

Activity Description & Location  
Surfing – Offsite – Camp Wilkin

Use: A Must be operated by Baptist Camping Victoria qualified staff  
B In house training at Baptist Camping Victoria required before using this equipment  
C Safe operating procedures must be read and adhered to by all users of this equipment  
D Does not apply

USE RATING:



Risk	Risk Factor	Likelihood	Consequences	Initial Level of Risk	Description of risk	Risk management strategy	Revised Level of Risk
Submerged objects	Injury to participants	Likely	Moderate	MEDIUM	1.Participants may hit their head or bodies on submerged objects when falling from surfboard 2.Participants may stand on rocks or submerged objects when falling into water	1.Activity leader should inform participants of risks and teach safe falling techniques from surfboard 2.All surfing should be conducted at safe surf beaches 3.Activity leader should check and be aware of any coral reefs, sandbanks, or rock piles within the designated surf area and seek out alternative surf spots if possible	LOW
Drowning	Deep water, inexperienced swimmers	Rare	Catastrophic	LOW	1.Participants may drown if they fall off board in deep water and cannot stand 2.Inexperienced swimmers may drown in deep water	1.Ensure participants do not go out deep in the water during session 2.Inexperienced swimmers should stay in shallow water, or not participate in activity based on assessed skill level 3.Activity leader must be CPR trained 4.Swim between the flags where available	LOW
Animals	Sharks, jellyfish, crabs, fish, stingrays	Rare	Catastrophic	LOW	1.Participants may be bitten by animals whilst in the water causing injury or death	1.Do not surf in areas with recent shark sightings or closed beaches 2.Activity leader should monitor for animals in surfing area and get participants out of water if dangerous animal is sighted 3.Reduction by instruction – do not touch or stir up any animals that are seen in the water	LOW
Water users	Injury from other water users	Possible	Moderate	LOW	1.Participants may be hit by other surfers 2.Other swimmers may hit participants 3.Boat users may hit participants	1.Ensure adequate spacing within group to minimise risk of hitting other surfers 2.Do not surf around large groups of swimmers to minimise risk of hitting them 3.Do not surf out deep where boat users are 4.Activity leader & participants should monitor where other swimmers and surfers are to ensure they do not go too close to them	LOW
Exposure to elements	Hypothermia	Rare	Major	LOW	1.Participants may suffer from hypothermia if exposed to water for long periods of time	1.Participants should wear appropriate swimwear for conditions, wetsuit for cold weather 2.Do not conduct surfing if temperatures are too cold and participants do not have appropriate clothing	LOW
Exposure to elements	Sunburn, heat stroke, heat exhaustion	Possible	Moderate	MEDIUM	1.Participants may get sunburnt if exposed to sun for long periods without sun protection 2.Participants may suffer heatstroke or	1.Ensure participants have appropriate sun protection such as sunscreen, hat and long clothing in hot temperatures 2.Ensure participants reapply waterproof sunscreen as recommended	LOW

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					heat exhaustion due to strenuous activity in hot conditions	3. Monitor participants showing signs of heatstroke or exhaustion, discontinue activity if it becomes unsafe 4. Do not run activity at the hottest time of day during summer if conditions deemed unsafe	
Water	RIPS, strong currents	Possible	Critical	HIGH	1. Participants may get caught in RIPS or strong currents and dragged out	1. Do not run activity in known areas of rips 2. Monitor conditions constantly to assess for RIPS or strong currents in the water 3. Maintain 1:6 ratio at all times within the water to prevent risk 4. Activity leader should be surf trained and know how to save someone from a RIP 5. Surf between the flags when available	MEDIUM
Entanglement	Leg ropes, others leg ropes, seaweed	Rare	Critical	LOW	1. Participants may be strangled on their own leg rope 2. Participants may be strangled on another participants leg rope 3. Participants may become entangled in seaweed	1. Ensure leg rope is the appropriate length for the surfer to prevent risk of choking 2. Ensure leg rope is on the correct leg for the participant to prevent risk of strangulation 3. Participants should be appropriately spaced out within the water to minimise risk of strangulation on others leg ropes	LOW
Carrying equipment	Participants or activity leaders manual handling	Possible	Moderate	MEDIUM	1. Participants or activity leaders may hurt their backs whilst entering/exiting water with surfboard 2. Participants or activity leaders may hurt themselves moving boards on the river bank	1. Activity leaders must ensure they instruct participants on safe ways to enter/exit water with surfboard and offer assistance if required 2. Participants and activity leaders should work in groups of 2 or more to move surfboards to prevent injury to themselves or others following correct lifting technique	LOW
Lost participants	Surfers getting separated from group	Rare	Major	LOW	1. Participants may become lost or separated from the group	1. Evaluate skills of participants prior to commencing activity, do not run activity if group skills are not adequate 2. Monitor weather conditions prior to session commencement and during session to minimise risks 4. Appropriate contact between all leaders should be maintained at all times	LOW