

DCC safeguarding 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.	

This DCC risk assessment covers the club's safeguarding risks. The club follows and applies Paddle UK's template policies for safeguarding. The club committee believes that, in the context of current club activities and procedures, this is sufficient to minimise the possibility of any inappropriate behaviour at club events.

What are the potential problems?	How is the problem mitigated?
Incidents specifically involving children	The club has very few unaccompanied minors present at any club activities. Of those, all are over age 11. There are no situations where any club member will be interacting with a minor in an unobserved one-to-one situation. (All club activities are group activities). All club officials and coaches are aware of the risks associated with minors in the club changing rooms (and other centre rooms and areas) and will ensure that no adult is left alone with children for any longer than the briefest possible time. Use of the club changing rooms (and other areas) is always of very limited duration.
Incidents specifically involving vulnerable adults	The club has never (to its knowledge) had a member or participant who meets the strict definition of a vulnerable adult. If a vulnerable adult were to be present, it seems inevitable that they would be accompanied by a fully qualified and responsible carer.

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What are the potential problems?	How is the problem mitigated?
Other incidents	The club has a zero tolerance policy against all forms of bullying, harassment, discrimination or bigotry. The vast majority of the participants at club events are capable adults with normal social consciousnesses. Most club activities have a leader-in-charge who can address any incidents quickly and decisively. All club activities are group activities and other participants can be expected to effectively discourage unacceptable behaviour, and indeed prevent manifestly serious behaviour. Peer group paddles are only open to responsible, experienced paddlers who can be expected to self-police effectively.
Trips away	On trips away, security of members in hotels is outside the remit of the club. At campsites, members will typically be in groups who can self-police and support each other as necessary. Incidents during car-shares should be rare. Members can and do self-select who they car share with.
Serious incidents	All serious incidents should be reported to police.

This risk assessment was first documented in August 2025 and has been regularly updated since then.