

Risk assessment

Name of activity, event, and location	Maypole and Morris Dancing	Date of risk assessment	28/04/2024	Name of person doing this risk assessment	John Bayle
	Note: this RA is specific to the activity. Refer to RA for holding meetings for additional detail.	Date of next review	03/05/2024		

What could go wrong? What hazard have you identified? What are the risks from it?	Who is at risk?	What are you going to do about it? How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed? How will they be communicated to young people and adults and remain inclusive to all needs?	Review & revise What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm that may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you're doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Venue	All	Ensure area is: 1. Level, free from obstructions, and non-slip. 2. Large enough to cater for the numbers taking part 3. Avoids public (walking/cycling) through traffic	
The Ribbons could tangle around people	Young people and helpers	Tell all beavers and helpers before they start that if someone shouts STOP they must STOP immediately. Check for understanding of this instruction and test several times before dancing starts. 1. In case of <u>any</u> entanglement, STOP immediately. Tell all helpers that if they see any entanglement that they should also shout STOP. 2. Instruct the beavers to hold the ribbon in one hand with the slack rolled in a ball in the other hand and not wrap them around their hands or arms . If beavers cannot do this then ask a helper to walk round with them. 3. Only perform dances at level 1 in the Maypole Manual which are less likely to result in entanglements. 4. Only perform dances involving walking or at most skipping. There should be no running because you may not be able to stop the activity quickly enough. 5. When performing dances with a mixture of clockwise and anticlockwise motion, ensure that the taller beavers are on the outside so they can hold the ribbons above the shorter beavers on the inside. Helpers should be used to ensure the outside ribbons stay high.	
People could slip, trip or fall while dancing around the Maypole	Young people and helpers	1. Instruct the beavers to hold the ribbon in one hand with the slack rolled in a ball in the other hand. Prepare this whilst setting up the Maypole . This will reduce the risk of tripping over the ribbons. 2. Consider shortening the ribbons if needed to avoid beavers walking into obstacles. 3. Only perform dances involving walking or at most skipping, and no running, at level 1 in the Maypole Manual. 4. Ensure beavers wear appropriate footwear (should already be in place for beavers but check footwear is suitable).	

You can find more information in the [Safety checklist for leaders](#) and at scouts.org.uk/safety

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Jewellery, sweets or gum which could cause injury or choking	Young people and helpers	Beavers instructed not to wear loose jewellery or to eat whilst dancing. Check for compliance before starting any dances.	
The Pole could fall over	All	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The pole is manufactured so that it must be tilted to extreme before falling. 2. An adult must assemble the Maypole and check it is safe to use. When assembling the Maypole and taking down again, ensure the area is clear of young people. Get help from another adult if any difficulty experienced, the pole, crown and base are all heavy items and awkward to manoeuvre. 3. Ensure beavers are spread out around the pole during dances to avoid any tilting. 4. Monitor that the pole is not being "pulled over" and STOP if necessary. 	
People could kick the base of the pole while dancing	Young people and helpers	Only perform dances involving walking or at most skipping, no running, at level 1 in the Maypole Manual, these do not require approaching the pole. Instruct beavers not to approach the pole.	
People could slip, trip or fall while Morris dancing	Young people and helpers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beavers will be shown a video of Morris dancing before their activities so they know what it consists of. 2. Beavers to be instructed not to run around or into each other. 	
Morris sticks – risk of hitting dancers	Young people and helpers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Morris sticks are rolls of newspaper to avoid injury. 2. Instruct beavers that the aim is to hit each other's sticks, not each other. 	
Morris sticks – risk of hitting others	All	Instruct beavers to keep hold of the Morris sticks and not to throw them around.	
Bad weather (if performing in car park or Rupert Fison Square)	All	Perform indoors	
Beavers going missing (if performing in Rupert Fison Square)	Young people	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instruct beavers to stay with their group. 2. Monitor perimeter and ensure beavers do not walk away 	
Members of public getting involved (if performing in Rupert Fison Square)	All	This is a public space, monitor activities of any passers-by or spectators and ensure appropriate separation from young people.	
Litter obstructing dance area (if performing in Rupert Fison Square)	All	Litter pick before starting activities,	
First Aid / Injuries	Participants	Ensure that a first aid kit is available to deal with the potential of multiple or more serious injuries.	

Don't forget, as part of your programme planning, you should have contingency activities in reserve just in case you can't do what was planned or you need to stop half way through. Make sure this is shared with those involved, so everyone knows how to respond. You should have risk assessed contingency activities prior to them taking place and communicated key information to those involved as with all activities.

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