



Risk Profile

The following risks have been identified through PGL's risk assessment process:

- Drowning – primary and secondary
- Entrapment – in equipment, in water or underwater and surrounding wildlife
- Hypothermia
- Hyperthermia
- Slips, trips and falls – onto wet surfaces, into water, onto equipment
- Injury to participants when not wearing adequate footwear
- Injuries when constructing, lifting, moving & carrying equipment
- Lightning
- Equipment Failure – in craft/equipment used by participants or safety craft operated by instructors
- Injury from collision with equipment
- Lost person/s and injuries due to moving water, high winds, large waves, poor visibility.
- Paddle injuries, specifically to the head
- Bites, stings, infections and allergic reactions from wildlife in and around the water

Implementation of the following operating procedures reduces the residual risk to a level as low as reasonably practicable given the intended purpose of the activity.

Deployment Requirements

Instructor Qualifications:	Boat based & Bank Based; Trained and assessed by an approved competent member of staff
Instructor – Participant ratio:	Isolated venue - 1:15 minimum of 2 instructors Non isolated venue – 1:15 (16 if the 16 th is the accompanying adult)
Total group size:	15 (16)
Active participation:	1:15 (16)



Control Measures

1. Equipment Requirements

Per Instructor and Participant

- 1x Buoyancy Aid
- 1x Helmet
- 1x Wetsuit (optional, depending on the weather)
- 1x knife (instructor only)

Per Activity Base:

- Throw line
- Water based rescues, suitable floating rescue craft
- Access to a mobile phone or radio for isolated location
- An area used for secure storage of rafting equipment
- A clearly set aside area for damaged boats must be in place
- Minimum of 1 x barrel per 2 guests and an assortment of poles and ropes
- Access to a first aid kit

2. Specific Clothing Requirements

Participant & Instructor:

- Suitably closed toe footwear that stays on in water
- Clothing suitable for conditions (No denim)

3. Session Preparation

- a. Assess general water quality and weather.
- b. Inspect venue for debris and suitable depth for falling in
- a. Check equipment including PPE, raft building equipment & first aid kit.
- b. On the water the operating area must be understood by all instructors.
- c. Check all participants are appropriately dressed for the activity

4. Session Instruction

- a. A purpose to float the raft should be emphasised. Session structure should follow the ACOP
- b. Instruction on use of knots and design issues should be facilitated by the Instructor and in line with the ACOP
- c. Instructors must consider the wearing of helmets during the moving of equipment that could cause injuries. Eg. barrels & planks. Helmets can be removed during other parts of the 'construction' stage of the session.
- d. Instructors must consider the wearing of Buoyancy Aids if constructing the Raft close to the waters edge where there is a risk of falling into 'out of depth water'. This must be balanced against the issues of overheating in hot weather.
- e. Care must be taken when moving the raft on land to reduce manual handling risk and when launching.
- f. Instructors should check raft to see it will float. Only safe & well-constructed rafts should be allowed to go on the water.



Normal Operating Procedure (inc. Risk Assessment) Raft Building

- g. Participants to wear BAs & helmets once the launching stage is reached.
- h. Instructor to demonstrate and check the correct fitting of all PPE.
- i. The safety briefing given shortly before going afloat must include:
 - a. What to do in the event of a capsize (swim away from raft and signal to instructor that you are in the water)
 - b. Rules on splashing with paddles
 - c. How to correctly get on the raft.
 - d. Instructors to give a paddle talk.
- j. Participants must be supervised getting on and off the water.
- k. Instructor to be constantly aware of entrapment and hypothermia issues if guests are in the water for an extended period of time. Guidance in the ACOP on prevention and rescues should followed
- l. Care must be taken to minimise the risk of fingers, and other body parts, getting trapped in the ropes building & dismantling rafts. Instructors must brief the participant's & use improvised 'jacks' when appropriate.
- m. Instructors to be aware of other water users & take appropriate action / follow local procedures.
- n. For any balance games, jumping in, or activities that could lead to falling in, the water must be at least shoulder depth of the tallest guest where this is taking place. Consideration and assessment of risk must also be given to the bed suitability - hidden hazards; rocks; debris; etc. If in question these activities must not take place.

5. Session Conclusion

- a. All rafting equipment should be dismantled and re-organised to allow that next group to run the activity without untying knots etc.
- b. Ensure that all rescue boats are secured at the end of every session