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**Risk vs Benefit Statement.**

‘We believe in the positive aspects of undertaking challenges in a wide range of activities and experiences in the outdoors.

One of the key foundations of the Outdoor Learning approach is the intentional acceptance of both the benefits of undertaking activities in the outdoors and the potential risks of doing so. Challenges might be physical and/or psychological and may include real and/or perceived risk for the participants where real and often immediate consequences can lead to powerful and highly memorable learning experiences.’ (Institute of Outdoor Learning)

At Pinkston Watersports we share the ethos of the IOL, we strongly believe that the range of activities we offer bring great benefits to all our clients and users allowing them the chance to build confidence, strength, independence, and social network, allowing them to realise their full potential.

**Review period.**

All documents to be reviewed annually by Pinkston Watersports Management Team. All those who require the risk assessment to carry out their work will also have an opportunity to input into the review process.

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| **Risk** | **Possible injury** | **Who might be harmed?** | **How is the risk controlled?** | **Remedial Action** |
| Slips, trips and falls | Musculoskeletal injuries | General public/ site users | * Areas used for the archery session are checked prior to commencement to make sure they are suitable * Any potential hazards are pointed out to groups and unnecessary hazards are removed from the area as appropriate * Good instructor awareness and briefing * No running on the range * Participants instructed to hold equipment correctly * Help with group control from group leaders | * Remove from activity and give appropriate first aid |
| Bow string hitting inner forearm when shooting | Bruising | Instructor and session participants | * Young people/participants to wear arm braces * Correct shooting technique taught * Full length arm bracer available if needed * Good Instructor awareness * Encourage long sleeves to be worn | * Appropriate first aid |
| Bow string digging into fingers when drawing back | Finger strain | Instructors and session participants | * Maximum of 3 arrows shot at one time |  |
| Arrow rebounding and hitting someone | Cut/scratch/impalement | Instructors and session participants | * Minimum shooting distance marked out * All group members instructed to stay behind the waiting line if not shooting * Closed toed footwear to be worn | * Remove from activity and give appropriate first aid. * Contact emergency services as required |
| Public/site users walking on the archery range | Impalement | General public/ site users | * Warning signs behind the range and in the ‘overshooting area’. * Limited entry points to the range – at these entry points, warning signs and rope across to signal an archery session is in progress. * Instructor vigilance * “stop” command briefed. | * Remove from activity and give appropriate first aid. * Contact emergency services as required |
| Shooting away from the target | Impalement | General public/ site users | * Instructors to give clear briefings appropriate to the needs of the group and to inform all individuals of the consequences of purposefully ignoring these. * Bows and Arrows separated when not in use * Instructors give demonstrations and check for understanding * Good instructor monitoring | * Remove from activity and give appropriate first aid. * Contact emergency services as required |
| Overdrawing | Facial injury/impalement | Instructors and session participants | * All arrows are a suitable length for the participant to prevent overdrawing * Good Instructor awareness | * Remove from activity and give appropriate first aid. * Contact emergency services as required |
| Hitting yourself or others when removing arrows from the target | Impalement/cut/scratch | Instructors and session participants | * At the instructor’s discretion the group will be able to remove their own arrows from the target but this will only be allowed if the instructor is confident in their ability to do so safely * A full demonstration and brief will be given * The instructor must be vigilant throughout | * Appropriate first aid |
| Worn out/ faulty bows and arrows | Facial injuries, in particular eye injuries  splinters | Instructors and session participants | * No dry releasing of bows * Regular safety checks and maintenance of all archery equipment * Clear instruction and demonstrations * Good instructor awareness and vigilance | * Appropriate first aid |
| Overshooting | Impalement | General public/ site users | * Instructor to give briefings and to stop anybody who purposely shoots over the netting from continuing the session * Co-operation in group control by group leaders * Nets defining the back and sides of the range catching most common overshoots and wayward shots * Rope/fence outlining the overshoot area. Signage on the fence warning people to stay out the overshoot area * Efficient booking system that allows site users to book off areas of the island and therefor block archery from being able to run * All site users have been contacted about the commencement of archery as an activity at Pinkston. | * Give appropriate first aid. * Contact emergency services as required |
| Walking into arrows that did not make it to the target | Injuries to the shins | Instructors and session participants | * Groups instructed to walk down the side of the range * Arrows on the floor should be picked up after collecting arrows from target. * Good group control by instructor | * Give appropriate first aid |
| Mishandling of equipment whist walking to the range | Impalement | Instructors and session participants | * No participant will carry both bows and arrows * Only instructors will carry arrows * Good instructor awareness and vigilance | * Give appropriate first aid |
| Incorrectly strung bow when assembling | Facial injury | Instructors/Pinkston staff | * Always use the bow stringer * Ask for support from other staff members if struggling | * Give appropriate first aid |
| Walking into arrows on the target | Facial injury, impalement | Instructors/participants | * Instructor should brief participants to walk down the side of the archery range | * Give appropriate first aid |
| Participants not following reasonable direction | Impalement | Instructors/participants/general public | * Good group control by instructor * Co-operation in group control by group leaders * Good instructor awareness and vigilance * Participants that do not follow instruction will not be allowed to take part in archery sessions at Pinkston Watersports again. | * Stop session and leave archery range |
| Adverse weather | Hypothermia  Heat stroke/sunburn |  | * Use of appropriate clothing to the individual, forecast and prevailing conditions * Consider length of time outside | * Extra layers should be available * Sun cream should be advised * Adequate fluids available and consumed |