

Selsey Model Boat Club Risk Assessment

Activity: Radio-Controlled Model Boat Sailing

Location: Selsey East Beach Pond

Assessment Date: 26/06/2026

Review Date: _____

Assessor: PD Britton

Hazard	Persons at Risk	Potential Harm	Existing Control Measures	Risk Level
Slips, trips and falls on uneven or wet ground	Members, visitors, public	Cuts, bruises, fractures	Maintain awareness of ground conditions. Keep walkways clear. Wear suitable footwear with good grip. Avoid running around the pond.	Low
Falling into the pond	Members, visitors, children	Cold water shock, drowning, injury	Avoid standing close to the edge unless necessary. Children must be supervised by a responsible adult. No wading or swimming.	Medium
Retrieval of stranded boats	Members	Falling into water, strains	Use purpose-made retrieval pole or retrieval boat where possible. Only those club members wearing waders and a buoyancy aid are permitted to enter the water at designated points to retrieve boats that cannot be recovered using a retrieval pole. Suspend retrieval during unsafe conditions.	Medium
Strong winds, rain or thunderstorms	All persons	Injury from flying debris, reduced visibility, lightning	Sailing suspended during thunderstorms or severe weather. Monitor weather forecasts. Seek shelter when necessary.	Medium
Model boat propellers	Operators, spectators	Cuts or minor injuries	Ensure motors are switched off before handling boats. Keep hands clear of propellers.	Low
Electric batteries (Li-ion, NiMH, Lead Acid)	Members	Burns, fire, chemical exposure	Charge batteries using suitable chargers. Inspect batteries before use. Do not charge damaged batteries. Store and transport batteries safely.	Medium
Launching and recovering boats	Members	Back strain, slips	Use designated launch points where possible. Lift using correct manual handling techniques. Larger boats may require two people.	Low
Collision between boats	Members	Damage to models, minor injuries	Observe sailing etiquette. Operate at safe speeds. Maintain separation between models. Experienced members to assist beginners.	Low

Spectator interaction	Public, members	Minor injury or distraction	Maintain safe distance between sailing area and spectators. Explain activities when approached. Stop sailing if necessary to allow public access.	Low
Wildlife (birds, fish, nesting animals)	Wildlife, members	Disturbance or injury	Do not deliberately approach or chase wildlife. Suspend sailing if protected wildlife is present in the sailing area.	Low
Sun exposure and heat	Members	Sunburn, dehydration	Wear hats and sunscreen. Drink water regularly. Seek shade during hot weather.	Low
Cold weather	Members	Hypothermia, reduced dexterity	Wear suitable clothing. Limit exposure during very cold conditions. Warm up indoors or in vehicles if required.	Low
Manual handling of equipment	Members	Muscle strain	Use trolleys where appropriate. Share lifting of heavy boats. Lift correctly.	Low
First aid incidents	All persons	Minor to serious injuries	A stocked first aid kit available during club sessions where possible. Members encouraged to report all accidents.	Low

Emergency Procedures

Medical Emergency

- Stop sailing immediately.
- Make the area safe.
- Administer first aid if trained.
- Call **999** if required.
- Direct emergency services to the exact access point.

Person in the Water

- Do not enter the water.
- Call **999** immediately if there is any risk to life.
- Use available rescue equipment from the bank if safe to do so.
- Keep visual contact with the casualty until emergency services arrive.

Fire (Battery or Electrical)

- Move people away from the area.
- Do not handle burning lithium batteries directly.
- Call the Fire and Rescue Service if the fire cannot be safely controlled.

Member Responsibilities

Members shall:

- Operate only safe and well-maintained boats.
- Follow club safety rules.
- Respect other pond users.
- Protect wildlife and the environment.
- Report hazards and accidents
- Avoid sailing under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Follow instructions from club officials.

Club Responsibilities

The club committee will:

- Review this assessment annually or following any incident.
- Promote safe operating practices.
- Encourage reporting of hazards.
- Liaise with the local authority regarding site safety.
- Ensure new members are made aware of club safety procedures.

Overall Assessment

With the above control measures in place, the risks associated with operating radio-controlled model boats on the local pond are considered **Low** and acceptable for normal club activities.

Assessor Signature: _____

Date: _____