

# OFFSITE RISK ASSESSMENT – POND DIPPING

Next Gen Alternative  
Provision

<b>ACTIVITY:</b> Offsite Visits – Pond Dipping			<b>Visit Leader:</b>		
<b>Visit Details:</b>			<b>Date of Visit:</b>		
<b>Assessment by:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	<b>Target Date for review:</b>		
<b>Approved by:</b>		<b>Position:</b>	<b>Date:</b>		
<b>Significant Hazards and Associated Risks</b> Those hazards which may result in serious harm or affect several people	<b>Those who might be harmed</b> Persons at risk from the significant hazards identified	<b>Control Measures (CM's):</b> Controls, including relevant sources of guidance (e.g. Generic Risk Assessments, Guidance from Provider, etc.). Specific CM's not included in the generic RA (e.g. briefings, actions by leaders / participants, qualifications / experience of supervisors)	<b>Additional CM's required?</b> If existing CM's cannot be met or circumstances have changed	<b>Residual Risk Rating (H / M / L)</b>	
All accidents	All group members, including leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This generic risk assessment will be read in addition to the generic risk assessment "General Considerations"</li> </ul>			
Inappropriate Leadership	Group members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visit Leader to have made preliminary visit to, and be familiar with, the site used</li> <li>Activity management takes account of group characteristics.</li> <li>supervision ratio not to exceed 1:9 (1 adult to 3 work groups or 4 pairs)</li> <li>an additional competent adult assistant is also highly recommended</li> <li>Leaders trained, competent and experienced with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all staff</li> <li>Visit leaders will be familiar with and will follow HCC Policy for the Management of LOtC and Offsite Visits</li> <li>See also CCPR leaflet "Group Safety at Water Margins" (OEAP National Guidance doc 7i )</li> </ul>			

<p>Unsuitable location Slips, falls, collisions → injury</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area of water and adjoining section of bank used is suitable and presents no significant risks e.g.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ no broken glass/ barbed wire etc.</li> <li>○ no steep or slippery banks</li> <li>○ no soft mud or unstable banks that are likely to collapse</li> <li>○ good visibility for leaders to supervise and monitor whole area used</li> <li>○ rocks are not unduly slippery</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Each group member wears appropriate footwear</li> <li>• Group is set, and stays within, clear boundaries which define an area that can be properly supervised</li> <li>• Group briefed regarding required behaviour:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ not to throw stones</li> <li>○ not to push others into water</li> <li>○ be particularly careful at the water's edge</li> <li>○ step slowly / carefully and beware of slipping on wet rocks</li> <li>○ no diving/jumping into waters is allowed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p>Water → hypothermia, drowning</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior local knowledge sought and acted upon, regarding the any specific hazards</li> <li>• Information obtained about rainfall and water levels during the previous few days prior to the activity</li> <li>• Decision made on the day whether or not to proceed with, or adapt, activity on basis of weather forecast, depth/flow of water etc.</li> <li>• Activity takes place in areas of shallow water, with gently shelving shores, with no sudden changes in depth / gradient</li> <li>• Pond dipping activities take place from a stable, fixed level platform</li> <li>• Activity takes place where direct access to the water is restricted by a strong fence/barrier</li> <li>• Reaching pole / throw-line / lifebuoy available for emergency use at site of activity</li> <li>• Leaders trained in use of appropriate rescue equipment</li> </ul>	<p>Alternative plan B has been prepared and available if conditions are not suitable</p>	

Offsite Risk Assessment – Pond Dipping

		<p>(N.B. it is usually safer for rescuer to remain on bank, if possible)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All staff are briefed in rescue procedures</li> <li>• Regular and frequent head counts are made by supervising staff</li> <li>• Swimming is not allowed (unless a pre-planned part of the activity – see generic risk assessment “Swimming in Open Waters”)</li> </ul>		
Infection from water (including Weils Disease)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young children to be discouraged from sucking their fingers</li> <li>• Group to wash hands after the activity, and before eating or drinking</li> <li>• Cuts and wounds are protected by waterproof plasters</li> </ul>	Bottles of clean water and/or “Wet Wipes” to be carried by staff for hand cleaning.	
Injury from nets		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group briefed regarding the potential risks (especially to eyes) of net poles, and to carry them carefully, preferably upright</li> <li>• Leaders to ensure that no-one stands behind someone who is dipping.</li> <li>• Leaders to ensure young people dipping are spaced well apart</li> </ul>		

REVIEWS:		
DATE OF REVIEW:	REVIEWED BY:	COMMENTS:
DATE OF REVIEW:	REVIEWED BY:	COMMENTS:
DATE OF REVIEW:	REVIEWED BY:	COMMENTS: