

STAYING SAFE, KEEPING WELL & HAVING PEACE OF MIND

Outdoor Education Risk Management Statement

Summary

The safety and wellbeing of all our customers and employees is our number one priority. Our well qualified and highly competent staff lead the way in ensuring that a safety culture, underpinned by sensible and proportionate risk management, pervades every aspect of our operations.

It is what people do that is important, not necessarily what is written down, and we are expert in what we do. We employ a dynamic approach to risk management ensuring we use our expertise to maintain the highest standards. Risk assessments and operating procedures, both specific and generic, shape and inform our practice and our culture.

Our staff hold a variety of nationally recognised qualifications for the activities we deliver and undergo continual professional development and training so that we stay at the forefront of best practice in the outdoor education sector.

It is the benefits to people of engaging in outdoor learning that remain at the heart of our risk management process. Where there are risks identified these are managed effectively but it is often the case with some adventure activities that a degree of risk remains for the activities and the intended outcomes to have value, worth and meaning.



Chris Dillon
Head of Entrust Outdoors

Licences and Awards

Licences

Each of the four permanent centres that Entrust operates and the collective off-site, seasonal operational bases have gained their own Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) licence*. As a holder of these licences we have been inspected by a representative of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and have met safety criteria for a range of outdoor adventurous activities which fall under the remit of the licence.

We also provide a range of activities which currently do not fall under the scope of the licence. To ensure we lead the way in health and safety in these areas and activities we opt to put ourselves under the scrutiny of other professional organisations and industry bodies.

Awards

There are a number of optional safety and quality awards that Entrust Outdoors holds. These include:

- Association of Heads Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC) Gold Standard
- Adventurous Activities Industry Advisors Committee (AAIAC) Adventure Mark
- Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge
- Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Training Centre
- British Canoeing Approved Centre
- British Cycling Accredited Centre

These awards examine both how safely we operate at our centres and the quality and outcomes of courses and programs.

Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge

The LOtC quality badge is a nationally recognised accreditation that shows that a provider has met or exceeds stringent safety and quality standards and is endorsed by the Outdoor Education Advisory Panel and School Travel Forum. This means that you do not need to check our risk assessments or operating procedures as a matter of course, and you can be confident that we meet the highest standards.

Entrust follows the guidance given by the Outdoor Education Advisors Panel. They provide National Guidance for the management of outdoor learning, off site visits and learning outside the classroom. The OEAP is endorsed by NAHT, ATL and the NUT

More information is available on request and can be found at lotcqualitybadge.org.uk and www.oeapng.info.

* From 1 April 2020 the Adventure Activities Licensing Service (AALS) will cease to function. Licensing will be provided by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) acting as the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA). They will be supported in this by Adventure – Risk Management Services (Adv-RMS) who will provide the

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inspection element of the scheme. The types of adventure activity requiring a licence and exemptions will stay the same.

AHOEC Gold Standard

The Gold standard is only available to outdoor providers who are committed to, and have a proven record of, outstanding high quality delivery of outdoor education.

Only providers who already hold both the LOtC quality badge and Adventure Mark are eligible for consideration for inspection and have to prove that they meet quality criteria in the following areas:

- Customer care
- Safety management, policies, organisation and planning
- Facilities and resources
- Environmental sustainability
- Quality assurance, measuring and reviewing performance

More information is available at ahoec.org/about/gold-standard

Risk Management Process

Risk Assessments and Operating Procedures

We use risk assessments as a tool to manage identified risk to an acceptable level, whilst balancing the benefits and learning outcomes of the activity. Operating procedures are used to plan the way that an activity will be operated, implementing any control measures to help manage the risk.

We don't publish our risk assessments or operating procedures for a number of reasons, namely to help protect our clients from legal repercussions if an incident were to occur - the risk assessment contains technical terms and acronyms which are specific to outdoor education and may not be fully understandable to all, and to help reduce the need for excess paperwork for our clients and ourselves.

The Learning Outside of the Classroom quality badge is an assurance that we have been regularly inspected by an independent inspector of appropriate experience, qualifications and standing and meet high standards in safety and quality of outdoor activity provision.

“Exposure to well managed risk helps children and young people learn important life skills, including how to manage risks for themselves.”

“Principles of Sensible Risk Management” (2006) Health and Safety Executive

Your Safety in Our Hands

Our staff are essential to ensuring the safety of everyone we work with, whether they are instructors, managers or office staff. That is why we put a lot of effort into ensuring our staff are well trained in all aspects of our delivery to ensure they possess the technical competence, experience and skills to manage your experience safely.

All our staff are first aid trained, have been checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and have been trained in safeguarding and child protection. Many of our delivery staff hold

development training and teaching qualifications as well as having undergone additional specialist driver training to ensure we are equipped to look after you during every aspect of your experience.

As well as holding National Governing Body qualifications our staff also undergo in-house training and assessments and continual professional development to ensure knowledge stays up to date and relevant.

Equipment

At our centres we use the latest personal protective equipment, activity equipment, vehicles, and other equipment which has a stringent inspection, management and replacement process so that anything that our customers and staff rely on to stay safe is always at its best and there if needed.

Transport

We have a fleet of vehicles which we use to transport our customers as the need arises. All our vehicles (including mini buses and trailers) are subject to stringent transport industry checks implemented by VOSA, to ensure they are of the highest standards before being put into service.

Our instructors are all put through additional driver training including specialist driving tests and certificates of professional competence (CPC) and drive in restricted vehicles using digital tachographs.

We have a dedicated transport manager who ensures we meet the required vehicle and driver standards to help keep our clients safe on the road.

Insurance

Entrust holds appropriate public liability, professional indemnity, vehicle and property cover for the products we offer.