

ITCHYFEET SA: RIVER ROCK MOUNTAIN BUSH

RISK ASSESSMENT: TUGELA RIVER (MAMBASA TO ALPINE VIEW)			
Notes: Only staff that are appropriately trained and qualified by the National Qualifications Network and African Paddling Association leads all white water excursions. Control measures must be implemented to reduce the remaining risk to an accepted remaining level of MEDIUM .			
HAZARD	LIKELIHOOD AND SERIOUSNESS OF INJURY	CONTROL MEASURES	REMAINING RISK
Hypothermia	Unlikely (more so in winter and wet days) Fatal	• Appropriate protective equipment packed – checked before departure. • Energy rich fluids and food carried. • Leader, guides and participants awareness and mutual vigilance.	Low
Hyperthermia	Unlikely Fatal	• Leader, guides and participants awareness and mutual vigilance. • Adequate fluids and electrolytes. • Regular rest and shade stops. • Awareness of fluid intake and management. • Awareness of over exertion.	Low
Sunburn	Likely Serious	• Hat and sunblock highly recommended. • Leader, guides and participants awareness and mutual vigilance.	Low
On board boat injuries	Unlikely Serious	• Appropriate briefing, instructions and demonstration.	Medium
Portaging	Unlikely Not serious	• Walk with helmet, life jacket and shoes. • Use paddles as walking sticks. • Instruct participants not to assist guides with portaging boating equipment.	Low
Pin Ball Alley Rapid	Unlikely Not-serious	• Appropriate pre-trip briefing, instructions and demonstration. • Emphasize on keeping the boat in the middle of the river and straight. • In case of capsizing or falling out instruct clients to remain in the middle of the river. • On low levels, approaching the second half, instruct clients to remain closer to river left (a syphon is on river right). • On high levels, approaching the stopper wave at the start of the second half of the rapid, instruct clients to hit the wave straight and with momentum. When the wave gets big instruct clients to sit down. • On high levels protect swimmers in the pool below the rapid with proper downstream safety. A combination of strong swimmer rescuers, chase boaters or throw baggers must be used. The objective is to stop a swimmer from swimming into the next rapid (Mambo Number 5), which is a grade 5 rapid.	Low

		On high levels run the second half of this rapid one boat at a time.	
Mambo Number 5	Unlikely Serious	- Appropriate pre-trip briefing, instructions and demonstration. - During low or medium levels run river right. Portage the main drop and put-in opposite the Lion Tamer. In case of swimming the bottom section instruct clients to remain in the swift water swimming position (feet up). - During high water use the chicken line on river left for access to the put-in below the Lion Tamer. Take care whilst walking above the waterfall. - Assist with boater support and throw ropes. - Always give the option to walk.	Medium
Fun Rapid	Unlikely Not-serious	- Appropriate pre-trip briefing, instructions and demonstration. - In case of capsizing or falling out instruct clients to remain in the swift water swimming position. - Provide boater support.	Low
The less serious rapids	Unlikely Not-serious	- Describe the rapids and instruct clients to keep on paddling whilst keeping the boat straight. - Emphasize to remain in the swift water swimming position.	Low
Strainers	Unlikely Fatal	- Appropriate pre-trip briefing, instructions, and demonstration. - Avoid and stay clear in advance. - In case of ending up on a strainer (while still being in a boat) always lean towards it to create a stable platform. - In case of swimming towards a strainer swim aggressively away from it. - Provide boater support. - Ongoing on-board instruction, careful listening, quick reactions.	Low
Foot entrapment	Unlikely Fatal	- Appropriate pre-trip briefing, instructions, and demonstration. - Emphasize the importance of the swift water swimming position throughout. - Appropriate rescue techniques used, and safety equipment carried.	Medium
Boat wrapping	Unlikely Serious	- Appropriate pre-trip briefing, instructions and demonstration. - Appropriate rescue techniques used and safety equipment carried.	Low
Capsizing / falling out	Unlikely Not serious	- Boater support (kayaks or 2-man inflatables). - Hold on to the raft or swim towards it. - In case of long swimmers use throw rope and instruct boater support to intercept. - If it is an option or necessary, swim to the	Low

		side of the river.	
Equipment absent	Unlikely Serious	Each guide to have: • 1 throw rope. • 1 river knife. • 1 guiding life jacket. • 2 slings. • 1 prusik loop. • 3-4 locking karabiners. • One helmet.	Low
Risk assessment produced		Gustav Greffrath	22 January 2018
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