**Blue-Green Algae**

This is present in most inland waters within the UK.

Usually it poses no special threat.

However, from time to time this algae may form a pea soup type scum on the water, particularly in periods of warm weather and sometimes lasting for a few weeks. This is described as being in flower.

Whilst in flower, blue green algae is toxic and may cause a rash on contact, or an upset stomach if swallowed, pets having encountered blue green algae may die.

If blue green algae is noted, it is regarded as a hazard and attention shall be brought to all water users at the facility of the hazard and special precautions to be taken.

Contact should be avoided as far as possible i.e. no splashing, capsize drills etc.

The algae is wind blown and tends to pool in certain very visible places on water – these areas should be avoided. It is essential that users avoid contact with their mouths or food and have a good shower including thorough hand washing at the first opportunity, and certainly before eating food. Parents should be made aware of the risks and encouraged to take their children to the doctor if there are any signs of intestinal upset.

The decision as to whether to use the water rests with the instructor in charge of activities on any given day.

**All participants must:**

**Cover any cuts**

**Avoid Contact with Algae**

**Wash hands before eating food**

**Shower after an immersion**