

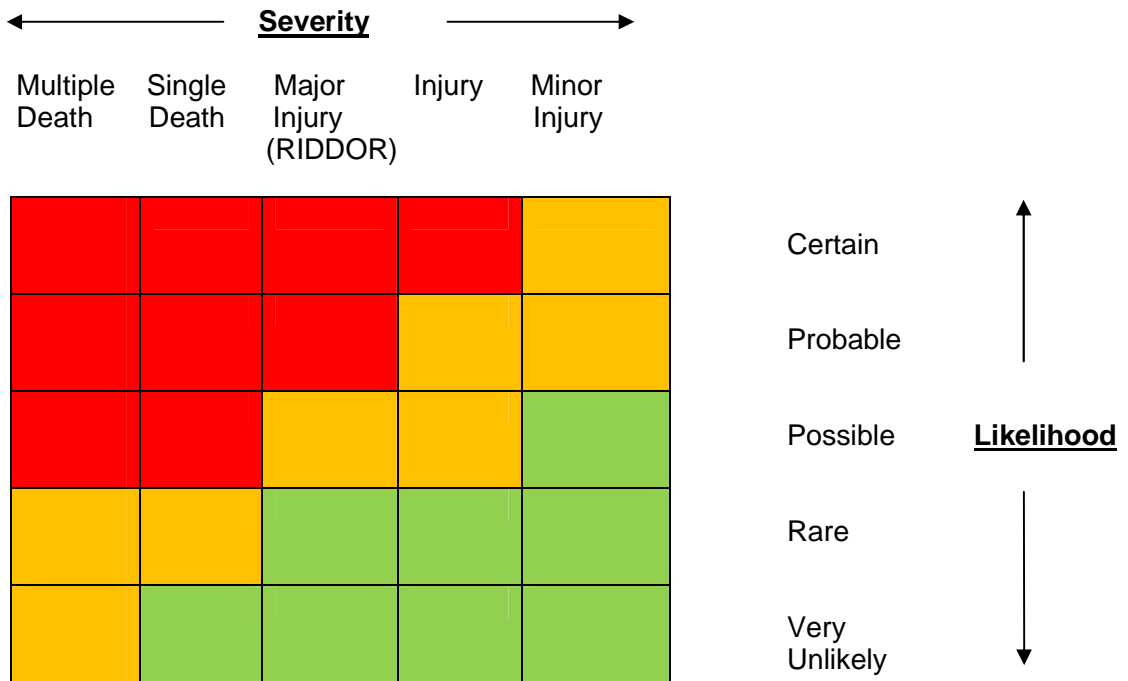


ROYAL  
**LIFE SAVING**  
SOCIETY UK

# Open Water Activity Risk Assessment

14 April 2012 – Version 1

## RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX FOR PERSONAL INJURY



Key to shading:

- Level of risk is unacceptable
- Level of risk may be tolerable. Seek to reduce level of risk
- Level of risk is acceptable

### DEFINITION OF LIKELIHOOD CLASSES

<b>Certain</b>	Has happened before and is expected to happen on this occasion
<b>Probable</b>	Has been known to occur before and is likely to happen on this occasion
<b>Possible</b>	Has been known to occur before and may happen on this occasion
<b>Rare</b>	Has been known to occur before but no reason to suggest it will happen on this occasion
<b>Very unlikely</b>	Has never happened before and there are no reasons to suggest it will happen on this occasion

## RLSS UK SITE SPECIFIC OPEN WATER RISK ASSESSMENT

<b>Risk Assessors details</b>  Name: Society Number 3..... Phone: Email:	<b>Club details</b>  Name: Society Number 1.....
<b>Open Water Venue:</b>  Landowner/Operator: Phone Number:	
Email:	

Subject Area	Hazards/Effects	Who	Current Risk (tick)	Control Measures (examples) (underline those you have in place, add any others you use)	Residual Risk (tick)				
<b>Open Water Site</b>	<b>Access &amp; Egress:</b> slips, trips, falls, abrasions & cuts	Candidates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Site survey, clear debris, protective matting, clearly defined, landing assistant/helper, brief candidates on depth etc. First Aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Spectator access:</b> safe viewing, trips, slips, falls	Parents candidates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Designated area, barriers, supervision and First Aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Safety Team:</b> Access & Egress	Safety Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Designated launch point, cleared & safe, candidates briefed, casualty management rehearsed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Protection from elements:</b> Cold & Heat	Candidates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate briefing, shelter, catering facilities, re-warming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Water Quality &amp; features</b>	Enterobacterial contamination	Candidates Safety team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Site tested to EU Bathing standard, Candidates briefed on simple safety measures,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Blue/Green Algae	Candidates Safety team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Site survey, move activity site away from "blooms".	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Leptospirosis	Candidates Safety team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Briefing for all participants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Water temperature:</b> Cold shock, Hypothermia	Candidates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adherence to RLSS UK guidelines, PPE wetsuits & hats, time limited activity, access to shelter/re-warming, space blankets, warm drinks, candidate briefing pack. First Aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Water flow:</b> compromised activity site, entrapment & drowning hazard	Candidates Safety Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advice from local operator, Activity site away from moving water, defensive positioning of safety cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Waves and currents:</b> compromised activity site, falls & drowning hazard	Candidates Safety Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Advice from local operator, set activity site away from currents, candidate orientation to surf, restrict access to deep water (clear markings) defensive positioning of safety cover	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Underwater features:</b> Rocks, shallows, scrap strainers, weed beds. Entrapment, impact hazard	Candidates Safety Team	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Site survey, local advice, activity site away from obvious and known risks.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Floating/suspended debris:</b> Choking hazard, impact injury	Candidates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visual site check, remove debris or move activity site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Candidates inc simulated casualties</b>	<b>Cold Water:</b> Cold shock, hypothermia	Candidates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adherence to RLSS UK guidelines, PPE wetsuits & hats, time limited activity, access to shelter/re-warming, blankets, warm drinks, candidate briefing pack. First Aid available	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	<b>Heat Exhaustion:</b> Wearing wetsuits in warm conditions. hyperthermia	Candidates				Candidate briefing pack (preparing for open water activity). Suitable shelter, first aid on site.			
	<b>Inexperience:</b> panic	Candidates				Candidate briefing, Survive & Save Pool training to achieve skill competency, wetsuits, pfd's, gently sloping access point			
	<b>Trauma/Injury</b>	Candidates				Candidates briefed on how to call for assistance. Safety cover positioned to affect a swift recovery.			
	<b>Visibility</b>	Candidates				All candidates to wear brightly coloured swim hats, safety cover positioned to have clear sight and communication lines			
	<b>Loss of candidate</b>	Candidates				Candidate register and head counts upon entry and exit.			
	<b>Impact injuries</b>	Candidates				Candidates briefed to follow RLSS UK guidance on jewellery, casualties briefed on simulated emergencies, appropriate space for activity.			
<b>Activity Area</b>	<b>Drifting outside span of Control</b>	Candidates				Activity area clearly defined for candidates (marker buoys), candidate briefings, defensive position of on-water safety cover, establish activity away from currents.			
	<b>Drifting markers</b>	Candidates				Ensure markers are placed accurately and weighted for the conditions, visual checks through the session.			
	<b>Inclement weather/poor water conditions</b>	Candidates Safety Team				Reduce the Activity Area or move to sheltered area.			
<b>Climate and Weather</b>	<b>Sun glare:</b> Visibility for sighting, sunburn	Candidates and Safety Team				Ensure position of activity is appropriate to time of year. Sunglasses for Safety team, sun cream and First Aid cover			
	<b>Storms/lightning</b>	Candidates and Safety Team				Check the weather forecast, visual check, cancel session if a storm approaches, emergency evacuation plan-candidate briefing			
	<b>Winds/Swell/Waves:</b> visibility and hearing	Candidates & Safety Team				Check Weather, move activity to sheltered bay.			
	<b>Mist/Fog:</b> Visibility	Candidates & Safety Team				Check local conditions, delay activity until fog/mist lifts, reduce the activity site to maintain visual contact.			
<b>Conflict with other users</b>	<b>Boats, PWC's, Anglers, Bird Watchers:</b> Various conflict/impact injuries	Candidates & Safety Team				Liaise with other users, establish clear activity zones, agree activity timetable.			
<b>Safety Craft</b>	<b>Casualty recovery</b> Impact trauma	Candidates and casualties				Appropriate craft and numbers related to activity. Ensure Safety Team is qualified/experienced with rescue craft, rehearse emergency action.			
	<b>Communication:</b> Ability to communicate over distance	Candidates				Communications plan, radio, hand signals, sight lines etc			
<b>Other</b>	<b>Disorderly behavior:</b> General risk to safety	All				Adult supervision, contact with emergency services. Welfare Officer in attendance			
	<b>Child Protection:</b> Inappropriate behavior internal/external	Anyone under 18				Volunteer screening, Welfare Officer in attendance.			

NB It is neither necessary nor possible to ensure that Open Water activity is entirely risk free. The controls established to manage risk must be used to structure the standard operating procedures for the activity.

