

## Raft Building

**Activity Area:** Lake  
**Minimum Staffing Level:** 1 per group  
**Staff/Pupil Ratio:** 1:20  
**Staff Qualifications:** In-house Trained Raft Building Course.  
**Maximum Number of Participants:** 20  
**Role of Accompanying Adult:** Bank supervisor

Hazard	Poss Outcome	Persons at Risk	Rating	Existing Control Measures
Water	Infections	Instructors Participants	3 - 3	Instructor to advise not to ingest water or use water activities if suffering from open wounds.
Deep water	Drowning	Instructors Participants	4 - 1	All staff & participants wear buoyancy aids at all times when on the water. Safety brief given at the start of the session. Weak and non-swimmers identified prior to session commencing.
Location of activity	Serious injury to persons	Instructors Participants Observers	3 - 3	First Aid kit available. Mobile phone available. VHF radios are used to maintain contact with Reception. Off-site emergency procedure in place.
Faulty equipment	Injury to persons	Instructors Participants	3 - 3	Equipment is checked prior to the start of every session. Equipment fault report system in place. Faulty equipment is taken out of service.
Raft collapsing	Injury or drowning	Instructors Participants	3 - 2	Safety brief given to include action on raft collapsing. Participants are shown how to tie secure knots during session. Instructor checks all rafts for rigidity prior to going afloat. Faulty rafts are not permitted on the water. Helmets worn by all participants whilst paddling the raft.
Rope entanglement	Drowning	Instructors Participants	3 - 1	One Rescue Knife to be located on head Rafting instructor Safety brief given at the start of the session. Weak and non-swimmers identified prior to session commencing.
Paddles	Injury through blow to head	Instructors Participants	3 - 3	All staff & participants wear helmets at all times when on the water. Safety brief delivered before the session commences.
Injury to feet at lake area	Infections, Cuts and Scrapes	Instructors Participants Observers	3 - 3	Suitable footwear check takes place prior to accessing lake. All participants instructed to wear trainers or suitable footwear at all times.
Lifting Raft	Back injury to Participants	Instructors Participants	3 - 3	Staff provided with manual handling training. Staff arrange for raft to be build close to the water edge. Safety brief includes correct lifting technique.
Hyperthermia / Hypothermia	Serious injury	Instructors Participants Observers	3 - 2	Appropriate clothing, time out of sun, fluid breaks.
Lightening and/or storms	Electrocution	All	3 - 1	Instructor is not to run the session in any serious storm. If caught out during a lightning storm, then the instructor must cease the activity immediately and seek appropriate shelter.

High winds	Slips/Falls/Drifting	Instructors Participants	3 - 3	Instructor to monitor weather & suspend or cancel session when wind conditions cause safety to be affected. Instructors to carry tow line to rescue none paddlers.
Sun	Sunburn	All	3 - 4	Instructor/Leader must ensure that they make the group aware of the dangers relating to the sun i.e. heatstroke & sunburn. Instructor/Leader to ensure that the group have suitable clothing, e.g. long sleeves, trousers and sun hat.
Extremities entrapment	Potential/Serious	Participants Instructors	3 - 2	Instructor to brief participants on the specific risks of each section of the rafts before allowing participant on the lake. Instructor to be vigilant during the session and be in the position of maximum usefulness.

**Key**

**Rating:** Likelihood (1 = Very High, 2 = High, 3 = Medium, 4 = Low) - Consequence (1 = Fatal 2 = Major Injury 3 = Minor Injury 4 = No Injury)

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