



An example of this model in a canoeing context can be seen below.

Step 1 What are the Hazards?	Step 2 To who?	Step 3 How is the risk controlled?	Step 4 Further action	Step 5 Review & Update
Drowning	All participants	1. All participants to be given a Bouyancy Aid 2. All participants able to swim 50m 3. Supervision from qualified coach	Participants given a safety Briefing	Reviewed 30/07/10 Coach will check BA fitted correctly during session

This basic model encourages us to go through the logical process of identifying hazards, considering who might be harmed and ways we can avoid them happening. As your coaching experience grows and you become more comfortable and capable at managing risks you may decide that a certain level of risk is acceptable in your activities. The act of balancing your group's safety, but also providing challenge and excitement comes with experience and a slightly more developed method of assessing risks.

Consequence and Probability

Consequence and probability is all about the potential severity of an accident or incident versus the likelihood of it actually occurring. If we take the example in the risk assessment above, we can think about drowning in terms of consequence versus probability. The consequence of a participant drowning is catastrophic and is almost certainly the worst thing that we as coaches can contemplate. However, the probability of it actually occurring is actually very low. This makes the overall risk pretty low. If we apply a simple numerical scale to this method we can measure the risk and give it an overall grading and allow us to rank order any risks. Our scale might look like this:

Consequence

1. No risk of injury or harm
2. Minor risk of injury or harm
3. Some risk of injury or harm
4. Significant injury or harm could occur
5. Definite risk of major injury or death

Probability

1. No possibility of occurrence
2. Minor possibility of occurrence
3. Some risk of occurrence
4. Significant risk of occurrence
5. Definite risk of occurrence

If we apply the same example again to our scale we can see that the consequence of drowning would certainly score a 5 (definite risk of injury or death) but if we think about the probability of it occurring we might only score a 2 (minor probability of occurrence). If we take the scores and multiply them this gives our overall risk grade. In this example $5 \times 2 = 10$, so our overall risk is 10. On its own that doesn't mean very much but if we think that the highest possible risk would be a score of 5×5 , then we can see that our risk of drowning scores 10 out of a possible 25.

Another example might be; Slips, trips and falls. The consequence of falling over or slipping when carrying a canoe could be pretty bad. It is conceivable that a person could slip and break a bone or cause themselves muscular injury as a result of a fall. Additionally the likelihood of this happening is pretty high as we commonly work on wet ground with wet shoes etc. If we apply our numerical scale to this example we could say that the consequence of a fall might score a 3 or even a 4 and the probability of it occurring could be as much as 4. This would give us a score of 12 or even 16! You can see how we can use this method to rank order risks. The scores that you allocate a certain probability or severity may differ from those of others; this is to be expected and is actually beneficial as it might highlight areas for discussion and justification which will further develop your philosophy of risk.

Depending on the type of participants you are working with you may decide that a certain level of risk is acceptable and this will vary between groups. For example, if you are coaching a group of children you may decide that no risk that scores more than 12 out of 25 is acceptable. This score may go up if you are working with fully grown, able bodied adults.