



## British Water Ski & Wakeboard Risk Assessment Guidance

It is important for all clubs to check that all activities and the environment is as safe as possible, to reduce the risk of accident or injury to everyone involved in the club. The best way of doing this is through a risk assessment.

Every water ski and wakeboard club is unique in terms of size, location, facility and type of activity – therefore risk assessments are extremely specific to each individual club however there is likely to be some common areas of risk for all.

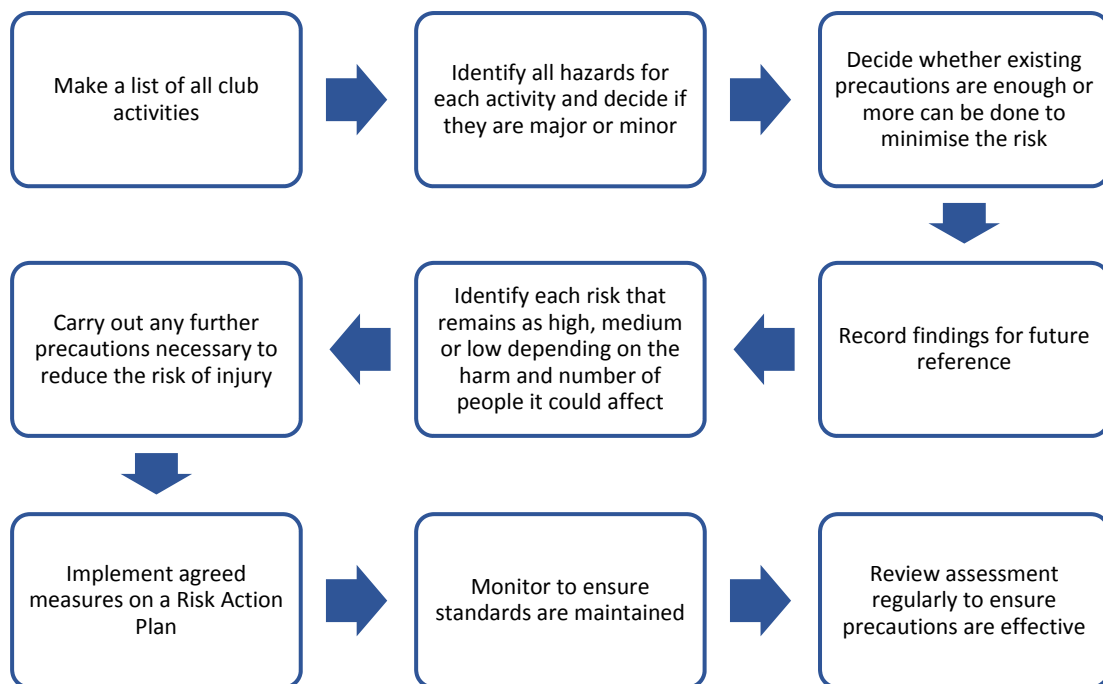
### What is a risk assessment?

A risk assessment looks at anything has the potential to cause an accident or incident at your club and whether enough precaution have been taken to prevent this or whether more should be implemented.

The important things you need to decide are whether a hazard is significant, and whether you have it covered by satisfactory precautions so that the risk is small. You need to check this when you assess the risks.

### How to do a risk assessment?

The process outlined below can be used as guide to carrying out a risk assessment.



You should also consider everyone who might be affected by that risk including staff, members, committee members, coaches, volunteers, participants, guests and member of the public.

Below is an example of how you might record your risk assessment;

Risk	Who affected	Current Precaution	Further action	Responsibility
E.g.				
<i>Drowning</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Life jackets/buoyancy aids Staff trained in rescue procedures and first aid trained</i>	<i>Participant level of swimming checked</i>	<i>John Smith</i>

## Common Risks at a Water Ski & Wakeboard Club

There are a number of areas of risk that need to be considered – it is not just the on-water activities that carry risk, there will also be hazards relating to the facility, building and surrounding areas. This list is not exclusive and is not intended to be so.

Key areas of consideration;

Area	Examples
General	Weather Environment Site access
Clubhouse & Facility	Fire Electricity
The Activity	Wakeboarding Water Skiing Inflatables Other sports i.e. SUP, Open water swimming On-water obstructions
Water Hazards	Drowning Hypothermia Shallow/deep areas Other users
Cable	Usage Maintenance
Boat	Driving Refuelling Launching / docking
Safety Boat/Craft	Driving Rescue

Carrying out a risk assessment for your club shouldn't be a time-consuming task but it is essential to showing the club has considered their duty of care to all members and participants.

Use the guidance above and remember these 'Top Tips';

### Top Tips

- Keep it simple & use your common sense
- Consider the '5 Key Steps'
- Complete the risk assessment with a small group and share the responsibility of monitoring the risks
- Work to the BWSW Safety Recommendations and Standards and any local Bye-Laws

#### 5 Key Steps to a Risk Assessment

1. Identify hazards
2. Who might be harmed
3. What are you doing already & what further action is needed?
4. How will you put the assessment into action?
5. Monitor & review