

DCC Pool Risk Assessment



Assessor:	Joff Hayes	Date:	8 April 2026
Approver:	David Rich	Date:	10 April 2026
Next review due:	By 31 March 2027	All ongoing DCC risk assessments should be updated as required but in any event should be formally reviewed between January and March every year, to be valid until 31 March of the following calendar year.	

Description of assessment:	Risk Assessment for Club paddling sessions at the Deben Leisure Centre Pool.
Location details:	The Deben Leisure Centre, Woodbridge.

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks (and by when)?
Limited space owing to size of the pool	All Participants because of increased chance of collision, instability and capsize.	Limit total number of boats in the pool to 20 Use short, manoeuvrable boats, suitable for pool paddling. Assess paddlers skills for manoeuvring and support strokes. Designate areas of the pool for specific activities at beginning of session. Conduct a Safety Briefing for more complex sessions.	All Coaches/ Leaders at the session to address. Limit number of boats further if a session is to include: Touring/Sea Kayaks or Canoes.
Entry & Exit from boat challenges.	Novice paddlers who are unfamiliar with entry / exit alongside, capsizing and banging head on poolside or straining muscles in an effort to stay upright.	Identify novice paddlers and help them getting in and out of boats by providing stability and supervision.	All Coaches / Leaders at the session to address.

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Capsized/trapped paddler goes unnoticed among the number of boats in the pool.	Novices and all participants doing capsize drills, support strokes or rolling.	Novices demonstrate a wet exit drill and swimming with boat and paddle to the side of the pool wearing light paddling clothing. Coach supervision of paddlers who are practising those skills. Designated area of pool, usually shallow end to aid rescue. Briefing of activities at beginning of session.	All Coaches/Leaders at the session to address along with Poolside Lifeguard.
Slips on wet poolside.	All Participants leading to impact injuries and strains & sprains.	Advise participants to wear non-slip footwear on the poolside. No running on the poolside.	If people do not have non-slip footwear advise them: to take extra care not to slip on the wet poolside; that they only move boats in a 2-person lift; that they participate at their own risk. All Coaches/Leaders at the session to monitor.

Document history: a formal risk assessment for pool sessions was first documented in November 2023, and has been updated regularly since then.