



1st Kesgrave Scout Group

Twelve Acre Approach, Kesgrave, Suffolk IP5 1JF

Name of activity, section, event, and location	1 st Kesgrave Scout Group - Maypole and Morris Dancing	Date of risk assessment	1 Mar 2025	Name of person who undertook this risk assessment	John Bayle (working with others)
		Date of next review	1 Apr 2026		

This document covers maypole and morris dancing. It should be read in conjunction with the section meeting and events risk assessment which covers generic items.

Hazard identified? Risks from it?	Who is at risk?	How are the risks already controlled? What extra controls are needed?	What has changed that needs to be thought about and controlled?
A hazard is something that may cause harm or damage. The risk is the harm may occur from the hazard.	For example: young people, adult volunteers, visitors	Controls are ways of making the activity safer by removing or reducing the risk from it. For example, you may use a different piece of equipment, or you might change the way you do the activity.	Keep checking throughout the activity in case you need to change what you are doing or even stop the activity. This is a great place to add comments which will be used as part of the review.
Kit / Equipment – injuries to people during the activity.		The pole assembly used should be manufactured and set up so that it must be tilted to extreme before falling.	
Putting Out / Erecting Equipment – injuries to people setting up, moving, using or collapsing equipment.	All present	When assembling the Maypole and taking down again, ensure the area is clear of young people. Get help from another adult if any difficulty experienced, the pole, crown and base are all heavy items and awkward to manoeuvre.	
Activity Area – injuries during the activity.	All present	Ensure activity is carried out: - on as level a surface as possible, free from obstructions, and non-slip. - Large enough to cater for the numbers taking part - avoids public (walking/cycling) through traffic	

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Dancing Activity – injuries to people caused by equipment use.	All present	<u>General Safety</u> Tell all participants and helpers before they start that if someone shouts STOP they must STOP immediately. Check for understanding of this instruction and test several times before dancing starts. In case of any entanglement, STOP immediately. Tell all helpers that if they see any entanglement that they should also shout STOP. Monitor that the pole is not being “pulled over” and STOP if necessary. Consider showing a video of Morris dancing to the participants so they know what it consists of. <u>Dance Safety</u> Instruct the participants to hold the ribbon in one hand with the slack rolled in a ball in the other hand. This will reduce the risk of tripping over the ribbons. Also instruct them not to wrap them around their hands or arms as this may result in an increased risk of other injuries. If participants cannot do this then consider asking a helper to walk round with them or consider shortening the ribbons if needed to avoid beavers walking into obstacles. Consider only performing dances at level 1 in the Maypole Manual which are less likely to result in entanglements. Consider only performing dances involving walking or at most skipping. There should be no running, unless the participants are competent enough, because you may not be able to stop the activity quickly enough. Consider only performing dances that do not require approaching the pole / base to reduce the likelihood of accidents. When performing dances with a mixture of clockwise and anticlockwise motion, ideally ensure that the taller participants are on the outside so they can hold the ribbons above the shorter participants on the inside. Helpers should be used to ensure the outside ribbons stay high. Ensure participants are spread out around the pole during dances to avoid any tilting. In morris sticks are being used consider rolls of newspaper or other solutions, to avoid injury.	
General Behaviour –over energetic young people leading to loss of control and causing an injury or damage to kit.	All taking part	Participants to be instructed • not to run around or into each other. • to aim to hit each other’s sticks, not each other, if sticks are used. • to keep hold of any Morris sticks used and not to throw them around.	