



Individual Risk Assessment Form

To calculate **Risk Rating (R)**: assess the **Likelihood (L)** of an accident occurring against the most likely **Severity (S)** the accident might have, taking into account the control measures already in place. **L x S = R**

Club & Society Name:	Leeds University Union Hiking Club	Likelihood (L) X Severity (S)					
Category:	Outdoor	Unlikely	1	Minor harm caused			
Individual Activity Description:	Winter mountaineering (typically but not limited to Scotland) which involves the use of ice axes and crampons to accommodate hiking in winter conditions.	Possible	2	Moderate harm caused			
		Certain	3	Major harm caused			
Committee member completing the form (name and position):	Oliver Wilson (President) 23/01/2024	<table style="margin: auto; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #00FF00; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Low (Acceptable) = 1 - 2</td> <td style="background-color: #FFD700; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Moderate (Tolerable) = 3 - 6</td> <td style="background-color: #FF8C00; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">High (Intolerable) = 7 - 9</td> </tr> </table>			Low (Acceptable) = 1 - 2	Moderate (Tolerable) = 3 - 6	High (Intolerable) = 7 - 9
Low (Acceptable) = 1 - 2	Moderate (Tolerable) = 3 - 6				High (Intolerable) = 7 - 9		
Club & Society Signature:							
(Staff Only) Checked by:							
(Staff Only) Final Sign Off:							

Please also see the risk assessment, also uploaded to the engage system, for the clubs regular hiking activities. Where this risk assessment does not cover a topic, that risk assessment should be consulted. This risk assessment, however, takes precedent for winter activities, due to the increased risk.



See summer risk assessment for descriptions of non-winter leader roles.

Winter 2nd:

- Fulfils all the roles associated with a Summer 2nd alongside winter-specific tasks.
- Assists in leading Winter routes on winter mountaineering trips.
- Assists the Winter 1st with safely navigating challenging winters routes.
- Competently uses ropes and scramble equipment when required.
- Encourages and reassures group members.
- Assists with the education of group members on winter safety protocol.
- Must already be experienced in the club as a summer 1st.

Winter 1st:

- Fulfils all the roles associated with a Summer 1st alongside winter-specific tasks.
- Is the leader primarily responsible for planning and leading routes on winter mountaineering trips.
- Safely navigates the group through challenging winters routes.
- Competently uses ropes and scramble equipment when required.
- Encourages and reassures group members.
- Educates group members on winter safety protocol.

Individual Activity Hazards

Any hazards that could arise from your proposed activity or event

What are the significant, foreseeable hazards? <i>(the dangers that can cause harm)</i>	Who is at risk and how?	Control measures <i>(Already in place)</i>	Risk Rating			Additional control measures needed <i>(Staff ONLY)</i>
			L	S	R	
Avalanche	Members and other hill users - Injury/Death, weather and snowpack quality can impact avalanche risk. Risk is triggering an avalanche (which impacts both you and other hill users) and burial from being hit from an avalanche.	Avoid avalanche prone slopes. Check SAIS forecast and use to aide route planning. Be aware of terrain traps. Undergo continual assessment of conditions underfoot - know how to dig tests and what the results mean.	1	3	3	
Hypothermia	Members - Injury from hypothermia caused by poor weather combined with inadequate kit.	Look at the weather forecast in advance and plan routes accordingly. Plan all routes in advance and be aware of potential exits from the planned route should they need to be used. Be aware of places to shelter along the route. Kit list distributed to members in advance of trip to ensure they have the correct kit - route leader to check kit in advance of setting off for each day's hike. Leaders carry spare warm layers and gloves on each hike to distribute if needed. All to carry spare layers should the weather change.	2	2	4	
Group Separation	Members - Injury due to poor weather and/or differing walking speeds	All members in the group to be aware of meeting points should the group be separated. Multiple maps are carried between the group. Group leader to give overview of the route before setting off. All members carry a compass. Contingency plans in place for where to meet should the group be separated or for alternative routes should the weather change. All carry spare kit should the weather change. Group leader to be experienced and competent in navigation skills. All participants carry a mobile phone with them. Group to check in with leaders of each group when safely at the end of route/off the mountain. Group carries one "pay as you go" club phone on the hill to aide communication should phone batteries deplete.	1	2	2	

Slips/Trips/Falls	Members - Injury/Death due to steep terrain, icy/snowy paths, steep snow and ice slopes. Trips caused by tripping over crampons (inexperience with equipment)	Appropriate footwear to be worn (B2 boots minimum). All group members are trained in the use of ice axes and crampons, including how to ice axe arrest should you have a trip or slip. Equipment to be annually inspected and to be in a serviceable condition. Route chosen to be appropriate to participants ability and weather conditions. Helmets to be worn when members are using crampons and ice axes.	1	3	3
Fall from steep ground	Members - Injury/Death caused by a fall from height	Make participants aware of the added danger of steep ground. Members are briefed on the use of tools (crampons/ice axes) to aid in circumstances of steep ground prior to setting off/being in a steep location.	1	3	3
Falling rock/ice	Members - Injury caused by rock/ice fall, made more likely by poor weather conditions and poor route choice.	Consider location when deciding routes for exposure to rock/ice fall or where other groups may be in the vicinity to trigger rock/ice fall. Helmets to be worn in exposed areas.	1	2	2
Slip/Fall on ice	Members - Injury caused by a slip or fall	Appropriate footwear to be worn (B2 boots minimum). Appropriate equipment carried, and used where necessary, by all members. Members will have sufficient time to practice techniques safely before being in situations where it is needed.	2	2	4
Incorrect use of equipment	Members - Injury through incorrect use of equipment through insufficient winter mountaineering skills or knowledge.	All winter mountaineering novices to only go out with either an instructor or a member who has extensive winter mountaineering experience and has been allocated a leader role by committee. Helmets to be worn when using crampons. All participants to be made aware of dangers of crampons and ice axes (even when being carried and not worn due to sharp nature). All participants to spend time learning or refreshing ice axe and crampon skills prior to heading out.	1	3	3

Sunburn/Eyes damage	Members - Injury caused by sunburn. Eye damage caused by extreme sun, snow or wind.	Goggles carried and worn by members in conditions of extreme snow and wind. Sunglasses carried and worn in conditions of extreme sunshine. Suncream worn by members to prevent sunburn.	1	2	2
Water hazards - rivers	Members - Extreme rain can lead to rivers having a high water level/fast flowing, and snowfall can lead to rivers being covered and masked. Both can lead to injury through drowning or cold water shock effects.	Take precautions when planning routes to avoid river crossings on route. All members carry spare kit should socks etc become wet and need changing. Where a river crossing is necessary, leaders will go first and last and guide members of the correct and safest procedure for crossing rivers, where footbridges are not available.	1	2	2
Lightning	Members - Injury from lightning strike	Check forecasts prior to route planning. In event of thunderstorm forecasts avoid exposed ridges and height. Leaders are taught what to do if you get caught in a thunderstorm (get low/descend off route).	1	3	3
Medical Issues	Members - Injury as a result of pre existing medical issues	Committee aware of any medical issues at time of membership and trip sign up. Leaders are made aware of medical issues impacting those in their groups and before beginning each hike "check in" with the group to ensure there are no issues that could impact safety and wellbeing.	1	1	1
Adverse weather	Members - Injury as a result of adverse weather effects and the impacts. Eg. Strong wind, heavy snowfall, heavy rain. Links with avalanche risk.	Check (multiple) forecasts during route planning and in the weeks prior to the trip to have a good understanding of the ground and air conditions. Correct equipment is carried as a group - spare layers (hats/gloves/drink/food/etc) and a group shelter for every group.	2	2	4
Injury from winter equipment	Members - Injury caused by improper use of equipment	Each winter trip time is dedicated to teaching/refreshing correct methods to carry and use winter equipment. When using axes and crampons gloves and helmets are worn.	1	3	3

Benightment	Members - Injury from slips, trips and falls from lack of visibility in darkness. Hypothermia risk from drop in temperature at night.	Head torches to be carried by all leaders and members to be prepared for any unexpected night-time navigation. Group briefed on emergency contact details and procedure. Plan all routes in advance and be aware of potential exits from the planned route should they need to be used. Leaders carry spare warm layers and gloves on each hike to distribute if needed. All to carry spare layers should the weather change.	1	3	3	
Other hill users	Members and other hill users - Injury caused by activity of other groups (eg. avalanche and rockfall). Potential to trigger avalanche/rock fall on other groups below.	Be aware of other groups in the area (their plans/headings). Adapt plans if unhappy about location on winter slopes around other groups/other hill users etiquette.	1	2	2	
Poor conditions/bad ice for climbing	Members - Injury/Death when climbers take fall/due to falling ice/rocks on belayer.	Don't use routes in questionable conditions - use knowledge to make judgement calls. Climbing should only be undertaken by those either under the guidance of an instructor or by those experienced in winter climbing. It should not be attempted by any novice climbers. Discuss as a whole group before plans are set and ensure people know to speak up if unhappy or unsure.	1	3	3	



The Risk Assessments above provide an overview of how risks are assessed on our activities. However, there are many situations which may arise which cannot be included in the Risk Assessments; and it is not possible to produce a complete list of every combination of activity and location. When on any activity, a leader may decide that certain factors dictate against continuing the course of action or activity – a change in the weather or condition of the group for example.

In these circumstances the leader will need to change the plan of action and may decide to change route, location etc. The leader then undertakes a ‘dynamic risk assessment’ – i.e. assesses the relative hazards and merits of the new plan of action.

All group leaders will plan backup routes for all outdoor activities and all group members will be encouraged to speak up if they are uncomfortable or feel unsafe. Dynamically changing the plan due to conditions on the day is a fundamental part of hiking, scrambling, and mountaineering, and is not disparaged or considered as failure.