

# Risk Assessment – Kayak/Sail Camp (Combined Overview)

**Activity:** Kayak/Sail Camp – Combined Camp Activity

**Location:** Netley Sailing club

**Activity Type:** Combined: Supervised Kayaking + Skippered Sailing + Overnight Camp

**Date last reviewed:** 23 January 2026

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**Reviewed by:**

**Review due:** January 2027

## Scope and Context

This risk assessment covers a combined Kayak/Sail camp, including travel, launching/recovery, on-water activities, and overnight camping arrangements.

The camp includes two distinct on-water activity models:

- Kayaking is run as a SUPERVISED activity, with a nominated leader responsible for group control and safety decisions.
- Sailing is run as a SKIPPERED activity, with the skipper responsible for the safety of the crew and vessel.

The camp setting increases complexity: multiple days, changing conditions, fatigue, mixed abilities, and additional hazards associated with camping and shore activities.

## Additional Controls (Activity Specific)

### A) Kayaking (Supervised) – Key Controls

- Nominated kayak leader plus sweep; buddy system; headcounts; regroup points.

- Conservative route planning and early turn-back; avoid exposed crossings and open water if conditions marginal.
- Mandatory kayaking kit: buoyancy aid, whistle, suitable clothing for immersion, spare warm layer, towline(s), spare paddle(s), first aid.
- Briefing includes: separation plan, capsize response, 'float to live' principles, and how to request help.
- Water and food carried on water; manage fatigue over multi-day camp; stop early if anyone cold, tired or unwell.
- Navigation awareness: simple route, landmarks, avoid restricted areas, agreed bailout landings.

## B) Sailing (Skippered) – Key Controls

- Skipper appointed with clear authority; crew briefed that instructions must be followed immediately.
- Lifejackets mandatory for all on deck; children remain seated/in cockpit during manoeuvres.
- Conservative weather limits; reef early policy; avoid high-workload conditions for novice crews.
- Crew given tasks one at a time (avoid overload); maintain tidy cockpit/deck to reduce trips/entanglement.
- Traffic management: avoid busy channels where possible; lookout; prepare for wash; cross at 90° only when safe.
- Anchoring/landing: correct scope, check holding, anchor watch, tidy lines, avoid swimmers; clear re-boarding plan.

## Risk Assessment Table

Hazard	Who Might Be Harmed	Risk	Control Measures	Risk Level	Further Actions
Capsize / inversion (kayak)	Kayakers	Immersion, panic, separation	Supervised group, buddy system, practise rescues/assisted recovery, leader carries tow/repair kit.	Medium	Do skills refresh on day 1
Man overboard (sailing)	Sailing crew	Drowning, hypothermia	Lifejackets; MOB briefing and roles; controlled movement; practise talk-through; carry throwline/ladder plan.	Medium-High	Choose sheltered area for manoeuvres
Weather change / squalls	All	Reduced control; exposure	Check forecast; conservative limits; reef early; shorten day; warm kit; stop early culture.	Medium	Monitor nowcast
Tidal streams / exposed crossings	All	Fatigue; inability to return	Plan with tide; avoid open crossings if marginal; set hard turn-back time; bailout points.	Medium-High	Abort if progress slow
Collision / traffic / wash	All	Injury, capsize, damage	Lookout, keep out of main channels, regroup before crossings, prepare for wash.	Medium-High	Adjust timing/area if busy
Equipment failure (rudder, sail, broken fitting)	All	Loss of control; delay	Pre-check boats; carry spares (tape, line, shackles); do not use defective kit.	Low-Medium	Improve camp spares kit
Anchoring hazards	Crew; other	Dragging,	Correct scope; check holding; anchor watch; tidy	Medium	Brief anchor handling

(sailing)	users	collision, trip hazard	lines; avoid swimmers; re-check after tide turn.		
Camping hazards (fire, cuts, trips at night)	All	Burns, injury	Designated cooking area; torches/headlamps; clear paths; footwear; adult supervision.	Low-Medium	Extra briefing on arrival
Medical emergency / delayed access	All	Worsening condition	Emergency plan; comms; know access points; treat as emergency when needed.	Low-Medium	Ensure shore contact knows location

## General Notes

- Kayaking elements are SUPERVISED. Sailing elements are SKIPPED. This split is intentional and must be maintained.
- Leads/skippers remain responsible for dynamic risk assessment and may modify or stop activities if conditions change.
- Participants must follow instructions and communicate concerns promptly.
- This risk assessment should be reviewed annually or following any incident or near miss.