|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Club** | BUCC | **Element** | Socials |

|  |
| --- |
| **Purpose** |
| The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all BUCC social events are conducted in a safe, responsible, and supportive environment. Additionally, it provides specific guidelines to mitigate risks associated with water access for intoxicated members, thereby enhancing the safety of all club members during social events. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Scope** |
| The policy is intended for all members attending BUCC social events and applies to all social events organised by BUCC, including those arranged by the Social Secretary and Welfare. It encompasses guidelines on responsible behaviour, requirements for sober first aid presence, food safety procedures, and protocols for managing risks related to intoxicated water access. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Definitions/Acronyms** | |
| BUCC | Bath University Canoe Club |
| Committee | The elected group of individuals responsible for overseeing the operations of BUCC. |
| SU | Students’ Union. |
| Trip Leader | The individual designated to lead and coordinate a specific BUCC trip. |
| BC | British Canoeing |
| RNLI | Royal National Lifeboat Institute |

|  |
| --- |
| **Policy** |
| During the academic year, the club will run several social events, generally organised by the Social Sec and/ or Welfare.  The Club, and particularly Senior members (committee members, ex committee members etc), will NOT encourage an atmosphere of excessive drinking or boisterous activity (piggybacking etc.)  **Social organisers will:**   * Ensure sober first aiders are available at socials - this may be the designated venue first aiders or campus security. * Ensure participants follow venue safety guidelines * Promote and encourage an atmosphere of support within the group, in particular supporting intoxicated participants. * If preparing food, the SU is to be informed through the event planner, and ensure that the relevant risk assessment has been completed   + Ensure food is kept at suitable temperature.   + Food that has passed its use by date is not consumed.   + Ensure good kitchen hygiene is practiced.   + Ensure individuals are aware of risks   **Intoxicated access to water**  According to the RNLI 1 in 8 coastal deaths in the UK involve alcohol and it is a contributing factor in many more water related incidents, especially in the evening. Alcohol may seriously impair your judgement, reactions, and ability to swim. It is known to remove inhibitions and distort the perception of risk, increasing risk taking behaviour. Furthermore, alcohol increases the likelihood of hypothermia by preventing vasoconstriction [2].  As a result, where members of The Club are likely to be intoxicated and have access to the water the Social Organisers should:   * Ensure members are reminded of dangers of entering water while intoxicated by email before the event and that it is not allowed by the club. * Ensure at least one sober senior club member is present.   If a member(s) enters the water while intoxicated, they will be referred to the SU for disciplinary action as per the Student Members Discipline Policy[1].  It is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Officer to review any near misses and / or accidents relating to intoxicated water access and suggest updates for the mitigations to committee where required. |

Reference documents

1. SU. *Student members discipline policy*. 2023; <https://computingservices.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/BathUniversityCanoeClubdocuments/Shared%20Documents/Published%20documents/Student-Members-Disciplinary-Policy.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=yKfJNw>
2. RNLI information on Intoxication and swimming risks

<https://rnli.org/safety/know-the-risks/alcohol>