



RISK ASSESSMENT – SWIMMING DAM ACTIVITIES

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This Risk Assessment covers the following activity:

Raft Building:

Participants are divided into groups and provided with designated supplies to design and build a raft. Participants will learn and implement basic knot tying skills to construct a raft suitable to transport/race their team across the water.

Ratio: 1 Instructor and 1 Attending Group Staff per 18 Participants.

Age suitability: Year 4+

Location: Onsite Swimming Dam

Benefit of activity: Water confidence, team development, communication, personal and social learning, fun

Swimming +

Rope Swing:

Supervised free play swimming time and use of rope swing.

Ratio: 1 Qualified Instructor and 1 Attending Group Staff per 18 Participants.

Age suitability: All ages

Location: Onsite Swimming Dam

Benefit of activity: Water confidence, personal and social learning, fun, adventure

Risk Assessment- Programming Overview

Hazard	Hazard Description	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	Action and Control Measures	New Likelihood	New Consequence	New Risk Rating
Equipment Equipment Safety and Use	Injury due to inappropriate use of equipment	Possible	Minor	Medium	Planks - To prevent being hit/crushed by planks- participants are instructed to be mindful of the people around them when moving the planks, and always carefully place them down. Teams are spread out with adequate space to construct each catapult. Rope - To prevent being whipped/tangled/tripped by ropes- participants are instructed to only use them for the purpose of tying up their raft, and ensure they tie knots up using the whole length of rope. Participants are also instructed to take care when tying knots to prevent fingers getting caught and rope burn.	Unlikely	Minor	Low
	Injury due to poor construction	Possible	Minor	Medium	The Instructor will brief designing a raft, demonstrate knot tying, monitor knot quality and overall construction.	Unlikely	Minor	Low

Risk Assessment- Programming Overview								
Hazard	Hazard Description	Likelihood	Consequence	Risk Rating	Action and Control Measures	New Likelihood	New Consequence	New Risk Rating
Equipment Equipment Safety and Use	Injury when carrying raft, launching or removing raft	Possible	Minor	Medium	Teams all complete the activity in stages together- construction, moving raft to water's edge, launching, testing/racing, removing raft, and deconstruction. This ensures instructions are clearly expressed and monitored when most relevant. Teammates are instructed to all lift and carry raft together, always walking forwards. Teams must take care at the waters edge as the bricks under water may be slippery.	Unlikely	Minor	Low
					Other hazards are covered in the GENERAL Risk Assessment			
Environment Weather Conditions and Onsite Hazards	Falls or collisions due to obstacles or other student traffic in the activity space	Possible	Major	High	All participants are instructed and continually monitored to comply with general swimming dam rules: no running, jumping, pushing, diving, and bombing. Rope Swing: When the rope swing is in operation, a rope is extended across the middle of the dam to separate the rope swing area and the swimming area. The rope swing is facilitated only by an Instructor. Rope swing rules include: one at a time on launchpad rocks and swing, hold rope as high as possible, swing and let go, must land feet first in water, no flips or swinging back onto rocks. Once participant has landed and come back up to the surface of the water, they must immediately swim away from the swing to the edge of the dam or into the swimming area.	Rare	Major	Low
	Drowning	Possible	Critical	High	All participants are fitted with a PFD to be worn for the whole duration of the session. If they do not comply with this, they must sit out and will not be able to participate. Head counts are continually performed throughout the activity session. Floatation aids will be available for rescues. Instructors participate in a yearly water safety and rescue training workshop. Raft Building: Participants have the option to participate from the shore only. Swimming: Participants will be signed in/out by an Instructor or Attending Group Staff every time when entering/exiting the swimming dam fenced area. Swimming ability is requested for participants prior to arrival at camp for the team to review. All participants must complete an unassisted swim test across the width of the dam before the activity starts, closely monitored by Instructor. If the number of appropriate life jackets needed is unavailable, then only any participants who struggle (or if they prefer) and any listed poor swimmers will be fitted with a PFD. In this instance, an additional Instructor will be present to assist with extra supervision.	Rare	Critical	Medium
					Other hazards are covered in the GENERAL Risk Assessment			
People Pre-Existing Injuries and Significant Medical or Behavioural Problems	Allergy to water and/or plants	Possible	Minor	Medium	Participants with manageable allergy levels will be advised to dress appropriately to prevent exposure eg: full length rash vest and pants. Participant will have the option not to participate to reduce risk. Attending Group Staff will have appropriate measures ready.	Rare	Minor	Low
					Other hazards are covered in the GENERAL Risk Assessment			