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| **Specific Site:** | **Solva Harbour** | **Risk assessor:** | **RL (Review SC)** | **Date: 31/01/2022** |
| **Activity:** | **General Kayak and Canoe Training** | **Review:** | **SC (Review SR)** | **Date: 31/01/2022** |

***Coach in this document refers to a Coach or a Leader. This document only addresses issues specific to the site and must be read in conjunction with the club generic risk assessment. In addition, a coach should carry out their own dynamic assessment of the conditions, the group, the activity etc, before and during the session. The coach must not lead activities in situations they are not prepared for. The Club will always support the decision of a coach to cancel, abort, or change the activity for safety reasons.***

***Coach Remit:***

*BC (UKCC) Level 1 Coach or BC Paddlesport Instructor/Leader can run trips on* ***Sheltered Water*** *with site specific training and assessment. This risk assessment forms the basis for this training. Reference: British Canoeing document “Environmental Definitions and Deployment Guidance for Instructors, Coaches and Leaders”*

***Description of Venue:*** *(Access point, limits of the operating area):*

Solva Harbour from the upstream limit of the harbour to the harbour mouth. The seaward limit of the area covered is a line drawn across the headlands at the mouth of the harbour through the rocks at the harbour entrance. Best used at high tide otherwise a long walk to the sea.

Very Sheltered Water: Within 50m of the boat ramp at the carpark inside the boat moorings with local wind less than force 3 and not from a Northerly direction. This only occurs near high tide.

Sheltered Water: Local wind of force three or less within the port and negligible swell. Offshore winds of force 2 or less with only occasional force 3 gusts. This is likely to occur with northerly winds, particularly to the seaward side of the sailing club quayside. Conditions outside the port may be worse. Remain within these limits on the water, if necessary moving away from the harbour entrance. Egress if conditions deteriorate.

***Nearest Emergency Telephone / Help:***

There is no mobile phone reception in lower Solva. Land line phones may be available in the pub, café or other shops in the vicinity of the harbour car park.

***Summary of Site Specific Issues a Coach should include in their briefing:***

1. Exposed edges and drops around the car park.
2. Stay within 10m and in line of site of coach, unless activity needs 20m.
3. Footwear.
4. Walking over seaweed and other slippery surfaces when the water depth becomes shallow.
5. Youths and beginner adults to wear helmets. Adults should wear helmets when playing games or asked by the coach / leader.
6. What to do in event of a Capsize.
7. Be aware of moving boats and stay clear of any moored boats.

***Coach Equipment required*** *(above that normally expected)*

* Tow line if moving more than 50m from launch.

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| **Hazard** | **Probability** | **Severity** | **Action required** |
| **Multiple Capsize**  (Uncontrolled situation) | **2** | **3** | This venue should not be used in stiff northerly winds which may result in consistent local offshore winds above force 2. The venue is protected from most wind directions but this protection varies in the harbour particularly as you move closer to the entrance. Coaches should dynamically assess the conditions and move further into the harbour when wind speeds in excess of force 3 or sea swell are encountered. Due to the limited bank access, leaders should assess their group carefully and stay close to easy egress points with very inexperienced paddlers.  Over 50m from the boat launch, “Sheltered” water most paddlers should have experience of a capsize in outside conditions. |
| **Cold Shock and Hyperthermia** | **1** | **4** | To avoid cold shock paddlers under the guidance of a level 1 coach should wear a wetsuit or drysuit that covers their torso when the offshore sea temperature is less than 15 degC. |
| **Head Injury** | **2** | **4** | As per general risk assessment. |
| **Rubbish (Personal injury)** | **2** | **2** | Potential for glass/ metal debris. All paddlers must wear footwear with a sole that will not fall off when swimming. I.e. no wetsuit socks or flip flops. |
| **Capsize** | **3** | **1** | All coaches are trained to deal with this situation. Tidal movements are negligible therefore conventional ‘X’ rescue will be most appropriate. Access on to the banks of the harbour is very limited at high tide. |
| **Games** | **2** | **2** | Areas away from boat moorings are ideal for water games. Care should be taken to avoid the main channel on the west side of the harbour which is used by larger boats entering and leaving the moorings. All coaches should have assessed the risk of their games and ensure appropriate protective equipment is used. |
| **Landing and Launching (**Changing circumstances) | **3** | **2** | This site is subject to tidal variations and dries approximately 2 hours after high tide. When the tide is low it is necessary to float empty boats down the stream and walk with them. This will require walking over slippery seaweed and rocks. Suitable footwear must be worn. Consider the mobility of paddlers likely to attend the trip. |
| **Boat movements within the harbour** | **4** | **2** | The harbour is a busy leisure port with some commercial use. Boats frequently enter and leave the harbour near high tide. Larger motorised boats have limited manoeuvrability in the shallow harbour. Activities should not be carried out within the mooring area or the main channel on the west side of the harbour. Paddlers should move out of the way of larger boats. |
| **Unloading boats and changing.** | **3** | **3** | Access is from the car park at the head of the harbour. Paddlers should be aware of the risks of other moving cars in the area. Where possible, park cars at the south end of the car park near the slipway to reduce the potential for conflict with moving vehicles and other car park users.  The edges of the harbour have minimal protection against falling. Paddlers to keep away from these exposed edges particularly when lifting and moving equipment. |

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| **Probability**  1 - Almost unknown  2 - Rare  3 - Occasional  4 - Frequent  5 - Generally occurs | **Severity**  1 - no treatment required  2 - Minor first aid needed  3 - Injury requiring first aid and medical follow up  4 - Major injury requiring immediate hospitalisation  5 – Death  Environment (Low, medium high) |

Risk assessment review record

This risk assessment must be reviewed every three years, if there is a significant change to the hazards identified or if there is an incident that requires its review and amendment.

Reviews should be recorded below:

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| **Date** | **Revision** | **Reviewer (Print and Sign)** | **Comments (reason for review / amendments)** | **New risk assessment issued (Y/N)?** |
| 18/3/18 | -- | RL | No change. | N |
| 28/12/18 | 2 | SC | References updated and mistake removed. | Y |
| 31/01/2022 | 3 | SC | Revised for new BC environmental conditions | Y |
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**Risk Assessment Level 1 Coach Training Sign off Sheet**

**(BC (UKCC) Level 1 Coach or BC Paddlesport Instructor/Leader should complete training facilitated by the training officer to operate independently at this site. This form documents who has completed this training)**

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| **Name** | **BCU Level III sign to confirm level 1 coach training.** | **Date** |
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