

Risk Assessment for Orienteering

Risk assessments are concerned with identifying the hazards (i.e. things which might go wrong or cause an accident/injury), evaluating the likelihood of a particular event occurring (i.e. level of risk) and putting measures in place needed to reduce or eliminate the risk.

Name of Host Section/Group/District		West Wirral Scouts	
Name of person completing this form	Paul Beard & Karen Milnes West Wirral District	Position of person completing this form (organiser etc)	Base planners
Venue for session / event / activity	Tawd Vale Scout Activity Centre	Date for session / event / activity	5 & 5 October 2025
Name of person(s) in charge of session / event / activity		Paul Beard & Karen Milnes, West Wirral District	
Risk assessment signed	P D Beard/K Milnes	Risk assessment dated	22.09.24 Reviewed 18.09.25

The Risk Assessment

It is essential that the mitigation column is completed in detail so that the control measures and who is responsible is fully understood in advance of the activity / session / event and that all leaders / assistants are fully briefed.

NB: it is not sufficient only to put warnings in preliminary information as there is no way of being sure that all participants will have read them.

Impact/Probability Scoring

Impact Score

1 or 2 – insignificant (e.g. minor trip/fall leading to bump/bruising)

3 or 4 – minor (e.g. trip/fall leading to small cuts/grazes and larger areas of bruising)

5 or 6 – moderate (e.g. injuries requiring first aider attention and application of dressings/bandage for minor trauma and self-referral to A&E)

7 or 8 - major (e.g. major injuries requiring paramedic support and transfer to A&E; injuries likely to be permanently disabling)

9 or 10 – catastrophic (e.g. severe injuries requiring application of life saving techniques and urgent emergency transfer; injuries likely to result in death)

Probability Score

1 or 2 – rare (1 in 100 000 chance of occurrence, do not believe such an event will happen)

3 or 4 – unlikely (1 in 10 000 chance of occurrence, do not expect such an event to happen)

5 or 6 – possible (1 in 1 000 chance of occurrence, event may occur occasionally)

7 or 8 – likely (1 in 100 chance of occurrence, event will probably occur)

9 or 10 – almost certain (1 in 10 chance of occurrence, event likely to occur)

Risk is the product of the impact and probability as defined in the table below.

Impact	10	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
	9	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
	8	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
	7	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
	6	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
	5	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	HIGH	HIGH
	4	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	HIGH
	3	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT	SIGNIFICANT
	2	VERY LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT
	1	VERY LOW	VERY LOW	VERY LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	MEDIUM	SIGNIFICANT
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Probability											

Assessment

Hazard		Possible outcome / injury including note on severity and likelihood of occurrence	Impact	Probability	Risk Level	Mitigation • What control measure? • Who is responsible?
In area to be used (indoor / outdoor):	Grass, muddy paths, small slopes/banks and steps.	Potential for slips, falls and stumbles leading to minor injuries.	3	3	Low	Clear warnings to be given to participants at start of activity. Course is on relatively flat ground and majority is on paths. Information in event leader and participants handbooks. briefing at start of event.

						All Leaders to check footwear of competitors prior to start. Told not to cross fences. Told to only cross river using bridges.
	Lake and river in Tawd grounds	Fall into water leading potentially to severe trauma.	7	1	Low	Course designed to avoid lake - Warnings given about pond/lake and to stay away from this Course river crossings are by bridge – Warned to only use bridges.
	Vegetation, brambles, thorns, roots	Potential for injury – cuts and scratches, eye injuries.	3	1	Low	Course does not go through dense undergrowth. Warnings given to avoid dense undergrowth
Participants	Inappropriate footwear	Can lead to trips and falls	3	1	Low	Suitability of footwear check by leader at start. Withdraw participants if safety concern.
	Medical Conditions	Medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes can lead to complications if not noted and allowed for	5	2	Low	All participants to declare existing medical conditions to own scout leader who should inform activity leader. First aider on activity.
Weather	Extreme weather conditions	Lead to hypothermia or heat exhaustion	3	1	Low	Participants advised to bring wet weather gear. Base leader to inform event organisers if weather conditions make base unsafe.

Overall Assessment of Risk

I have assessed the risk of harm to participants from this activity as being Medium. Appropriate mitigation as described above will be in place.

The event is contained within Tawd Vale.

Participants should be no more than 5 minutes maximum from activity base.

The organiser has experience of participating and organising orienteering/navigation events (also in wild country).

The area is clearly defined with boundaries.

All participants will be carefully briefed prior to starting.

control measures in place, the risk of harm to those taking part in this activity I assess to be low. I will be dynamically risk assess during the activity and update my assessment.