

**CYC Forest Edge  
River Swimming – Risk Management Plan**

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

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 Swimming** 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
<b>Slip – Trip – Fall</b> Participant slipping / falling when on river bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Running is not recommended around the beach area</li> <li>Hazardous areas of river bank are highlighted (rocks, steep slopes, mud, tree roots)</li> <li>Appropriate footwear to be worn at all times, eg. wet suit booties or runners. NO thongs, crocs or loose footwear</li> </ul>	Possible	Minor	Satisfactory
<b>Striking</b> 1. Stone Throwing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throwing of river stones should not be permitted while participants are in the river</li> <li>Vigilant supervision by the activity group leader is required throughout the session</li> </ul>	Unlikely	Minor	Satisfactory
2. Collisions with other water users and other solid objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boundaries are clearly defined during the briefing</li> <li>Operations of other users on the river (river sledding) should be identified before entering the water</li> <li>Participants are asked to stay within their boundaries and not disrupt or interfere with any other activity groups</li> </ul>	Likely	Minor	Satisfactory
<b>Environmental Hazards</b> Injury caused by contact with; 1. Dangerous organisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants are briefed regarding snakes, leeches, fresh water crayfish and other potentially dangerous organisms</li> </ul>	Possible	Minor	Satisfactory
2. Natural features such as; Rocks, dead branches, vegetation, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rocky and other hazardous areas of the river are identified during the activity briefing</li> <li>The River Swimming area is checked regularly by Forest Edge staff and cleared of removable branches, trees and debris</li> </ul>	Unlikely	Moderate	Satisfactory
<b>Environmental Exposure</b> 1. Cold water causing •Hyperthermia, hyperventilation, asthma etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check water temperature taking into consideration weather conditions</li> <li>Activity recommended in warmer months only (late November- early April)</li> <li>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</li> <li>Participants to wear suitable protective clothing if going in the river</li> </ul>	Unlikely	Moderate	Satisfactory

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leaders are aware of pre-existing medical conditions and management of these conditions e.g. Asthma puffers are accessible at river swimming area</li> <li>Participants are to have warm showers and put dry clothes on at the conclusion of the session</li> </ul>			
<p>2. Fast water and high water volume causing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Injury due to entrapment or contact with natural features due to water pressure and flow</li> <li>Fear/ anxiety and disorientation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check river heights on internet daily when River Swimming is being run in the La Trobe River (it is recommend not to run this activity if above 1.2 metres at Willow Grove gauge)</li> <li>Check rainfall at Noojee on internet when Swimming is being run for possible rising river due to rain in upper catchment</li> </ul>	Rare	Major	Satisfactory
<p><b>Drowning / near drowning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inability to swim</li> <li>Overconfidence in own ability to swim</li> <li>Under School age</li> <li>Inadequate supervision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Correct ratios must be maintained at all times and the activity must be supervised by suitably qualified staff</li> <li>Vigilant supervision required at all times</li> <li>Participation in the activity must correspond with participants swimming skills and ability</li> <li>NON swimmers MUST NOT be allowed to enter the river at the swimming area</li> <li>If weak or non-swimmers are permitted in the water, the following needs to be considered; behavior / attitude of the individual and other group members, designate boundaries (shallow areas of river only) 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.</li> </ul>	Rare	Catastrophic	Satisfactory
<p><b>Equipment Failure</b></p> <p>Faulty or poorly fitted PFDs and helmets resulting in near drowning or injury</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All participants are to wear a correctly fitted buoyancy vest (PFD) that conforms to the relevant Australian Standard when in/on the water at all times</li> <li>Regular equipment checks are completed and recorded by trained site staff</li> <li>Equipment is used, maintained, stored and replaced in accordance with manufacturer guidelines</li> <li>PFD's must be checked for correct fitting by qualified staff before participants enter the water</li> </ul>	Rare	Major	Satisfactory

**Risk Rating – River Swimming**

All identified risks are recorded in the Risk Matrix according to the Likelihood and Consequence ratings. 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"> <li>• <b>Drowning/ near drowning</b></li> <li>• Environmental Exposure 4</li> <li>• Environmental Hazard 3</li> </ul>
	Major	40	32	24	16	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Hazard 1</li> <li>• People – Instructor 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Inappropriate use after hours</li> <li>• People – Group leader 2</li> <li>• <b>Equipment Failure</b></li> <li>• <b>Environmental Exposure 2</b></li> </ul>
	Moderate	20	16	12	8	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People – Participant behaviour</li> <li>• <b>Environmental Exposure 1</b></li> <li>• <b>Environmental Hazards 2</b></li> <li>• Environmental Exposure 2</li> <li>• Environmental Exposure 3</li> </ul>
	Minor	10	8	6	4	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Slip-Trip-Fall 1</b></li> <li>• <b>Enviro Hazards 1</b></li> <li>• Slip-Trip-Fall (General)</li> <li>• Environmental Exposure 1</li> <li>• Environmental Hazard 2</li> <li>• People – participant ability</li> <li>• <b>Striking 1</b></li> <li>• Entanglement</li> <li>• Cutting / Scratching</li> <li>• Striking</li> <li>• People – Group Leader 1</li> </ul>
	Insignificant	5	4	3	2	1	

NB: All risks in **bold** are **River Swimming** 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. <b>Senior management must be notified.</b> Item should be <b>TAKEN OFF LINE</b> 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.