

## **Specific Safety Procedures – Raft Building**

### **RB1 Description:**

RB1.1 The design and building of an improvised raft from a range of materials for sail on sheltered inland or coastal waters.

### **RB2 Learning Outcome:**

RB2.1 Group dynamics; mainly team building, communication, leadership, consequential learning. fun.

### **RB3 Instructor:**

RB3.1 In house passed out or BCU Level two coach or equivalent

RB3.2 Instructor should ensure that raft is safe before launch i.e. a complete check on security of raft components, loose rope work etc.

RB3.3 If powered rescue craft is to be used operator must hold RYA level 2 power boat certificate.

RB3.4 Instructor must have clear understanding of what is involved in creating a safe raft structure. E.g.: Long thin rafts are likely to sink / capsize however square raft with barrel at each corner more likely to float. No outriggers on raft. (Danger of flipping)

### **RB4 Site Knowledge:**

RB4.1 Instructor should be aware of any rip tides, currents and tidal flow systems which could affect Participant safety.

### **RB5 Participant Requirements:**

RB5.1 Clear understanding of procedures in event of falling into water or raft sinking.

RB5.2 Ready access to warm, dry clothes.

RB5.3 Participants should clearly understand that they may not launch their raft until it has been inspected and approved by instructor.

### **RB6 Equipment:**

RB6.1 Coastal waters – Life jackets meeting B.S.I. standards must be worn.

RB6.2 Inland waters – Buoyancy aids meeting B.S.I. standards must be worn.

RB6.3 Instructor must have suitable throw line.

RB6.4 Length of rope suitable for tethering raft.

**RB7 Ratios:**

RB7.1 10 participants to 1 instructor.

**RB8 Weather:**

RB8.1 Raft building should not take place in the event of an offshore wind.

## **Risk Assessment – Raft Building**

### **Hazards Identify significant hazards which could cause harm:**

1. Instructor.
2. Site Selection.
3. Participants.
4. Equipment.
5. Ratio.
6. Weather.

### **How**

#### **How will people be exposed to Hazard?**

1. Insufficient knowledge of safety procedures.
2. Water conditions unsuitable.
3. Group behaviour and approach negative.
4. Poor construction and loose ropes etc.
5. Group size too large.
6. Off shore wind or conditions deteriorate.

### **Risk**

#### **Evaluate risks arising from each hazard (High, Medium, Low).**

1. High.
2. High.
3. Medium.
4. High.
5. Low.
6. High.

### **Action**

#### **Prescribed risk management strategies to remove hazard or reduce risk**

1. Instructor meets leadership requirements. (W3; RB3)

2. Criteria for site selection observed. (W4; RB4)
3. Participant safety briefing. (W5; RB5)
4. Equipment checked, (W6, RB6 RB3.2)
5. Effective group management. (W3.4, RB7)
6. Continually assess weather conditions. (RB8)

### **Monitor**

#### **How are risk management strategies monitored?**

1. Instructor pass out system.
2. Course Report.
3. Participant Evaluation Form.
4. Near-miss folder.
5. Incident Book.
6. Weather Forecasts.

### **Review**

**Review date for this risk assessment:**