

## Outdoor Pitch Risk Assessment

Updated: 13<sup>th</sup> September 2015

### Barrier

There is a barrier that separates the outdoor pitch area and the rest of the Cumberland basin. To pass from one to the other you must pass under the barrier. The columns holding the walkway have metal sections protruding out at water level. These present a hazard to composite boats. The barrier presents an additional risk at high tides where the gap underneath will be reduced. Paddlers should use good judgement as to whether it is safe to pass under the barrier at given water levels.



## Shelf

There is an underwater shelf on one side of the pitch. The access ramp sits on this shelf, although the shelf extends further along the pitch and also slightly further into the pitch than the edge of the pontoon. The water above the shelf is only approximately 30cm. Players should be aware of this when paddling above it (particularly dip turning). Play above the shelf should be avoided, particularly where players may go upside down (i.e. though a successful hand tackle). In addition to the risk presented by the shallow water, there may be debris on the shelf.



## **Pitch Size Access - Ramp**

In March 2015, the access ramp made from scaffolding was constructed. This was a priority to provide safer access than was available previously where paddlers getting on at the pitch had to climb down a ladder. The access ramp still has associated risks. The ramp, and in particular the access platform become submerged by high tides. As well as being regularly wet, they are prone to collecting silt which can make the platform very slippery. Care should be taken while using it and in particular while refereeing on it. A broom is stored in the equipment store and should be used to scrub the deck of the ramp to make it less slippery.

The metal attachments that join the poles and the platform deck protrude out from the platform. Care should be taken when getting in or out of boats as the metal work could damage the boats.

## Pitch sides

The sides of the basin where the pitch is are not straight. Care should be taken when refereeing not to fall in. The ground is also rough and so poses a risk of tripping.



<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Severity</b>	<b>Risk</b>	<b>Current Mitigation</b>	<b>Future Mitigation</b>
Falling off high curved sides while refereeing	3	3	9	Care taken while refereeing. All referees to wear buoyancy aid and suitable footwear	Install fencing, particularly at start of curve
Kayak capsize onto underwater shelf, possibly from hand tackle	3	2	6	All new players to be show shelf location and warned about play above it. Pitch side lines to be used where possible to keep play off shelf	Improved pitch side line facilities to make setting side lines up easier and less hassle
Fall or slip while using access pontoon	2	3	6	Care to be taken. Signage to keep members of the public off	Broom to be made available to clear silt/fouling Plan to replace wooden boards with GRP with improved grip when funds allow Plan to add battens to ramp
Hypothermia during colder months	3	3	9	Players encouraged to bring suitable clothing, improve awareness of symptoms	Inherent risk
Kayakers capsizing and exiting boats – may lead to hypothermia	2	2	4	Sessions to have multiple experienced paddlers, capable of rescue. Installation of pontoon now allows for faster exit of swimmer from water	Inherent risk
Damage to boats due to water level metal bars under barrier	3	1	3	Alert new players to presence of underwater obstructions	None
Water borne illness	2	3	9	Avoidance of swallowing water. Understanding of symptoms of common water borne illnesses	

				The Cumberland Basin has some of the best water quality in the Bristol Harbour and is used for the swim part of the triathlon	
Danger of falling in while setting up goals	2	2	4		Possible fencing round entire pitch

## **Actions to date**

March 2015

An access pontoon has been installed to remove the need for players to get on via the ladders on the barrier. Paddlers are requested not to use these ladders anymore.



August 2015

Battens added to ramp to provide secure footing and reduce risk of slipping. Also make ramp less bouncy, and more stable

September 2015

Broom purchased to scrub silt off platform and make less slippery.

September 2015

Access platform has been partially raised by ~30cm. This is to reduce the regularity the ramp is under water, giving it more opportunity to dry and be less slippery.