

Risk Assessment

Name of activity / event / location	Blind Obstacle Course	Date of risk assessment	21/04/2023	Name of who undertook this risk assessment	L V
		Date of next review	21/04/2024		

Hazard Identified? / Risks from it?	Category	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
Hazard – something that may cause harm or damage. Risk – the chance of it happening.	Category to help organise risks	Young people, Leaders, Visitors?	Controls – Ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example - you might use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way the activity is carried out.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change it...or even stop it! This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Covid-19 Protocol. Sharing of equipment + physical contact/proximity - risk of spreading the virus	Activities away from HQ, Games	Everyone	Ensure guidance is followed as appropriate to current COVID restrictions - see separate COVID RA.	
Incident or injury due to scouts misbehaving, not listening to instructions, etc	Activities away from HQ, Adventurous activities	All participants	Ensure that scouts are clearly briefed regarding expected behaviour and how groups will work during the specific activity. If possible, adult leaders or young leaders to take part in the activity alongside scouts to assist in maintaining group control.	
Terrain – uneven ground, branches, nettles, animals, livestock, and so on	Hikes, Activities away from HQ, Adventurous activities	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders check routes before the hike. • Leaders physically check any challenging terrain in advance (or plan an alternative route in case it's too challenging for the group). • Advise participants on suitable footwear and check it before the hike. • Brief young people on safely navigating the terrain, including avoiding brambles, nettles, and so on. • Leaders carry first aid kits and have appropriate training. • Encourage everyone to wear long trousers if concerns over foliage or ticks. • Leaders monitor livestock and find alternative routes to avoid crossing fields with livestock in. 	

Additional information can be found in the Safety Checklist for Leaders and other information at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Inclement weather	Activities away from HQ	Young People	Brief scouts to wear appropriate clothing for the weather. Check weather forecast close to the event and have contingency plan or an alternative programme available in the event of severe inclement weather.	
Floor: slips, trips, and falls.	Active Games	Players	Check that the play area is clear of small objects, particles, and spills that could increase risk of tripping or slipping or cause injury if someone falls on them. Make sure that players are wearing appropriate footwear and it's secured to their feet (check laces are tied and so on). Ensure floor does not become slippery due to condensation - for active games, ensure windows are open to provide air circulation even in colder weather.	
Accident or injury due to site-specific risks	Activities away from HQ	All Present	Leader in charge to check with the venue on arrival and conduct a dynamic risk assessment. Any specific hazards identified to be communicated to all participants along with any necessary mitigations. Ensure any specific directions or instructions from the venue operators are communicated to the group, and complied with.	
Blindfold - risk of injury whilst sight is impaired	Activities away from HQ	All participants	Leaders/Volunteers to accompany participants, ensuring they avoid harming themselves and to act as a visible/audible reassurance	
Dangerous elements to the obstacle course, including sharp edges, uneven surface, trip hazards, low-hanging obstacles.	Activities away from HQ	All participants	Leader in charge to do a test run at the start of the activity, and subsequent checks throughout the activity to ensure the course environment has not changed to present new hazards.	
Rope burn	Activities away from HQ, Activities at HQ	All participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that participants are aware of the risk of running their hands quickly over ropes. • Make participants aware that the activity is not a race, and that there is no need to go quickly. • Offer gloves to those who need/ask for them. • Check the rope beforehand to ensure it is suitable for the event. 	

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