

CYC Forest Edge
River Sledding – Risk Management Plan

School:	Year Level:
Supervising teachers / staff:	Dates:
Program / Excursion:	Location:

For an explanation of risk management terminology and to ensure you understand how the rating / grading system is determined please ensure you have read the **CYC Activity Risk Profile** document.

The **River Sledding** Risk Management Plan contains the specific risks, control measures and grading's for this activity, as well as the grading's of all general risks relevant for all CYC activities. Please refer to the **General Activity Hazards – Risk Management Plan** for a list of general risks and control measures relevant for all CYC activities.

Risk Description	Existing Control Measures	Risk Rating		
		Likelihood	Consequence	Control Effectiveness
Slip – Trip – Fall 1. When getting on / off sled	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times, eg. wet suit booties or runners. NO thongs, crocs or loose footwear Area to be checked for hazards prior to use 	Possible	Minor	Satisfactory
2. Whilst paddling sled on river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preferred method of using the sled is to have participants lying down on stomach facing downstream (No standing or kneeling) Sitting is also a suitable position, feet must be facing downstream and toes above water No walking down the river, stay on the sled 	Possible	Minor	Satisfactory
3. Participant slipping / falling when on river bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazardous areas of river bank are highlighted (rocks, steep slopes, mud, tree roots) Appropriate footwear to be worn at all times 	Unlikely	Minor	Satisfactory
Entrapment Fingers, limbs etc trapped /crushed between the sled and other object on river	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the safety briefing participants are warned of the danger of entrapment and instructed to be careful of fingers/limbs Sledding activity not available when river height is above safe levels 	Unlikely	Minor	Satisfactory
Striking 1. Stone Throwing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throwing of river stones should not be permitted while participants are in the river Vigilant supervision by the activity group leader is required throughout the session 	Unlikely	Minor	Satisfactory
2. Collisions with other water users and other solid objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boundaries are clearly defined during the briefing Operations of other users on the river (swimming & river raft building) should be identified before entering the water Each group is asked to stay within their boundaries and not disrupt other users Participants are asked to not deliberately crash into other water users 	Likely	Insignificant	Satisfactory
Manual Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use sufficient people to share the load when lifting heavy equipment 	Unlikely	Minor	Satisfactory
Environmental Hazards Injury caused by contact with; 1. Dangerous organisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are briefed regarding snakes, leeches, fresh water crayfish and other potentially dangerous organisms 	Possible	Minor	Satisfactory

CYC Forest Edge – River Sledding RMP

<p>2. Natural features such as; Rocks, dead branches, vegetation, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rocky and other hazardous areas of the river are identified during the activity briefing The River Sledding area is checked regularly by Forest Edge staff and cleared of removable branches, trees and debris 	Unlikely	Moderate	Satisfactory
<p>Environmental Exposure 1. Cold water causing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hyperthermia, hyperventilation, asthma etc </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check water temperature taking into consideration weather conditions Activity recommended in warmer months only (late November- early April) Activity may be available in early Spring (September, October) or late autumn (late April, May) to participants who provide suitable cold water clothing eg. Wetsuits, thermals, wool jumpers Participants to wear suitable protective clothing if going in the river Leaders are aware of pre-existing medical conditions and management of these conditions eg. Asthma puffers are accessible at River Sledding area Participants are to have warm showers and put dry clothes on at the conclusion of the session 	Unlikely	Moderate	Satisfactory
<p>2. Fast water and high water volume causing; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Injury due to entrapment or contact with natural features due to water pressure and flow Fear/ anxiety and disorientation </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check river heights on internet daily when River Sledding is being run on La Trobe River (it is recommend not to run this activity if above 1.2 metres at Willow Grove gauge) Check rainfall at Noojee on internet when Sledding is being run for possible rising river due to rain in upper catchment 	Rare	Major	Satisfactory
<p>Equipment Failure 1. Sleds not fully inflated resulting in entrapment or injury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are briefed on the correct use of the equipment Only the specifically designated inflatable river sleds will be used for the activity Program staff are trained to recognise worn or faulty equipment Regular equipment checks are completed and recorded by trained site staff If equipment is damaged or unsafe it will be removed from use 	Unlikely	Minor	Satisfactory
<p>2. Faulty or poorly fitted PFDs and helmets resulting in near drowning or injury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All participants are to wear a correctly fitted buoyancy vest (PFD) that conforms to Australian Standard for Level 50 AS4758.1 (equiv. to old PFD 2 AS1499) or Level 50s (equiv. to old PFD 3 AS2260) when in/on the water at all times A wetsuit on its own is not suitable buoyancy Helmet must be designed specifically for paddle / water sports Regular equipment checks are completed and recorded by trained site staff Equipment is used, maintained, stored and replaced in accordance with manufacturer guidelines PFD's and helmets must be checked for correct fitting by qualified staff before participants enter the water 	Rare	Major	Satisfactory
<p>Drowning / near drowning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inability to swim Overconfidence in own ability to swim Under School age Inadequate supervision </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Sledding should only be completed by those that are of appropriate age and ability Correct ratios must be maintained at all times and the activity must be supervised by suitably qualified staff Vigilant supervision required. Leaders must maintain visual contact with all river sledding participants when on the water Qualified site staff will carry a rescue throw bag and be trained with its use If weak or non-swimmers are permitted on the river sleds, the following needs to be considered; behavior / attitude of the individual and other group members, water conditions, weather conditions etc. If there is the slightest concern regarding the safety of the non-swimmers then they should not be entering the water. 	Rare	Catastrophic	Satisfactory

Risk Rating – River Sledding

All identified risks are recorded in the Risk Matrix according to the Likelihood and Consequence. The purpose of this matrix is to provide a snapshot of all identified risks and establish the level of risk associated to determine if further treatment is required.

X		Likelihood					
		Almost Certain	Likely	Possible	Unlikely	Rare	
Consequence	Catastrophic	80	64	48	32	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowning/ near drowning • Environmental Exposure 4 • Environmental Hazard 3
	Major	40	32	24	16	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Hazard 1 • People – Instructor 1 & 2 • Inappropriate use after hours • People – Group leader 2 • Equipment Failure 2 • Environmental Exposure 2
	Moderate	20	16	12	8	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People – Participant behaviour • Environmental Exposure 1 • Environmental Hazards 2 • Environmental Exposure 2 • Environmental Exposure 3
	Minor	10	8	6	4	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slip-Trip-Fall 1 & 2 • Enviro Hazards 1 • Slip-Trip-Fall (General) • Environmental Exposure 1 • Environmental Hazard 2 • People – participant ability • Entrapment • Slip-Trip-Fall 3 • Striking 1 • Manual Handling • Equipment Failure 1 • Entanglement • Cutting / Scratching • Striking • People – Group Leader 1
	Insignificant	5	4	3	2	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Striking 2

NB: All risks in **bold** are **River Sledding** specific risks. All other risks are from the General Activity Hazards RMP and are therefore relevant for all activities.

For grading risks, scores obtained from the risk matrix are assigned grades as follows;

HIGH 20 – 80	MEDIUM 10 – 16	LOW 1 – 8
Unacceptable risk which requires immediate action to reduce or remove the hazard. Senior management must be notified. Item should be TAKEN OFF LINE until risk reduced.	Conditionally acceptable, requires short term controls and continuous monitoring.	Acceptable risk, however monitoring required ensuring risk does not escalate. Review in 12 months or if situation changes.