

Adventure Activities Licensing Service

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GROUP SIZES **IN** **ADVENTUROUS ACTIVITIES**

- *This paper is primarily for use by inspectors for the Adventure Activities Licensing Service as a reference and to provide consistency.*
- *However, it may also be useful to teachers or other youth group leaders who lack depth or breadth of experience of outdoor provision, yet have responsibility for young people engaged in adventurous activities, whether provided directly by themselves and their colleagues, or by some external provider.*
- *Providers who hold an adventure activities Licence will have been aware of these issues when drawing up the policies and procedures that have been subject to inspection by the Adventure Activities Licensing Service. The paper may nonetheless be helpful to them when considering review or expansion of provision.*

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Introduction

The ranges of group sizes suggested in this paper give an indication of what may be appropriate for the safe and effective management of groups across a range of adventurous activities at a variety of hazard levels.

The decision on the size of the group, from a purely safety standpoint, will generally depend on a combination of four main factors:

- Age, ability and probable behaviour of the group
- Prevailing environmental conditions
- The specific objective
- Staffing arrangements (numbers and competence)

The basic principle is that:

- **group size** (particularly where it differs from the 'norm') **should match the level of risk which remains (the 'residual risk') after all other control measures have been implemented.**
- In other words, it's not just the nature, or level, of the activity that governs the size of the group - the age, behaviour and experience of the participants and the relative competence of the leader(s) are just as important. If, after all reasonable, or available precautions have been taken, the activity is still thought to be at the upper end of 'acceptable risk', a more manageable group size is likely to be safer. Generally this means 'smaller', but in some instances (eg, activities in remote places, or when handling some watercraft) a larger group, up to a point, may be safer.

In addition, there are likely to be other factors that need to be considered, such as:

- the aims of the session
- issues relating to the quality of the learning experience
- environmental issues
- transport
- equipment available, etc

'Doing what everyone else does' (ie following accepted practice) is a common policy, and is generally a sound starting point. But common practice is not always "best practice", and it may not even be acceptable practice in some cases. More fundamentally the issue of group size can be approached from one of two opposite directions:

Objective Approach

Decide what is to be achieved (the objective), take a pessimistic view of the likely environmental conditions, identify the group and deploy leaders based on what is needed to succeed safely. For example, a school may plan an expedition to climb Ben Nevis in winter, and with this objective in mind, a suitable-sized group, with appropriate leaders and equipment is assembled. Few organisations have the luxury of taking this approach on a daily basis, so most will have to follow a more:-

Pragmatic Approach

Look at the actual group (size, ability, age, behaviour, experience etc) that you have, and the availability of competent leaders and assistants, and then select an objective that is safely achievable on the day. For example, consider an outdoor Centre that has 3 staff, 36 beds, 3 minibuses and 5 open canoes. Whatever the weather, or the nature of the group, if canoeing is to take place, it will have to be 1:12 with a particular instructor. So the venue is chosen so that a worthwhile session can happen based on what is safely possible - or it will be cancelled. Nevertheless, there is still be an absolute ceiling on group size, but putting a figure on this is difficult. The ability to carry out a quick head-count is often a limiting factor.

But with any approach, problems will arise if the group size is inappropriate for the particular task, the particular group or the particular leaders.

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Assistants, Helpers and other Supervisors

The idea of a simple 'ratio' (number of children divided by number of adults) can be used to create the impression that supervision is better than it really is. In situations where, in addition to the group leader, there are other accompanying adults, one can broadly consider three different roles for these potential 'helpers', and this needs to be taken into account in any overall assessment of supervision arrangements.

a. Deputy Leader

Someone who is sufficiently competent to assume **all** aspects of the leadership role should the need arise.

In this case, a group of, say, 12 with a leader and a deputy leader might reasonably be considered as operating at a simple leader/participant ratio of 1:6.

b. Competent Assistant

Someone who can assist the leader, possibly under close supervision. Additionally, this person should have sufficient personal experience and competence in the activity, so that, in the event of an emergency such as the leader being incapacitated, separated from the group, or otherwise unable to continue as leader, they are able to:

- look after themselves in the area of operation
- recover the situation and take over as leader until the whole group are returned to a safe environment
- find their way from the activity/incident site under normal conditions to a point where outside help may be obtained
- use their knowledge of the emergency procedure relevant to the activity and if necessary, initiate such procedures

Note: the assistant is not necessarily expected to be competent to take over the full instructional or coaching role of the group leader other than to ensure that essential safety information is delivered.

A group of 12, say, with a leader and a competent assistant are perhaps best described, in ratio terms, as 1:12 plus a competent assistant.

c. Responsible Adult

Many agencies require that, in addition to the presence of a qualified leader, groups are also accompanied by a teacher, youth leader or other person identified as a 'responsible adult'. This person's primary role is likely to be of a pastoral or general supervisory nature.

Normally such persons are not required to have any experience of, or competence in the activity in which their group are taking part. They are often present to provide pastoral care for their charges, and to support the group leader with additional supervision in relatively undemanding situations where they themselves feel comfortable. However, if they are not personally comfortable in the particular activity environment (eg scared of heights, 'wobbly' in their kayak, claustrophobic underground etc) they can no longer be considered 'responsible', and may simply, in such instances, be regarded as an extra member of the group. At other times, their role may be crucial. In any case, they can only provide, in activity terms, very limited safety support to the group leader and their presence should not be used to justify an increase in group size beyond that which would normally be acceptable.

A group of 12, say, with a leader and one such adult may best be described, in ratio terms, as 1:12 plus a responsible adult, or in some cases, 1:13

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

How to interpret the Tables that follow

- Categories and levels of each activity have been chosen to correspond with those found in the matrices in the HSE booklet L77, *Guidance from the Licensing Authority on the Adventure Activities Licensing Regulations*. Whilst some may argue that these are not always the most helpful way of looking at some activities, this approach does at least maintain a level of consistency.
- It is not possible to offer one simple figure for either maximum **group size**, or for appropriate leader/participant **ratios**. Every day, every group, every undertaking, with every leader constitutes a unique event, posing unique risks. The management of safety in the field is crucially dependent on the leader being able to retain, or resume, control of the group at all times. As the size of the group increases, so this function becomes more difficult, and so the risk of accident and injury rises.
- Furthermore, there are usually two separate, but connected, issues involved in group size considerations: **Safety** and **Quality**. Many National Governing Bodies recommend maximum ratios and group sizes, but these are often based partly on quality issues, such as the effect on the environment, the image of the sport, or the effectiveness of coaching. However, the tables below are based primarily on **safety** considerations, which is why they may, at times, appear to conflict with advice published by National Governing Bodies.
- What these tables represent is an attempt to show the normal, safe range of operating **group sizes**. Crucially, they also show those indicators that would tend to require group sizes to be kept at the **lower end of the range** in order to maintain a reasonable margin of safety, or conversely, might permit group sizes to rise without causing unacceptable risk. The traditional idea of a 'ratio' is not used in these Tables, for the reason given on Page 2
- Where the tables mention 'smaller' or 'larger' groups, this normally refers to sizes within the stated range, which covers most of what happens in practice. However, given favourable circumstances, it is not unreasonable to expect that safe sessions **could** be run with groups whose size falls outside these ranges. Of course, in such cases, one would expect most of the indicators to point in the same direction.
- Whilst group sizes outside the given ranges may be appropriate in exceptional circumstances, it's equally clear that in many circumstances, an undertaking is unlikely to be sufficiently safe however small (or large) the group, particularly where leaders are relatively inexperienced, and/or where environmental conditions are particularly severe.
- Where, in the tables, a leader is said to be 'relatively inexperienced', or operating under a local 'statement of competence' (without holding the appropriate National Governing Body award), it is nonetheless assumed that his or her actual level of competence as a leader, given other favourable circumstances, **could** be adequate for the chosen undertaking.
- Remember that it would be rare if **all** the indicators listed pointed in the same direction for any given activity session. Indeed, this would probably imply that the session was either too safe to be challenging (to both leader and participants!), or was too hazardous to contemplate.
- The individual weightings given to the various indicators will always be a very subjective matter, and a sensible decision can only really be taken by an experienced practitioner taking everything into account. For those who may be interested (and it is only for interest!), Appendix 1 contains an example of an attempt to use a more objective approach along the same lines. It is included in the hope that it may prove an enjoyable diversion, quite possibly provoking heated debate in instructor circles!

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Contents

Page	Activity	Page	Activity
5	Mountain Walking (summer)	22	Paddling – Advanced Surf
6	Mountain Walking (winter)	23	Paddling – Moderate Surf
7	Trekking on Skis (off-piste downhill)	24	White Water Paddling – Grade III & above
8	Trekking on Skis (ski touring or mountaineering)	25	White Water Paddling – Grade II & below
9	Trekking on Horseback	26	White Water Rafting
10	Off-Road Cycling	27	Paddling – Sheltered Inland Water
11	Climbing/Abseiling (single-pitch)	28	Open Canoes – Journeys on Large Lochs & Lakes
12	Climbing/Abseiling (multi-pitch)	29	Dragon Boats
13	Snow & ice Climbing	30	Bell Boats
14	Mountain Scrambling	31	Improvised Rafting
15	Ghyll/Gorge Scrambling	32	Sailing – Larger Boats
16	Sea Level Traversing	33	Sailing – Dinghies
17	Kayaking – Advanced Sea Journeys	34	Windsurfing
18	Kayaking – Sea Journeys	35	Caving (systems with pitches greater than 18m)
19	Kayaking – Journeys on Large Lochs/Lakes	36	Caving (systems with pitches up to 18m)
20	Paddling – Sea and large Lochs, close to suitable beaches	37	Caving without pitches
21	Paddling – Sheltered Tidal Waters		

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of <u>'normal'</u> group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Walking</u> – on mountain, hill or moorland in <u>SUMMER</u> conditions</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. • Younger children (particularly <11 yrs) • Inexperienced hill-walkers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor weather conditions anticipated. • Summer conditions, but in the 'winter' part of the year. <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is in a remote and committing area • is away from paths • involves steep and/or rocky terrain • is unfamiliar to the leader • an overnight wild camp or bivouac is planned <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level • is only recently qualified • has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>4 – 12</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older children (16+) • Responsible group • Experienced hill-walkers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good weather conditions anticipated. • Summer-time. <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is on well-defined paths • is in lowland areas • is close to roads or habitation • involves no steep or rocky terrain • is familiar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is very experienced, both personally and as a leader • holds a higher qualification • has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well 	<p>The Mountain Leader Training Boards offers no specific guidance on group size and ratios, taking the view that every situation is unique, and that a proper assessment of risks, taking the factors specified on the left into account, will determine whether or not a particular group size is appropriate or not.</p> <p>A group of more than 12, moving through wild country as a single unit, is not generally considered good practice, even though it may be acceptable from a purely safety point of view.</p> <p>Lowland walks may pose significant road traffic risks, particularly to larger groups.</p> <p>Relevant minimum NGB Awards are the Summer ML, and the Walking Group Leader Award.</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Walking</u> – on mountain, hill or moorland in <u>WINTER</u> conditions</p> <p>(where expertise in the use of ice axe and crampons would be required, and/or where snow is falling, or is forecast)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. younger children (particularly <15 yrs) inexperienced hill-walkers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> blizzard conditions / high winds prevail or are anticipated. hard packed snow and/or ice covers significant sections of the route. “white-out” conditions – snow/low cloud with full terrain cover – prevail <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is in a remote and committing area is long, with small daylight margins is away from paths, or paths are obscured involves steep snow or ice has sections that may require the use of a rope in unfavourable conditions is unfamiliar to the leader an overnight wild camp or bivouac is planned <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>2 – 8</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> older children (16+) responsible group experienced winter hill-walkers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> good, stable, weather conditions prevail. snow in patches only, with a soft-surface, and away from steep drops. <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is on well-defined paths, which are not obscured is close to roads or habitation involves no steep, winter terrain is familiar to the leader is short, leaving a good margin of daylight <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader holds the highest qualifications has a competent assistant, and maybe an experienced adult(s) as well. 	<p>The Mountain Leader Training Boards offers no specific guidance on group size and ratios, taking the view that every situation is unique, and that a proper assessment of risks, taking the factors specified on the left into account, will determine whether or not a particular group size is appropriate or not.</p> <p>Groups larger than 8 will present a real challenge to any leader in true winter conditions in the mountains.</p> <p>Maintaining contact over any distance in white-out/high winds is extremely difficult. A rope may be necessary simply to keep the group together.</p> <p>In avalanche conditions, a larger group may increase the chances of survivors remaining on the surface to locate victims.</p> <p>Relevant minimum NGB Award is the Mountain Leader (Winter) Award</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Trekking on Skis</u> Off-piste downhill skiing (away from piste patrols and resort emergency services)</p>	<p>Participants & skis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. younger children (particularly <15 yrs) inexperienced off-piste skiers skis not designed for easy function off-piste <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> blizzard conditions / high winds prevail or are anticipated. difficult snow conditions – deep, heavy snow; crust; wind-slab, sastrugi, ice etc “white-out” or “flat light” conditions – snow/low cloud with full terrain cover <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is in a remote and committing area is long, with small daylight margins is well away from the piste involves steep and/or narrow sections is unfamiliar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is only recently qualified lacks the ‘on foot’ qualification has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>3 – 8</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> responsible group older participants 16+ experienced off-piste skiers in a range of snow conditions all have modern, easy turning off-piste skis <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> good, stable, weather conditions prevail. Spring, or other firm snow conditions <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is close to the piste is in sight of the piste involves no steep, difficult skiing is familiar to the leader is short, and a good margin of daylight has been allowed <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader holds the highest ski teaching and/or ski mountaineering qualifications has a competent assistant, and maybe an experienced adult(s) as well. 	<p>For off-piste downhill skiing in remote areas, leaders should hold appropriate ski teaching qualifications, and an ‘on foot’ winter mountaineering qualification, or an award which assesses both competencies</p> <p>Groups larger than 8 will present a real challenge to any leader in typical winter conditions in the Scottish mountains. Maintaining contact over any distance in white-out/high winds is extremely difficult. A rope may be necessary simply to keep the group together.</p> <p>In avalanche conditions, a larger group may actually increase the chances of survivors remaining on the surface to locate victims. However, under such conditions, it is clearly unwise to venture off-piste. Leaders will generally have ski qualifications (BASI 2) + an ‘on foot’ winter award. Guide/Mountain Ski Leader are stand-alone awards.</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Trekking on Skis</u> Ski-touring or ski-mountaineering in remote open country (involving trekking uphill and downhill on Alpine or Nordic Skis)</p>	<p>Participants & skis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. younger children (particularly <16 yrs) inexperienced off-piste skiers skis (Nordic or Alpine) not designed for easy function off-piste <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> blizzard conditions / high winds prevail or are anticipated. difficult snow conditions – deep, heavy snow; crust; wind-slab, sastrugi, ice etc “white-out” or “flat light” conditions – snow/low cloud with full terrain cover <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is in a remote and committing area involves steep and/or narrow sections in descent involves steep climbs requiring difficult kick-turns (or cramponing) involves an overnight camp, snow-hole or bivouac is unfamiliar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is only recently qualified has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>3 – 5</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> responsible group older participants 17+ skiers who are experienced off-piste in a range of snow conditions on the type of skis being used all have modern, easy turning off-piste skis (Nordic or Alpine) <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> good, stable, weather conditions prevail. Spring, or other firm (but non-icy) snow conditions <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is at lower levels can be ‘escaped’ relatively easily has ‘strip’ snow cover offering walking options involves no steep, difficult skiing, either up or down. is familiar to the leader is short, and a good margin of daylight has been allowed <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader holds the highest ski teaching and/or ski mountaineering qualifications has a competent assistant, and maybe an experienced adult(s) as well. 	<p>The use of lightweight Nordic touring skis for British mountain conditions is not recommended except in the most straightforward of terrain.</p> <p>Groups larger than 5 on skis will present a real challenge to any leader in typical winter conditions in the Scottish mountains. Navigation, particularly in descent in poor visibility, is extremely difficult, as is maintaining contact over any distance in white-out/high winds. Removing skis and using a rope may be necessary simply to keep the group together.</p> <p>In avalanche conditions, a larger group may increase the chances of survivors remaining on the surface to locate victims. It is clearly better, though, to plan routes to avoid avalanche-prone slopes</p> <p>Relevant NGB Awards are Guide, or SNSC Mountain Ski Leader</p>

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Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of <u>'normal'</u> group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Treks on Horseback on mountain, hill or moorland</u></p> <p>A. Slow Treks</p> <p>B. Hacks involving trotting or cantering</p> <p>C. Fast Hacks involving jumping</p>	<p>Participants & mounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. • Younger children (particularly <10 yrs) • Novice riders • Mounts are badly mannered <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor weather conditions anticipated. • Winter time. <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is in a remote and committing area • is away from 4-wheel drive vehicle tracks • is unfamiliar to the leader • visits areas likely to unsettle mounts • is in woodland, where some of the group may be out of sight. <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level • is only recently qualified • holds no equivalent 'on foot' qualification • has no additional adult or assistant 	<p style="text-align: center;">6 – 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5 – 9</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 - 8</p>	<p>Participants and mounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older children (14+) • Responsible group • Experienced riders • Mounts are very well-mannered <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good weather conditions anticipated. • Summer-time. <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is on well-defined trails • is in lowland areas • is close to roads, 4-wheel drive tracks or habitation • is familiar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is very experienced, both personally and as a leader • holds higher qualifications than strictly necessary • has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well 	<p>The British Horse Society recommends 1:8 as the appropriate staffing ratio.</p> <p>Larger groups moving through wild country as a single unit, are not generally considered good practice, even though it may be acceptable from a purely safety point of view.</p> <p>Lowland treks may pose significant road traffic risks, particularly to larger groups.</p> <p>Relevant NGB awards are BHS Ride Leader, or ABRS Trek Leader <i>plus</i> the relevant 'on foot' award, probably Summer ML.</p>

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Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p>Off-Road Cycling</p> <p>Lowland Trails or Forest Roads</p> <p>More technical Forest Trails</p> <p>Remote open mountain or moorland</p>	<p>Participants and bikes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <10 yrs) Novice riders Bikes have a record of mechanical failure <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor weather conditions prevail or are anticipated. Winter time – particularly if icy patches prevail <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is in a remote and committing area is away from forest roads or 4-wheel drive vehicle tracks has steep and/or stony/rocky descents is unfamiliar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is only recently qualified holds no equivalent 'on foot' qualification has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>5 – 10</p> <p>3 - 6</p> <p>3 - 6</p>	<p>Participants and bikes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (14+) Responsible group Experienced riders Reliable bikes <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good weather conditions anticipated. Summer-time. <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is on well-defined trails is in lowland or forested areas is close to roads, 4-wheel drive tracks, forest roads or habitation is familiar to the leader has no steep, rocky or stony sections, particularly descents <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader holds higher qualifications than strictly necessary has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well 	<p>Larger groups moving through wild country on bikes as a single unit, are not generally considered good practice, even though it may be acceptable from a purely safety point of view.</p> <p>Lowland rides may pose significant road traffic risks, particularly to larger groups.</p> <p>In practice, most off-road cycling takes place on forest roads and trails, and the key group size issues here are whether or not the whole group can be readily kept in sight, and whether or not they can be managed on steep descents. The larger the group, the more likely there is to be either a mechanical failure, or a collision within the group</p> <p>Cycling in remote open country probably has a higher risk of individual injury than the equivalent undertaking on foot, with the associated problems of large group incident management.</p>

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Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Rock Climbing and Abseiling (Single-pitch)</u></p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <11 yrs) <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High winds making communication difficult. <p>Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is unfamiliar to the instructor requires group to be supervised at both top and bottom of crag requires instructor to be 'tied in' to the system has tricky, or hidden, access from top to bottom, or vice versa has poor (eg steep, slippery) group assembly areas is in a wooded area with reduced visibility is a tidal sea cliff is in a remote area is busy, in relation to its size <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is operating under a local statement of competence, as opposed to the Single Pitch Award (SPA) has no additional adult or assistant 	<p style="text-align: center;">4 – 12</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> older children (16+) responsible, well-behaved group experienced climbers/belayers <p>Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is familiar to the instructor good all-round visibility safe assembly areas easy, safe ascent/descent route sufficient suitable climbs close enough together to facilitate effective supervision group only need access to foot of crag group can be involved in, and can be easily supervised, belaying <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as an instructor holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant, and maybe a 'responsible adult(s)' as well 	<p>The UK Mountain Training Board offers no specific guidance on group size and ratios, taking the view that every situation is unique, and that a proper assessment of risks, taking the factors specified on the left into account, will determine whether or not a particular group size is appropriate or not.</p> <p>The ability to retain effective control over the whole group at all times when they are at risk is the key factor in determining an appropriate maximum group size. 'Group' belaying is common, and to be encouraged, providing that effective supervision by the instructor is not affected.</p> <p>Climbing walls can present particular problems because of the potential presence of large numbers of other users, particularly where a number of separate climbing rooms exist.</p> <p>The normal, relevant NGB award is the SPA (or MIA at tidal venues)</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Rock Climbing and Abseiling (Multi-pitch)</u></p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <14 yrs) <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High winds making communication difficult. Poor weather, causing participants to become cold/wet whilst waiting <p>Climb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is steep & difficult relative to participant's ability & experience is unfamiliar to the instructor has small ledges or stances has complex anchors has long pitches, with out-of-sight (and/or earshot) stances is a tidal sea cliff is in a remote area involves sharing stances with other climbers involves traversing <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is only recently qualified 	<p>1 - 4</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> older children (16+) responsible, intelligent, well-behaved participants experienced climbers/belayers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> warm, calm weather <p>Climb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is familiar to the instructor has large, flat stances has short, straight pitches has straightforward belays <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as an instructor holds the highest qualifications has a competent assistant, who can lead part of the group under the leader's direct supervision 	<p>The UK Mountain Training Board offers no specific guidance on group size and ratios, taking the view that every situation is unique, and that a proper assessment of risks, taking the factors specified on the left into account, will determine whether or not a particular group size is appropriate or not.</p> <p>The ability of the instructor to manage participants, their ropes, anchors and other equipment on an exposed stance, when he or she may be up to a rope length away, is the key factor in determining an appropriate maximum group size.</p> <p>Multi-pitch climbing is not a common activity with young people, largely because of the high level of staff competence, and small group size required.</p> <p>The normal, relevant NGB awards are MIA, MIC or Guide</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of <u>'normal'</u> group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Snow & Ice Climbing</u> (Multi-pitch)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <15 yrs) <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High winds, snow & spindrift making communication difficult. Poor weather, causing participants to become cold whilst waiting Early winter (lack of daylight) Lean conditions (little snow/ice) <p>Climb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is unfamiliar to the instructor is steep & difficult relative to participant's ability & experience 'easy' sections have hard icy snow has small ledges or stances has complex and/or poor anchors has long pitches, with out-of-sight (and/or earshot) stances involves sharing stances with other climbers is in a remote area (many are) involves a long, tricky descent with navigational difficulties and other winter hazards <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is only recently qualified 	<p>1 - 4</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> older children (17+) responsible, intelligent, well-behaved participants relatively experienced winter climbers and mountaineers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cold, stable weather springtime (longer daylight) good snow & ice conditions <p>Climb</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is familiar to the instructor has good, open stances is in a wide gully where parallel climbing is possible has bucket steps, or snow is soft enough to make steps easily. has straightforward belays at regular intervals <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as an instructor holds the very highest mountaineering qualifications has a competent assistant, who can lead part of the group under the leader's direct supervision 	<p>The UK Mountain Training Board offers no specific guidance on group size and ratios, taking the view that every situation is unique, and that a proper assessment of risks, taking the factors specified on the left into account, will determine whether or not a particular group size is appropriate or not. However, in winter, climbing speed is of the essence. The ability of the instructor to manage participants, their ropes, anchors etc on an exposed stance in poor weather conditions, when he or she may be up to a rope length away, is the key factor in determining an appropriate maximum group size.</p> <p>Winter climbing is not a common activity with young people, largely because of the high staff:participant ratio required, and the very serious mountaineering nature of many routes. Some short, non-remote, icefall pitches can be treated as 'single-pitch' climbs</p> <p>The relevant minimum qualifications are MIC or Guide.</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Mountain Scrambling</u> (routes with short sections where handholds have to be used, and a rope may be required)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. younger children (particularly <11 yrs) nervous and lacking in confidence, particularly above drops <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High winds making communication (and balance) difficult. Poor weather requiring more frequent use of the rope, causing participants to become cold/wet whilst waiting <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is unfamiliar to the instructor has continuous sections of scrambling without respite is likely to require a rope at times involves tricky traverses lacks frequent, large assembly areas difficulties are predominantly at higher altitude. <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is only recently qualified has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>2 - 6</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> older children (16+) responsible, well-behaved participants experienced climbers or scramblers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> warm, calm weather <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is familiar to the instructor is one of the 'standard' scrambles (eg North Ridge of Tryfan, Crib Goch, Striding Edge, Jack's Rake etc) lacks genuine exposure itches, when encountered are short with large, flat take-offs. the rope is unlikely to be required <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as an instructor has climbing, as well as walking experience holds the MIA or MIC qualification has a competent assistant 	<p>The UK Mountain Training Board offers no specific guidance on group size and ratios, taking the view that every situation is unique, and that a proper assessment of risks, taking the factors specified on the left into account, will determine whether or not a particular group size is appropriate or not.</p> <p>The confidence and ability of the participants, allied to the instructor's personal knowledge of them, are key factors here. This will generally determine whether or not the venture can be undertaken speedily and safely without the use of a rope.</p> <p>The relevant minimum NGB Award is MIA although it is not uncommon for more experienced ML holders to safely lead parties on the 'standard' scrambles, where a rope is unlikely to be needed</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Ghyll/Gorge Scrambling</u> (up or down routes with short sections where handholds may have to be used, and a rope may be required, and water hazards may exist)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. younger children (particularly <11 yrs) nervous and lacking in confidence, particularly around water non-swimmers in group <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High water levels, making communication and progress difficult. Low temperatures especially if rocks are iced <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is unfamiliar to the instructor has continuous sections of scrambling without respite involves long swimming sections is likely to require a rope at times lacks frequent, large assembly areas has inescapable sections has downstream hazards in the event of being swept away. <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is operating under a local statement of competence but no supporting, relevant NGB qualification(s) (MLTB, UKMTB, NCA, BCU) has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>4 - 12</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> older (16+), responsible, well-behaved participants experienced climbers, cavers or scramblers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> low level of warm, quiet water <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is familiar to the instructor is unlikely to require the use of the rope is in a wide, bouldery, stream bed with few, and widely-spaced rock steps. can be frequently escaped along its length itches, when encountered, are short with good assembly areas above & below. offers little chance of being 'swept away'. noise from waterfalls is not a problem for communication <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as an instructor has a range of experience – walking, climbing, caving, white-water etc. holds higher level qualifications has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult as well 	<p>No one Governing Body provides training for all types of activity that are commonly seen in the gorge/ghyll environment, although elements of the MIA and Cave Leader Awards amongst others, provide relevant training. The ML Award also provides useful general group management training. The group size is therefore entirely determined by consideration of factors listed on the left.</p> <p>As with mountain scrambling, the confidence and ability of the participants, allied to the instructor's personal knowledge of them, are key factors. These will generally determine whether or not the venture can be undertaken speedily and safely without the use of a rope, thus avoiding wet participants hanging around and cooling down.</p> <p>The problems for the leader of water noise and power in flood conditions cannot be overestimated.</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of <u>'normal'</u> group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sea Level Traversing</u> (traversing the base of coastal cliffs with short sections where handholds may have to be used, and a rope may be required, and water, wave and tidal hazards may exist)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. • younger children (particularly <11 yrs) • nervous and lacking in confidence, particularly around water and waves • non-swimmers in group <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • breaking seas, causing noise, making communication difficult. • winter temperatures and weather making slow progress potentially more serious • irregular/unpredictable wave action <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is unfamiliar to the instructor • has continuous sections of scrambling without respite • involves swimming sections • is likely to require a rope at times • lacks frequent, large assembly areas • has inescapable sections, or sections where escape is complex • is intricate with many zawns, making it difficult to keep everyone in view • is exposed to wave action <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level • has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>4 - 12</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • older (16+), responsible, well-behaved participants • experienced climbers, cavers or scramblers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no swell, and small tidal range <p>Route</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is familiar to the instructor • is unlikely to require the use of the rope • is mostly walking across beaches, boulder beaches, and along ledges. • frequent escape along its length • technical sections, when encountered, are short with good assembly areas before and after. • offers little chance of being 'swept away' removing the need for fixed safety lines. • Good visibility of group possible at all times <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is very experienced, both personally and as an instructor • has a range of experience – walking, climbing, caving, tidal • holds higher level qualifications • has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult as well 	<p>No one Governing Body provides training for all types of activity that are commonly undertaken in coastal traverses, although elements of the MIA and Cave Leader Awards provide relevant training. The ML Award also provides useful general training in group management, and tidal awareness from sailing or canoeing is very helpful.</p> <p>The group size is therefore entirely determined by consideration of factors listed on the left.</p> <p>As with mountain scrambling, the confidence and ability of the participants, allied to the instructor's personal knowledge of them, are key factors. These will generally determine whether or not the venture can be undertaken speedily and safely without the use of a rope, thus avoiding potentially wet participants hanging around and cooling down.</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of <u>'normal'</u> group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Kayaking</u> – Advanced Sea Journeys</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <15 yrs) Inexperienced paddlers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor weather conditions (existing or forecast), including swell, wind and low visibility. Spring tides and/or wind against tide Cold water <p>Passage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is along a committing shorelines with few access points involves a long and/or remote open sea crossing is remote from observation has unavoidable tide races or overfalls is unfamiliar to the leader an overnight bivouac is planned <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is operating under a local statement of competence, or has an award in a related, but different discipline has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>2 – 4</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (17+) Responsible group Experienced all round paddlers, with reliable self-rescue skills <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good weather forecast Stable sea state Neap tides Summer time – warm water. <p>Passage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has frequent access/egress points is in a non-remote area where assistance from other groups or craft might be available is familiar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive working knowledge of the area holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well. For groups larger than 4, a very competent assistant would normally be needed. 	<p>The BCU suggests that a maximum ratio of 1:4 is appropriate.</p> <p>Control of a group at sea can be rapidly lost as conditions deteriorate, and capsizes occur. Under such conditions, it can be impossible to keep the group together unless they are all self-reliant – the larger the group, the more so.</p> <p>This can be one of the more hazardous and committing activities available to young people, and is uncommon.</p> <p>The normal minimum BCU qualification is Coach Level 3 (Sea) + 5 star (Sea)</p> <p>A competent assistant should normally be present.</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of <u>'normal'</u> group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Kayaking</u> – Sea Journeys</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. • Younger children (particularly <14 yrs) • Inexperienced paddlers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor weather conditions (existing or forecast), including swell, breaking waves, and wind. • Spring tides and/or wind against tide • Cold water <p>Passage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is more of an 'advanced' sea journey and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ is along a committing shorelines with few safe egress points ○ is remote from observation ○ has unavoidable tide races or overfalls • is unfamiliar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level • is only recently qualified, or has an award in a related, but different discipline (eg canoe, or inland kayak) • has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>4 – 8</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older children (16+) • Responsible group • Competent, both individually and as a group, to deal with likely problems which may be encountered <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good weather forecast • Stable sea state • Neap tides, or tidal stream-free area • Summer time – warm water. <p>Passage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is in a non-remote area where assistance from other groups or craft might be available • stays close to an easily accessible shoreline • is familiar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is very experienced, both personally and as a leader • has extensive working knowledge of the area and proven experience of operating this trip successfully • holds a higher qualification • has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well 	<p>The BCU suggest a ratio 1:6 for practical teaching purposes where the quality of instruction is important to the session.</p> <p>Control of a group at sea can be rapidly lost as conditions deteriorate, and capsizes occur. Under such conditions, it can be impossible to keep the group together unless they are able to respond skilfully and effectively to instructions – the larger the group, the more so.</p> <p>Some tidal estuaries, whilst sheltered at times, at other times, can present severe open sea hazards.</p> <p>The normal minimum qualification is BCU Coach Level 3 (Sea)</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of <u>'normal'</u> group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Kayaking</u> – Large Lochs - Journeys</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <14 yrs) Inexperienced in the open water environment <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor weather conditions (existing or forecast), with swell, white horses, and wind. Cold water <p>Journey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is along a committing shoreline with few safe egress points is remote from observation the body of water is subject to unpredictable winds, common in mountainous areas. is unfamiliar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is unfamiliar with the loch/lake is only recently qualified, or has an award in a related, but different discipline has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>4 – 8</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (16+) Responsible group Competent, both individually and as a group, to deal with likely problems which may be encountered <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good weather forecast Flat water Summer time after a dry spell– warm water. Light & favourable winds <p>Journey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is in a non-remote area where assistance from other groups or craft might be available stays close to an easily accessible shoreline is familiar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive working knowledge of this type of operating environment holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well 	<p>The BCU suggest a ratio 1:6 for practical teaching purposes where the quality of instruction is important to the session.</p> <p>In adverse weather, the conditions on a large body of inland water can approach those found at sea. And water temperatures, even in summer, may be much lower than equivalent sea temperatures.</p> <p>Control of a group can be rapidly lost as conditions deteriorate, and capsizes occur. Under such conditions, as at sea, it can be difficult to keep the group together unless they are able to respond skilfully and effectively to instructions – the larger the group, the more so.</p> <p>Normal minimum qualification is BCU Level 3 Coach (Sea or Inland)</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of <u>'normal'</u> group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Sea & Large Lochs</u> Activities close to suitable beaches</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <12 yrs) Inexperienced in a more open water, exposed environment <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-shore wind Cold water <p>Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> rip-currents within the operating area subject to longshore drift shelves steeply and/or landing is difficult heavily used by other groups and/or the public, in relation to its size is unfamiliar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level has not worked in this environment before is only recently qualified, or has an award in a related, but different discipline has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>6 – 10</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (15+) Responsible group Competent paddlers at this level <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good weather forecast No swell, currents or waves Summer time Calm, or light on-shore winds <p>Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is sheltered and unaffected by wind and tide Has a lifeguard service or other agencies that could be called on for assistance is familiar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive experience of this type of operating environment holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well has on-site support & advice pre-session from a person of technical adviser status 	<p>The BCU suggest a ratio 1:8 for practical teaching purposes where the quality of instruction is important to the session.</p> <p>The effect (not always obvious) of winds and currents on novice paddling groups at apparently benign-looking beaches, can be dramatic. Local knowledge, and experience in this type of environment is vital for leaders.</p> <p>Normal minimum qualification is BCU Level 2 Coach with 4 star Sea</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of <u>'normal'</u> group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Sheltered Tidal Waters</u></p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <11 yrs) Inexperienced in a potentially exposed environment <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-shore wind, which can give an impression that the water is flat and sheltered Tide on the ebb Cold water <p>Operating area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong tidal currents within the operating area Subject to unpredictable winds from steep valley/mountain sides is unfamiliar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level has not worked in a tidal environment before is only recently qualified, or has an award in a related, but different discipline has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>6 – 10</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (15+) Responsible group Competent paddlers at this level <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good weather forecast No swell, currents or waves Summer time – warm water Calm, or light on-shore winds <p>Operating area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is familiar to the leader Tidal influences are minimal Shore access is uncomplicated and available at numerous points <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive experience of this type of operating environment holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well has on-site support & advice pre-session from a colleague who is more experienced and better qualified 	<p>The BCU suggest a ratio 1:8 for practical teaching purposes where the quality of instruction is important to the session.</p> <p>Tidal estuaries can be subject to dramatic changes as the tide ebbs and flows. Local knowledge of the operating environment at all states of the tide (and in a range of weather conditions) is vital for all leaders.</p> <p>Normal minimum qualification is the BCU Level 2, preferably with 4 star Sea award</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Advanced Surf</u> (ABOVE 1 metre, normally on wave skis)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <14 yrs) Inexperienced in surf <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-shore wind Cold water <p>Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is unfamiliar to the leader Strong rip-currents within the operating area subject to longshore drift shelves steeply ('dumping' surf) and/or landing is difficult landings are difficult due to the morphology of the beach heavily used, in relation to its size, by other groups and/or the public, particularly board-surfers or windsurfers <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level, or has experience with a different type of surf craft has not worked in this environment before is only recently qualified has no additional adult or assistant 	<p style="text-align: center;">1 - 6</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (17+) Responsible group Competent surf paddlers with good rolling skills <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predictable green swell with a clean shoulder break. Summer time Calm, or light on-shore winds <p>Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is familiar to the leader Is contained and unaffected by wind, tide or strong rips. Has a lifeguard service or other agencies that could be called on for assistance Has no hazards in the surf (rocks, breakwaters, wrecks etc) <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive experience of this type of operating environment holds a higher qualification has a very competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) on the beach as well has access to shore support & advice from a person of technical adviser status 	<p>The BCU suggest a ratio 1:4 for practical teaching purposes where the quality of instruction is important to the session, although with two competent instructors, this could be 2:8.</p> <p>Surf above 1m is big surf. It is frequently accompanied by strong rip currents and undertow, and in the UK, with stormy weather. Local knowledge, and experience in this type of environment is vital for leaders, whatever the group size.</p> <p>The normal minimum qualification is the BCU Level 3 Surf Coach</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Moderate Surf</u> (BELOW 1 metre, in kayaks or on wave skis)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <12 yrs) Inexperienced in a turbulent water environment poor water confidence/swimming ability <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-shore wind Cold water <p>Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is unfamiliar to the leader rip-currents within the operating area subject to longshore drift shelves steeply ('dumping' surf) and/or landing is difficult landings are difficult due to the morphology of the beach heavily used by other groups and/or the public, in relation to its size <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level, or has experience with a different type of surf craft has not worked in this environment before is only recently qualified has no additional adult or assistant 	<p style="text-align: center;">4 - 10</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (15+) Responsible group Competent surf paddlers Strong swimmers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predictable small swell with a clean shoulder break. Summer time Calm, or light on-shore winds <p>Beach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is familiar to the leader Is contained and unaffected by wind, tide or strong rips. Has a lifeguard service or other agencies that could be called on for assistance Has no hazards in the surf (rocks, breakwaters, groins, wrecks etc) <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive experience of this type of operating environment holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) on the beach as well has access to shore support & advice from a person of technical adviser status 	<p>The BCU suggest a ratio 1:8 for practical teaching purposes where the quality of instruction is important to the session.</p> <p>The effect (not always obvious) of winds and currents on novice paddling groups at apparently benign-looking beaches, can be dramatic. Local knowledge, and experience in this type of environment is vital for leaders.</p> <p>The normal minimum qualification is either the BCU Trainee Level 3 Surf Coach, or a Level 3 Sea, or Inland Kayak Coach with appropriate surf experience</p> <p>In surf, it's difficult to headcount more than about 5 people. For larger group sizes, good practice would involve operating in pairs – one on the water, with the other watching out for them from the beach.</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>White Water</u> (Grade III and above – normally in kayaks)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. • Younger children (particularly <15 yrs) • Inexperienced in white water <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-flood conditions • Low water conditions • Winter temperatures <p>River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is unfamiliar to the leader • is in a remote area • has few large break-outs • has continuous sections of technical water • has frequent 'pinning' hazards (rocks, trees etc) • requires egress above more hazardous sections <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level • has not worked on this grade of water before • is only recently qualified or has an award in a related, but different discipline • has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>4 - 8</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older children (17+) • Responsible group • Competent white water paddlers • Reliable eskimo-rollers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate water levels • Summer temperatures <p>River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is familiar to the leader • has regular access/egress points • has good, regular break-outs • is readily accessible to external assistance • difficulties are short-lived <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is very experienced, both personally and as a leader • has extensive experience of working with groups in white water • holds a higher qualification • has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well 	<p>The BCU suggest a ratio 1:4 (often 2:8) for practical teaching purposes where the quality of instruction is important to the session.</p> <p>Communication problems caused by water noise, helmets covering ears, and a shortage of safe, 'assembly points', will always make the management of a large group extremely difficult. The value of a competent assistant (to bring up the rear, or pre-shoot a rapid, or deal with individual problems) cannot be over-emphasised when paddling a technical river.</p> <p>Where access problems or environmental issues exist, a large group will only exacerbate matters for all concerned. Consideration should be given to splitting the group, where the assistant leader is competent.</p> <p>The normal minimum qualification is the BCU Level 3 Inland Kayak Coach with 5 star inland award,</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p align="center"><u>White Water</u> (Canoes and Kayaks up to Grade II)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <13 yrs) Lacking in water confidence <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High water conditions Low water conditions Winter temperatures <p>River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is unfamiliar to the leader is in a remote area lacks areas of slack water break-outs have very strong eddy-lines 'pinning' hazards (rocks, trees etc) exist requires egress above more hazardous or technical sections banks are inaccessible for long stretches <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level has not worked on this grade or type of water before is only recently qualified, or has an award in a related, but different discipline has no additional adult or assistant 	<p align="center">4 – 10 students in kayaks, or in up to 5 boats if in open canoes</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (15+) Responsible group Some moving water experience Water confident, strong swimmers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate water levels Summer temperatures <p>River</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is familiar to the leader has regular access/egress points has good, regular slack water areas is readily accessible to external assistance difficulties are short-lived banks do not have overhanging trees where the current sets. <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive experience of working with groups in white water holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well 	<p>The BCU suggest a maximum ratio of 1:6 using competent paddlers to increase the group size up to a maximum of 12</p> <p>A shortage of safe, 'assembly points', such as might be the case on a relatively easy, but fast-flowing small river will always make the management of a large group extremely difficult. The value of a competent assistant (to bring up the rear, or pre-shoot a rapid, or deal with individual problems) cannot be over-emphasised when paddling on moving water.</p> <p>If access problems or environmental issues exist, as they frequently do, a large group will only exacerbate matters for all concerned. Consideration should be given to operating as two smaller groups. Only possible if the 'competent assistant' is of 'assistant leader' status. The normal minimum leader qualification is the BCU Level 3 Coach (Kayak or Canoe, as appropriate)</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>White Water Rafting</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Grade II & above</p> <p style="text-align: center;">up to Grade II</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Controlled Sites</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <13 yrs) Lacking in water confidence <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High water conditions Low water conditions Winter temperatures <p>River/Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is unfamiliar to the leader has 'raft-tipping' water features is in a remote area lacks areas of slack water 'pinning' hazards (rocks, trees etc) exist requires egress above more hazardous sections banks are inaccessible for long stretches <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level has not worked on this grade or type of water before is operating 'out of area' with a site-specific qualification for somewhere else has only recently qualified has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>(Numbers depends on raft size – assume minimum of one instructor or competent helm in each raft)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 – 6 (per raft) 2 rafts would be normal on river trips</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 - 8 (per raft)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 - 8 (per raft)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (15+) Responsible group Some moving water experience Water confident, strong swimmers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Comfortable' water levels, with deep, clear channels, but no powerful stoppers. Summer temperatures <p>River/Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is familiar to the leader purpose-built site has regular access/egress points has good, regular slack water areas few 'pinning' hazards safe egress above downstream hazards is readily accessible to external assistance difficulties are short-lived banks do not have overhanging trees where the current sets. <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive experience of working with groups in white water holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well 	<p>On more hazardous rivers, it would be normal to deploy two instructors (or one instructor + a second competent helm) to a raft. Acceptable group size can only be determined in relation to the particular raft in use, although in the event of a capsize, the more people in the water, the harder it is to keep track of everyone. The more people in the raft, the less well it will respond to the helm (higher inertia). Conversely though, more weight in the raft can be useful for 'punching through' stoppers. UK rivers (with the exception of some Scottish rivers) tend to be unsuitable for rafting, due to their tree-lined banks and technical, bouldery nature, in relation to flow volumes. Where access problems or environmental issues exist, as they frequently do on rivers, a large group will only exacerbate matters for all concerned.</p> <p>The normal minimum qualification is Raft Leader or Raft Guide</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of <u>'normal'</u> group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Sheltered Inland Water</u> (in canoes or kayaks)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <10 yrs) Lacking in water confidence <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-shore wind, which can give an impression that the water is flat and sheltered Choppy water Winter temperatures <p>Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is unfamiliar to the leader is part of a bigger expanse of open water is a short section of slow-moving river with white water downstream is in a remote area, or has no easy access to shelter/transport banks (lakes and rivers) are inaccessible or hazardous for long stretches <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level, or has an award in a related, but different discipline has not worked on this type of water before is only recently qualified has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>4 – 12 students in kayaks, or in up to 6 boats if in open canoes</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (15+) Responsible group Some previous experience Practised in deep water rescue Water confident, strong swimmers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal water levels (if a river) Summer temperatures <p>Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is familiar to the leader has regular access/egress points, particularly downwind or downstream has areas sheltered from the wind where the group can be contained no particular hazards downwind or downstream has access to transport and/or warm shelter <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive experience of working with groups holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well 	<p>The BCU suggest a ratio 1:8 for practical teaching purposes where the quality of instruction is important to the session.</p> <p>Sheltered water found as part of a larger expanse of open water can present severe group management problems if the 'line' is crossed, either accidentally, or on purpose, particularly on a cold, windy day and the group size is at the upper limit.</p> <p>The normal minimum qualification is the BCU Level 2 Coach. Leaders with a Level 2 Award in the 'other' discipline plus appropriate experience in the type of craft in use, can be considered competent in genuine sheltered water conditions.</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of <u>'normal'</u> group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Open Canoeing</u> – Large Lochs - Journeys</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <14 yrs) Inexperienced in the open water environment <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor weather conditions (existing or forecast), with chop/swell, white horses, and wind. Cold water <p>Journey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is along a committing shoreline with few safe egress points is remote from observation the body of water is subject to unpredictable winds, common in mountainous areas. is unfamiliar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level, or has an award in a related, but different discipline is unfamiliar with the loch/lake is only recently qualified 	<p>4- 10 overall with up to 5 boats (in addition to leader's)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (16+) Responsible group Competent and practised, both individually and as a group, in dealing with swamping, capsizes etc. <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good weather forecast Flat water Summer time after a dry spell - warm water. Light & favourable winds <p>Journey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is in a non-remote area where assistance from other groups or craft might be available stays close to an easily accessible shoreline is familiar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive working knowledge of this type of operating environment holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well 	<p>In adverse weather, the conditions on a large body of inland water can approach those found at sea. Furthermore, even in summer, water temperatures may be much lower than equivalent sea temperatures. The BCU suggest that the 'sea-worthiness' of the boat, its equipment and fittings may be a more important factor than outright group size. The addition of extra buoyancy, efficient balers, sail systems and spars for emergency rafting can allow more adventurous trips to be undertaken safely. Similarly, overloading of canoes (3 or more people) can also be more significant than overall numbers. The capacity of a leader to respond in the event of an emergency may be curtailed by sharing a craft with participants</p> <p>The normal minimum qualification is the BCU Level 3 Canoe Coach with 5 star canoe award</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Dragon Boating</u> On sheltered inland waters or, occasionally, on sheltered stretches of suitable tidal estuaries.</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. younger children (particularly <12 yrs) non-swimmers, or lacking in water confidence <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor weather conditions (existing or forecast), with chop/swell, white horses, and particularly, wind. (Conditions no longer 'sheltered', frequently rendering the activity wholly inadvisable) Cold water <p>Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is not really sheltered, as it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is along a shoreline with few safe egress points is remote from observation is subject to unpredictable winds is subject to tidal flow or other currents is unfamiliar to the leader no rescue boat in support <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is only recently qualified 	<p>8 – 22 (plus helm and drummer in each of 2 boats)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (15+) Responsible group Competent and practised, both individually and as a group, in dealing with swamping and capsizes etc. <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good weather forecast Flat, enclosed water Summer time after a dry spell - warm water. Calm, or only light winds <p>Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is in a non-remote area where assistance from other groups or craft might be available rescue boat in support stays close to an easily accessible shoreline is familiar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive working knowledge of this type of operating environment holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant, possibly in a support boat 	<p>Dragon Boating would not normally take place on exposed or technically demanding water. The activity is largely confined to sheltered inland or tidal estuaries in benign conditions</p> <p>Capsizes/swamps do occur. Once capsized/swamped, there is no easy way to recover a Dragon-Boat. A capsize/swamp is always a foreseeable risk, and consideration must be given as to how the whole crew are to get out of the water before succumbing to hypothermia. If a group are race training, a capsize/swamp may occur when they are already tired, thus accelerating the onset of hypothermia.</p> <p>In some instances, consideration may need to be given to the provision of a rescue boat, or boats, in support.</p> <p>The normal minimum qualification is an appropriate British Dragonboat Association Coaching Award</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Bell Boating</u> On sheltered inland waters or, occasionally, on sheltered stretches of suitable tidal estuaries.</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. younger children (particularly <10 yrs) non-swimmers, or lacking in water confidence particularly heavy persons, in relation to the buoyancy of the craft, leading to significantly reduced freeboard <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor weather conditions (existing or forecast), with chop/swell, white horses, and particularly, wind. (No longer 'sheltered', probably making the activity wholly inadvisable) Cold water <p>Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the activity is undertaken as a self-contained 'journey' Is not really sheltered, as it is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> along a shoreline with few safe egress points remote from observation subject to unpredictable winds subject to tidal flow or other currents is unfamiliar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is operating under a local statement of competence but does not hold related BCU Coaching qualifications 	<p style="text-align: center;">6 – 14</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (15+) Responsible group Competent and practised, both individually and as a group, in dealing with swamping. <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good weather forecast Flat, enclosed water (eg a canal) Summer time after a dry spell - warm water. Calm, or only light winds <p>Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is in a non-remote area where assistance from other groups or craft might be available rescue boat in support stays close to an easily accessible shoreline is familiar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive working knowledge of this type of operating environment holds high level BCU Coaching qualifications, over and above the minimum (BCU Level 2 Coach, or BCU Bell Boat Helm) has a competent assistant, possibly in a support boat 	<p>A Bell Boat is essentially a number of open canoes rafted together in a permanent, or semi-permanent way.</p> <p>The actual size and design of the boat may be the chief determinant of group size in most sheltered water situations.</p> <p>Bell Boating would not normally take place on exposed or technically demanding water. The activity is largely confined to sheltered inland or tidal estuaries in benign conditions</p> <p>Capsizes are extremely unlikely, although, as with rafted canoes, swamping is a real risk.</p> <p>With very young children, or in situations where swamping is a real possibility, there should always be a second craft, and consideration may need to be given to the provision of a rescue boat in support, although this is not normal practice.</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>Improvised Rafting</u> (typically using barrels & spars & ropes)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <10 yrs) Lacking in water confidence <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong winds, particularly off-shore Presence of strong tidal or river currents Choppy water Winter temperatures <p>Aim of Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to construct a raft and carry out a journey in open or moving water design & construction is wholly in the hands of participants <p>Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is part of a bigger expanse of open water is a short section of slow-moving river with white water downstream is in a remote area, or has no easy access to shelter/transport banks (lakes and rivers) are inaccessible or hazardous for long stretches is unfamiliar to the leader no powerboat is available <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is recently trained and relatively inexperienced has no additional adult or assistant 	<p style="text-align: center;">6 - 12</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (15+) Responsible group Some previous paddling experience Water confident, strong swimmers <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal water levels (if a river) Summer temperatures <p>Aim of Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to construct a raft and carry out a short journey in sheltered water design & construction is guided and monitored by the leader <p>Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is familiar to the leader has regular access/egress points, particularly downwind or downstream has areas sheltered from the wind where the group can be contained no particular hazards exist downwind or downstream has access to transport and/or warm shelter has powerboat rescue cover for whole group <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has extensive experience of this activity with groups holds relevant qualifications in related watersports has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult(s) as well 	<p>There are no specific NGB awards for leading this activity, although holders of related RYA & BCU awards are likely to have a general familiarity with the water environment and its hazards.</p> <p>Sheltered water found as part of a larger expanse of open water can present severe group management problems if the 'line' is crossed, either accidentally, or on purpose, particularly on a cold, windy day and the group size is at the upper limit. It may be necessary to deploy a rescue boat if the proposed journey takes the group into open water well away from land. In this case the maximum group size will generally be determined by the ability of the rescue craft to pick up all participants at once (dependent on water temp, clothing supplied, and the max. distance from shore)</p> <p>The ability to carry out a quick, effective headcount is one limiting factor on the size of the group</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>SAILING</u></p> <p>A. Yachts (with accommodation)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>**B. Keel Boats (eg Soling, Squibb, EtcHELLS, etc)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>C. Open Day Boats and Large Crewed Dinghies (eg Drascombes, Storm, Explorer, etc)</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <11 yrs) Heavier, stronger participants Lacking in water-confidence <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor weather conditions (existing or forecast), with chop/swell, breaking waves, and strong winds. Low visibility Cold water Absence of a separate rescue craft capable of operating effectively in the prevailing conditions <p>Venue/Journey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> committing coastal/tidal environment is remote from observation the body of water is subject to unpredictable winds, common in mountainous areas, or around cliffs or headlands journey involves complex pilotage is unfamiliar to the leader subject to strong, unfavourable tidal streams <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level has no competent assistant(s) is only recently qualified. 	<p>A. 3 - 6 on each yacht with instructor on board each</p> <p>-----</p> <p>B. 3 - 9 overall (with 3 - 5 in each boat and instructor in safety boat) or 3 - 7 with instr. or comp.asst. on board.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>C. 3 - 9 overall (with 3 - 5 in each boat and instructor in safety boat) or 3 - 7 in each boat with instr. or comp.asst. on board.</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (16+) Lighter, weaker participants Responsible group Competent and practised, both individually and as a group, in dealing with swamping, capsize etc. <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good weather forecast No swell Summer time - warm water. Light to moderate favourable winds Separate rescue boat deployed <p>Venue/Journey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is in a non-remote area where assistance from other groups or craft might be available operating in a fixed area, as opposed to journeying sailing area is familiar to the leader straightforward pilotage <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive working knowledge of this type of operating environment holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant(s), and/or responsible adult(s) has access to a shore-based technical adviser throughout. 	<p>In sailing, being short-handed can be more of a problem than the converse. The size and capabilities of the particular boats in use will always affect the appropriate complement of crew.</p> <p>** treated in a similar way to crew dinghies (see below)</p> <p>Commonly in (non-single-hander) sailing, a senior instructor takes charge of the session, and competent helms (who are not necessarily instructor-qualified) take charge of each boat. The instructor i/c may be in one of the boats, or may be in an accompanying support boat. Some open day boats may well have a higher rated working payload than 7 young people, but the limiting safety factor may be the ability to perform quick, accurate head counts in the event of a capsize. Open day boats and small keel boats do capsize, and can sink.</p> <p>Unsupported operation in remote areas will require life rafts to be carried. The normal minimum qualification is RYA instructor with keelboat endorsement.</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>SAILING</u></p> <p>Crewed dinghies (eg Wayfarers, GP's, Bosuns etc) <u>improvers</u> (sailing as a fleet)</p> <p>Crewed dinghies (eg Wayfarers, GP's, Bosuns etc) <u>beginners</u></p> <p>Single-handers (Toppers, Picos, Lasers etc)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <11 yrs) Heavier, stronger participants Lacking in water-confidence <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor weather conditions (existing or forecast), with chop/swell, breaking waves, and strong winds. Low visibility Cold water <p>Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> coastal/tidal environment is remote from observation the body of water is subject to unpredictable winds, common in mountainous areas, or around cliffs or headlands session involves committing journey is unfamiliar to the leader subject to strong, unfavourable tidal streams <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level has no competent assistant, and competence of helms is limited is only recently qualified. 	<p>4 - 12 overall (RYA max 9) with 2 -3 in each boat and leader in safety boat</p> <p>3 - 5 on each boat with 'instructor' on board each</p> <p>up to 12 ***max of 6 boats - with leader in safety boat, or assistant in safety boat & leader in dinghy.</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (16+) Lighter, weaker participants Responsible group Competent and practised, both individually and as a group, in dealing with swamping, capsizes etc. <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good weather forecast No swell Summer time - warm water. Light to moderate favourable winds <p>Venue/Journey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is in a non-remote area where assistance from other groups or craft might be available operating in a fixed area, as opposed to journeying sailing area is familiar to the leader <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as a leader has extensive working knowledge of this type of operating environment holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant(s), and a good selection of competent and experienced adult helms. has access to a shore-based technical adviser throughout. 	<p>The size and capabilities of the particular boats in use will always affect the appropriate complement of crew.</p> <p>Commonly in (non-single-hander) sailing, a senior instructor takes charge of the session, and competent helms (who are not necessarily instructor-qualified) take charge of each boat. The instructor i/c may be in one of the boats, or may be in the accompanying support boat.</p> <p>It would be very uncommon for dinghy sailing to take place without a safety boat (and trained driver) deployed, or on rapid standby.</p> <p>*** Children may double up, or take it in turns, to allow one instructor to supervise a maximum of 12. An additional adult may be needed to supervise those children waiting their turn on shore. RYA maximum on water is 9, and if boats are sailed 2-up, consider as crewed dinghies.</p>

Group Sizes for Adventurous Activities

Activity and Hazard Level	Indicators for smaller group sizes	Range of 'normal' group sizes	Indicators for larger group sizes	Notes
<p><u>WINDSURFING</u></p> <p>Non-exposed Inland Sites</p> <p>Open Water, Tidal and Coastal Venues</p>	<p>Participants & equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. Younger children (particularly <12 yrs) Lacking in water-confidence Older, more difficult to manage rigs & less-stable boards Barely adequate clothing Cannot self-rescue (uphaul/water-start) <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor weather conditions (existing or forecast), with chop/swell, and strong winds relative to aim of session. Cold water and/or cold air temperature Large surf <p>Venue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is unfamiliar to the leader coastal/tidal environment is remote from observation the body of water is subject to unpredictable winds, common in mountainous areas. is subject to strong, unfavourable tidal streams, rips, undertows or longshore drift <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at the level has no competent assistant is recently qualified 	<p>6 – 8</p> <p>4 – 8</p>	<p>Participants & equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older children (16+) Responsible group Competent and practised in self rescue (uphaul/water-start) Good dry suits or winter steamers Modern stable boards, with light, high aspect-ratio rigs <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No swell/chop No strong currents Summer time - warm water. Manageable winds No powered craft in area <p>Venue/Journey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is in a non-remote area where assistance from other groups or craft might be available small, inland lake or gravel pit sailing area is familiar to the leader no particular downwind hazards <p>Leader</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as an instructor has extensive working knowledge of this type of operating environment holds a higher qualification has a competent assistant(s) has access to, and supervision by, a shore-based technical adviser throughout. 	<p>Equipment is a key consideration in wind-surfing. Modern boards and rigs that are easy to manage, and participants in good quality wet/dry suits will reduce the pressure on supervisors and rescue boats.</p> <p>It would be very uncommon for open water windsurfing to take place without a safety boat (and trained driver) deployed, or on rapid standby. This table assumes the presence of such. The instructor i/c may teach from a board, with a competent assistant manning the rescue boat, or he may just teach from (and drive) the accompanying support boat. In either case. group size should reflect whether or not a separate driver is deployed</p> <p>In breaking surf (advanced sailors), participants must be assumed to be fairly self-reliant, and be prepared and able to 'swim in'. The normal minimum qualification is RYA Windsurfing Instructor</p>

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<p><u>Advanced Caving</u> (trips in caves, potholes or abandoned mines with <u>pitches over 18m</u>)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. younger children (particularly <16 yrs) little previous underground experience <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High water levels, causing noise, making communication and progress difficult. Cold water conditions (snow melt, flood etc) <p>Trip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is unfamiliar to the instructor has long sections of tight passageways or other bottlenecks involves swimming sections involves pitches with waterfalls involves more than one pitch lacks frequent, large assembly areas is committing/inescapable is long (both time & distance) <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is recently qualified has no additional adult or assistant 	<p style="text-align: center;">4 - 6</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> older (17+), responsible, well-behaved participants experienced cavers at this level <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low water levels and settled weather Presence of other parties in the cave <p>Trip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is familiar to the instructor is short overall is mainly dry has a range of options can be easily escaped/reversed pitches, when encountered, are short with good dry assembly areas above & below other technical sections are short water noise is not a particular problem for communication <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very experienced, both personally and as an instructor to a much higher level than that demanded by the trip. ***has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult as well 	<p>As with other 'scrambling'-type activities, the confidence and ability of the participants, allied to the instructor's personal knowledge of them, are key factors in caving. These will generally determine whether or not these more hazardous ventures can be undertaken speedily and safely thus avoiding wet participants hanging around, cooling down, becoming demoralised, and risking hypothermia or increased risk of slip/trip/fall injury or deterioration in conditions</p> <p>There are often very good environmental and conservation reasons for considering smaller group sizes (but at least 4) in all cases, as recommended by the NCA.</p> <p>***If the group is a novice one, a competent assistant is always required. In other cases such an assistant is desirable</p> <p>The normal minimum qualification is CIC</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Intermediate Caving</u> (trips in caves, potholes or abandoned mines with <u>pitches less than 18m.</u></p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. younger children (particularly <15 yrs) no previous underground experience <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High water levels, causing noise, making communication and progress difficult. Cold water conditions (snow melt, flood etc) <p>Trip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has significant sections of tight passageways or other bottlenecks involves more than one pitch involves swimming sections involves pitches with waterfalls lacks frequent, large assembly areas is committing/inescapable is long (both time & distance) <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is only recently qualified has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>4 - 10</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> older (16+), responsible, well-behaved participants experienced cavers at this level <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low water levels and settled weather Presence of other parties in the cave <p>Trip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very familiar to the instructor is short overall is mainly dry has a range of options can be easily escaped/reversed pitches are straightforward with good dry assembly areas above & below other technical sections are short water noise is not a particular problem for communication <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> holds the CIC (or equivalent) award is very experienced, both personally and as an instructor to a much higher level than that demanded by the trip. ***has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult as well 	<p>As with other 'scrambling'-type activities, the confidence and ability of the participants, allied to the instructor's personal knowledge of them, are key factors in caving. These will generally determine whether or not systems with vertical sections can be undertaken speedily and safely thus avoiding wet participants hanging around, cooling down, becoming demoralised, and risking hypothermia or an increased risk of slip/trip/fall injury. There are often very good environmental and conservation reasons for considering smaller group sizes (but at least 4) in all cases, as recommended by the NCA. ***If the group is a novice one, a competent assistant is always required. In other cases such an assistant is desirable. The normal minimum qualification is Local Cave or Mine Leader Level 2. (LCMLA holders should only lead groups in individually approved sections of specified caves/mines)</p>

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<p><u>Basic Caving</u> (trips in cave or abandoned mines systems <u>without</u> pitches.)</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with special needs, including behavioural, physical or mental disability. younger children (particularly <10 yrs) no previous underground experience <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively high water levels, causing noise, making communication and progress difficult. Cold water conditions (snow melt, flood etc) <p>Trip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> has unavoidable sections of tight passageways or other bottlenecks involves unavoidable wet sections lacks frequent, large assembly areas is committing/inescapable is long (both time & distance) <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is relatively inexperienced either personally, or as a leader, at this level is only recently qualified has no additional adult or assistant 	<p>6 - 12</p>	<p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> older (14+), responsible, well-behaved participants young people with previous underground experience <p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low water levels Presence of other parties in the cave <p>Trip</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is very familiar to the instructor is short overall is mainly dry has a range of options can be easily escaped/reversed technical sections are short and/or optional water noise is not a particular problem for communication <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> holds a higher award than strictly necessary is very experienced, both personally and as an instructor to a much higher level than that demanded by the trip. has a competent assistant, and maybe a responsible adult as well 	<p>As with other 'scrambling'-type activities, the confidence and ability of the participants, allied to the instructor's personal knowledge of them, are key factors in caving. These will generally determine whether or not longer horizontal systems can be undertaken speedily and safely thus avoiding wet participants hanging around, cooling down, becoming demoralised, and risking hypothermia or increased risk of slip/trip injury</p> <p>There are often very good environmental and conservation reasons for considering smaller group sizes (but at least 4) in all cases, as recommended by the NCA. The normal minimum qualification is the Local Cave/Mine Leader Award Level 1. LCMLA holders should only lead groups in individually approved sections of specified caves/mines</p>