used in surf. Do not overload the raft with participants or equipment/luggage. If needed call for powerboat assistance.
Swimming / jumping in	Personal injury/drowning	Staff and participants	Refer to risk assessment for this activity.
Person under the influence of drugs / alcohol	Personal injury	Staff and participants	Staff to exclude anyone who is apparently under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Tests or physical proof is not required, the instructors decision is final.
Water quality	Weils disease, Hepatitis A	Staff and participants	A pre-session visual check of the area, along with data from Northumbria water / SSRS app will assist the Lead Instructor in making an informed decision on the activity/location. Ensure all staff and participants wash their hands before either drinking or eating. Emphasize good personal hygiene. Cover all cuts and grazes with waterproof dressings.

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			If the area of operation is particularly heavily contaminated with oil or debris, then staff member should consider modifying the session or relocating.
Stings and cuts	Personal injury	Staff and participants	Instructor to ensure that all participants are wearing robust footwear and arms legs are covered in periods of weather conditions where jelly fish may be encountered.
Raft Collapse	Personal injury / Drowning	Participants	Participants to be briefed on what to do if raft were to collapse and instructor to supervise and assist. Helmets to be worn at all times.
Raft Flipping over	Personal injury / entrapment / Drowning	Participants	Group to manage weight distribution on raft to keep vessel balanced at all times.

Risk assessments are to be reviewed on an annual basis unless an incident occurs, which then dictates immediate review of the risk assessment.

This Review completed by: Mike Clapham

Signed: *Mike Clapham*

Date: 07/01/2026

This version checked by: Mike Clapham

Signed: *Mike Clapham*

Date: 07/01/2026

To be completed by Centre Manager:

I consider this risk assessment to be suitable to control the risks to the health and safety of both employees undertaking the tasks involved and any other person who may be affected by the activities.

Name: Mike Clapham

Signed: *Mike Clapham*

Date of next review: 07/01/2027