

Risk Assessment

Hyde Park Harriers: run club activities

This risk assessment covers the usual running activities of Hyde Park Harriers. These include leader-led run sessions on Tuesday and Thursday nights, including our regular group runs, Kirkstall Hills sessions and Intervals sessions. This risk assessment does not cover #runandtalk sessions, triathlon section and any additional sessions.

This is **Version 1.5** of this document. Any other sessions not mentioned above are or need to be covered by similar assessments.

Version	Date	Assessed by	Location	Version details	Review
1.0	July 2019	Phil Fisher	The Edge, University of Leeds and in various other areas within Leeds.	First draft	July 2021
1.1	June 2020	Amy Young	Various locations, but primarily from The Edge, University of Leeds and in various other areas within Leeds.	Updated following COVID-19 pandemic EA and government advice	June 2022
1.2	August 2023	Amy Ramsden-Young	Various locations, but primarily from The Edge, University of Leeds and in various other areas within Leeds.	Updated as of 2023	August 2024
1.3	August 2024	Toby Adkins	Various locations, but primarily from The Edge, University of Leeds and in various other areas within Leeds.	Updated as of 2024	August 2025
1.4	August 2025	Toby Adkins	Various locations, but primarily from The Edge, University of Leeds and in various other areas within Leeds.	Updated as of 2025	August 2026
1.5	August 2026	Toby Adkins	Various locations, but primarily from The Edge, University of Leeds and in various other areas within Leeds.	Updated as of 2026	August 2027

What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Risk Rating	What else can you do to control this risk?	Resultant Risk Rating	Action by whom	Target date	Complete
General route planning	Route planning for sessions is an overall issue, and all of the following hazards can be caused by poorly planned routes.	• All leaders should prepare their routes in advance of the session. These routes should be routes that they have run before. • As part of planning the route the leader will take into account all of the hazards identified in this risk assessment to ensure that the route is safe. • In advance of the session leaders may share their routes with each other, which may help to identify any areas where their group may clash with other groups. • Where possible, all leaders will have a LiRF or similar qualification, but if not will be experienced at running with a group (possibly as a back marker support) and be aware of the considerations in this document.	L	At regular run leader meetings or in the run leader Facebook group any areas which are causing specific issues/hazards will be identified and ideas to deal with them identified.	L	All leaders	Ongoing	Ongoing
Group management	Group management (a run leader being able to control and be accountable for all runners in their session) can affect all of the following hazards.	• All leaders should ensure that they are adequately fit for the session they are planning to lead, to ensure that as needed they can be at the front of the group. • Where possible the run leader should nominate a person to act as a back marker to keep the group together. Where possible large groups could be split into two smaller groups. • The run leader should be aware of how many runners are in their group and check this at regular intervals. • Runners attending sessions must wear high visibility clothing from the date defined by the committee and communicated by email and Facebook • The run leader should check if any member of the group has any health conditions they should be alerted to. Management of health issues/injuries is covered in a separate point.	L	The club will continue to monitor sessions and leaders and respond to feedback as required	L	All leaders	Ongoing	Ongoing

What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Risk Rating	What else can you do to control this risk?	Resultant Risk Rating	Action by whom	Target date	Complete
Experience level of leaders	Lack of experience could heighten the risk from all other hazards mentioned in this risk assessment	- Not all of the club's leaders will have formal qualifications (such as LiRF and/or CIRF) – the club will endeavour to ensure that all leaders of sessions nevertheless have sufficient experience to safely lead the relevant group. - Leaders are drawn from trusted members of the club and are given support and training via shadowing experienced leaders and extensive resources via the club's website and Facebook page. - The club makes it clear on its website and via its group sign-up app that not all leaders will be formally qualified by England Athletics and that attendees should raise any concerns with their leader and/or the club committee as appropriate. - The club expects leaders to report any issues encountered to the committee - via email or online form, thus giving the opportunity to identify issues and/or feedback from attendees. - The club will encourage its leaders to undertake formal training and qualifications (such as LiRF and CIRF courses) and will provide support (via funding where finances allow) as appropriate.	L	The club will continue to liaise with England Athletics to ensure compliance with the relevant safeguarding and leadership requirements	L	All leaders and the club committee	Ongoing	Ongoing
Trip hazards including (but not limited to) kerbs, bollards, and other road furniture.	Runners could be harmed through tripping on kerbs causing injuries including cuts and grazes, or running into bollards or other road furniture.	- Leaders are briefed to alert runners to road furniture and to show group participants how to pass on messages about road furniture to other runners. - Leaders are briefed to direct their group to cross roads together at designated points. - Leaders design routes to avoid narrow routes with significant road furniture, and where unavoidable to be aware of these and alert the group in advance. - Leaders are encouraged to report significant issues/changes to areas that may be used on run routes (e.g. closed roads) to the leader's group so that other leaders can amend routes accordingly. - Where injuries occur, a run leader should either (depending on the severity) call an ambulance, take the person to the A&E at Leeds General Infirmary (near The Edge) or administer First Aid if they are trained and comfortable. First Aid kits are available at the storage locker at The Edge. An incident form should be completed for all injuries. If the injury is dealt with by staff at	L	Continue to monitor routes for changes - for example construction work, changes to road furniture layouts, changes to bin collection days. If necessary routes will be amended, or leaders will alert their group to be more careful and run slower through a certain section.	L	All leaders	Ongoing	Ongoing

What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Risk Rating	What else can you do to control this risk?	Resultant Risk Rating	Action by whom	Target date	Complete
		The Edge, they will require an incident form completed in addition to ours. Runners are advised to bring ICE details through club communications.						
Weather conditions causing adverse surface conditions.	Heavy rain, snow and ice can cause slippery underfoot conditions leading to trip injuries.	- If weather is likely to cause difficult running conditions this is monitored through the day. If it is deemed that the conditions are too dangerous then official club sessions are cancelled. This is decided by committee, and communicated via the group leaders Facebook Group and then club communications. Leaders are able to opt out in bad conditions. - If conditions are deemed safe to run a session but conditions could still be an issue, leaders are briefed to alert their runners to pay particular attention to underfoot conditions and alert runners in the group of areas to be more cautious. - Where injuries occur, a run leader should either (depending on the severity) call an ambulance, take the person to the A&E at Leeds General Infirmary (near The Edge) or administer First Aid if they are trained and comfortable. First Aid kits are available at the storage locker at The Edge. An incident form should be completed for all injuries. If the injury is dealt with by staff at The Edge, they will require an incident form completed in addition to ours. - Runners are advised to bring ICE details through club communications.	L	Where possible get updates from people in different areas of Leeds on underfoot conditions to get a full picture of conditions and whether the session should be cancelled.	L	All leaders	Ongoing	Ongoing

What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Risk Rating	What else can you do to control this risk?	Resultant Risk Rating	Action by whom	Target date	Complete
Weather conditions causing adverse running conditions - heat or cold and rain/snow.	Excessive heat can lead to heatstroke or similar conditions, and heavy rain or snow can lead to hypothermia or similar conditions.	• If weather is likely to cause difficult running conditions this is monitored through the day. If it is deemed that the conditions are too dangerous then official club sessions are cancelled. • If conditions are deemed safe to run a session but conditions could still be an issue, in communications before the session runners will be alerted to pay attention to the conditions and bring additional water or warm/waterproof clothing. • If a leader does not feel comfortable or safe leading a group, they are empowered to cancel the session or ask a more experienced leader to take over. • Where injuries occur, a run leader should either (depending on the severity) call an ambulance, take the person to the A&E at Leeds General Infirmary (near The Edge) or administer First Aid if they are trained and comfortable. First Aid kits are available at the storage locker at The Edge. An incident form should be completed for all injuries. If the injury is dealt with by staff at The Edge, they will require an incident form completed in addition to ours.	L		L	All leaders	Ongoing	Ongoing
Road crossings including signed crossings.	Road crossings can be points of conflict with road users including cars, motorbikes, and bicycles, and collisions can cause injuries.	• Run leaders should plan their sessions and routes to, where possible, cross at designated crossing points and wait for a green light to cross. • Where this is not possible due to the route and road layout the leader should make sure their group crosses safely and appropriately for the conditions, ensuring that they are doing so when it is safe to do so. If necessary, the group may need to cross in several smaller groups. Members are expected to take responsibility for their safety whilst crossing. • All runners will be briefed to wear hi-vis clothing during dark evenings. • Where injuries occur, a run leader should either (depending on the severity) call an ambulance, take the person to the A&E at Leeds General Infirmary (near The Edge) or administer First Aid if they are trained and comfortable. First Aid kits are available at the storage locker at The Edge. An incident form should be completed for all injuries. If the injury is dealt with by staff at The Edge, they will require an incident form completed in addition to ours.	L		L	All leaders	Ongoing	Ongoing

What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Risk Rating	What else can you do to control this risk?	Resultant Risk Rating	Action by whom	Target date	Complete
Other 'pavement' road users including pedestrians and cyclists.	Our run sessions do not have sole use of the pavements and conflict with other pavement users can causes collisions and injuries to our session users and other members of the public.	- Run leaders should ensure that when passing other pavement users that the group passes on one side, in single file. - In areas where there is likely to be high conflict - heading out from The Edge up Otley Road past the university bus stops - the leader should warn the group and lead them through these areas at a sensible pace. - Leaders should be aware of risks (such as aggressive or difficult members of the public) and be aware of the need to re-route or curtail sessions if appropriate to maintain the safety of the group. - All runners will be briefed to wear hi-vis clothing during dark evenings. - Where injuries occur, a run leader should either (depending on the severity) call an ambulance, take the person to the A&E at Leeds General Infirmary (near The Edge) or administer First Aid if they are trained and comfortable. First Aid kits are available at the storage locker at The Edge. An incident form should be completed for all injuries. If the injury is dealt with by staff at The Edge, they will require an incident form completed in addition to ours.	L		L	All leaders	Ongoing	Ongoing
Injuries caused by use of equipment in strength and speed sessions, for example small hurdles.	Our Strength and Speed sessions use equipment including small hurdles as part of a training session. These have the potential to cause trip injuries.	- The session leader will plan the session to minimise the risk of injury. This includes briefing people in correct use of the session and ensuring people complete the session at an appropriate speed/intensity. - Where possible the session should be run on grass to minimise the risk of trip hazards when using equipment that may worsen an injury if the person trips and lands on tarmac. This is not possible in months of dark evenings. - Where injuries occur, a run leader should either (depending on the severity) call an ambulance, take the person to the A&E at Leeds General Infirmary (near The Edge) or administer First Aid if they are trained and comfortable. First Aid kits are available at the storage locker at The Edge. An incident form should be completed for all injuries. If the injury is dealt with by staff at The Edge, they will require an incident form completed in addition to ours.	L		L	All leaders	Ongoing	Ongoing

What are the Hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing?	Risk Rating	What else can you do to control this risk?	Resultant Risk Rating	Action by whom	Target date	Complete
Use of social media carries risks relating to data protection, inclusion and welfare	Participants in our social media channels (including WhatsApp, Facebook, etc)	- The club has policies specifically addressing social media use, group chats, welfare and inclusion – these policies are easily available to all members and participants in our social media channels. - The club's social media channels are frequently monitored by committee members to ensure compliance with the club's policies.	L	We will continue to monitor our social media platforms (including updates to underlying software which may impact on risks).	L	The club committee	Ongoing	Ongoing
Track-based sessions carry specific risks relevant to the track environment	Attendees at track sessions need to be aware of the specific risks of the track environment	- The track will often have multiple other users – leaders and attendees need to be aware of track etiquette (including keeping off the track when not using it, and allowing space to be overtaken). - Leaders should be mindful of the requirements of the track owners and management as communicated to them upon using the track.	L	We will continue to monitor advice and guidance from the track owners and management	L	All track session leaders	Ongoing	Ongoing