

Risk Assessment

Event	RUNCORN ROWING CLUB Spring Head	Date:	Mar-26
Author		Version:	1.1



No:	Hazard	Reduce probability a Hazard causing a Hazardous Event		Hazardous Event	Reduce the Severity of Harm		Harm	Severity (1-5)	Probability (A-E)	Level of Risk (L/M/S/I)	Action Owners					
		Barriers	Action to maintain barriers		Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event / Race Committee	Event / Club WSA	Safety Launch Drivers	Coaches	Coxes / Others	
Water																
1	Rough Water prior to event.	Cancel Rowing if conditions unsafe	Rowing Safety Adviser decides if conditions are unsafe AND Guidance with criteria for unsafe conditions.	Capsize or swamping of boats.	The Race Committee on advice from the Rowing Safety Adviser may choose to curtail, alter or suspend the race.	Cancel event	Rower(s) get wet and cold, risk of hypothermia	4	D	Intolerable	X	X				
2	Fast Flowing Water (perhaps following heavy rain prior to event).	Cancel Rowing if conditions unsafe	Rowing Safety Adviser decides if conditions are unsafe AND Guidance with criteria for unsafe conditions.	Crew(s) cannot steer effectively.	The Race Committee on advice from the Rowing Safety Adviser may choose to curtail, alter or suspend the race.	Cancel event	Rower(s) get tired and frightened	4	D	Intolerable	X	X				
3	Rough Water during event.	Stay in Sheltered Waters AND Cancel Rowing if conditions unsafe	The Race Committee on advice from the Rowing Safety Adviser may choose to curtail, alter or suspend the race. All competitors are members of Rowing Clubs affiliated to British Rowing and will have been taught procedures to deal with capsize. Qualified umpires and use of Safety Launches. Qualified Safety Launch Drivers. Event Safety Plan details emergency procedures for imminent danger to loss of life.	Capsize or swamping of boats.	The Race Committee on advice from the Rowing Safety Adviser may choose to curtail, alter or suspend the race. All competitors are members of Rowing Clubs affiliated to British Rowing and will have been taught procedures to deal with capsize.	Qualified umpires and use of Safety Launches. All launch drivers will have a RYA National Powerboat Level 2 Certificate and are in radio contact with Race Control, who can summon 1st aid if required. Coxes wear life jackets and athletes are coached in capsize and person (man) overboard drills.	Rower(s) get wet and cold, risk of hypothermia	2	D	Moderate	X	X	X			X
Weather																

[illegible]

1	Other rowing boats on the river	Rowers comply with the navigation rules AND keep a good lookout. Safety launches positioned along the course observe the rowing boats.	Navigation rules communicated during coxes briefings and reminders to members to keep a good lookout.	Collision with another rowing boat.	Marshalls, Safety Launches positioned throughout the course.	All competitors are members of Rowing Clubs affiliated to British Rowing and will have been taught procedures to deal with capsized. Qualified umpires, marshals and Safety Launches marshal competitors up to the Start. Experienced Marshalls supervise the start marshalling areas above the Start. All launch drivers will have a RYA National Powerboat Level 2 Certificate and are in radio contact with Race Control, who can summon 1st aid if required. Coxes wear life jackets and athletes are coached in capsized and person (man) overboard drills. Coxes wear life jackets and athletes are coached in capsized and person (man) overboard drills.	Capsized, Injury or Boat Damage.	2	D	Moderate	X	X	X	X	X
2	Other boats on the river - pleasure craft and commercial vessels.	Rowers comply with the navigation rules AND keep a good lookout. Safety launches positioned along the course observe all boats and other craft & vessels.	Navigation rules communicated during coxes briefings and reminders to members to keep a good lookout.	Collision with a boat.	Marshalls, Safety Launches positioned at the Start & Finish and throughout the course.	All competitors are members of Rowing Clubs affiliated to British Rowing and will have been taught procedures to deal with capsized. Qualified umpires, marshals and Safety Launches marshal competitors up to the Start. Experienced Marshalls supervise the start marshalling areas above the Start. All launch drivers will have a RYA National Powerboat Level 2 Certificate and are in radio contact with Race Control, who can summon 1st aid if required. Marshalls, umpires and safety launch drivers are in contact with Race Control to communicate the presence and movement of other vessels. Coxes wear life jackets and athletes are coached in capsized and person (man) overboard drills. Marshalls in a safety launch are also positioned at the Finish.	Capsized, Injury or Boat Damage.	2	D	Moderate	X	X	X	X	X
Local Environment															
1	Taking the wrong course (at Frodsham Cut or at Frodsham Sluices channel).	Rowers comply with the navigation rules AND keep a good lookout	Navigation rules communicated during coxes briefings and reminders to members to keep a good lookout. Safety launch positioned+A7 upstream of hazard.	Rowing into sluices or over weir.	The 2 cuts each have an Umpire and safety boat at that point to warn Competitors.	Coxes and scullers are briefed prior to the race. Clubs are sent a map of the course as part of the Event Safety Plan. Crews can evaluate the hazard on their way upstream to the Start. These cuts are marked off with lines of red buoys for the race (other buoys placed at occasional hazards as needed, or hazards removed). Coxes wear life jackets and athletes are coached in capsized and person (man) overboard drills. The 2 cuts each have an Umpire and safety boat at that point to warn Competitors.	Capsized, Injury or Boat Damage.	4	B	Moderate		X	X	X	X
2	Traffic on the parking areas.	Crews comply with Parking Marshalls Instructions.	Parking Marshalls communicate with crews.	Collision with vehicles and trailers.	Provision of first aid AND quarantine damaged boats.	Area marshalled by members of RRC. Traffic marshalls are in radio contact with each other, and with Race Control.	Injury or Boat Damage	2	C	Low	X			X	X

3	Chemical incident at local chemical works.	Clubs communicate to crews.	Details of response are provided in the Event Safety Plan sent to all Clubs and Umpires attending.	Chemical leak.	Chemical Factory are informed when races are scheduled and we become part of their off-site Emergency Plan.	The event has a Public Address system in the boathouse / boat-trailer park area and marshals are present to control competitors. Details of response are provided in the Event Safety Plan sent to all Clubs and Umpires attending.	Chemical exposure.	5	A	Moderate	X	X			X	
4	Overhanging trees	Communicate rowers to keep a good lookout and stay away from the trees.	Signs and displays, reminders to rowers and coaches AND mark on navigation plan AND Orange warning markers placed on some overhanging trees	Rowing into a tree and becoming entangled	First aid treatment.	Maintain First Aid equipment.	Minor injury (scratches).	2	B	Low	X	X	X			X
5	Invasive species control (e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Floating Pennywort, Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam)	Follow the biosecurity routine of "Check, Clean, Dry" for boats, equipment and clothing.	Check boats, other equipment and clothing after leaving the water for mud, plant material or aquatic animals. Remove anything found and leave it at the site. Clean everything thoroughly, then dry before using elsewhere.	Invasive non-native species colonise the river, potentially blocking the waterway. Species that grow on the banks outcompete native species but die off in winter, increasing erosion of the banks. Giant hogweed is hazardous to towpath users.	Remove any mud, plant material or aquatic animals found on boats, equipment and clothing and leave it at the site.	Ensure that all crews and spectators are aware of the need to follow the "Check, Clean, Dry" biosecurity routine.	Potential blockage of the waterway by species such as Floating Pennywort. Risk to towpath users (e.g. spectators) of species such as Giant Hogweed.	4	A	Low	X	X			X	X
	6	Biological contamination of the water	Rowers avoid undue skin contact with the water, cuts and scratches are kept covered	Information from Notices and at Coxes Briefing.	Contact with Biological contamination of the water	Availability of showers and washing facilities, infected rowers seek medical attention.	Provision by Event Committee. Information for rowers.	Water borne diseases (e.g. Weil's disease).	3	B	Low	X	X	X	X	X
Going afloat and landing																
1	Slippery (muddy) surface on the Landing Stage.	Reliance on vigilance of coaches, rowers , coxes and Landing Stage Marshalls.	briefings and reminders to rowers and coaches	Slips when launching or recovering boats.	Provision of first aid.	Maintain training and equipment.	Minor injury, potential damage to boat.	2	C	Low		X			X	X
Around the boathouse (including handling boats on land)																
1	Boat Handling	Clubs train rowers how to handle boats correctly	Competitors are generally experienced members of rowing clubs	Injury caused by boat handling on land	Provision of first aid AND quarantine damaged boats.	Maintain First Aid training and equipment.	Minor injury, potential damage to boat	2	C	Low	X	X			X	X
2	Trailer loading and unloading	Clubs train members how to load boat trailers.	Briefings and reminders to members. Parking Marshalls communicate with crews.	Injury caused when loading boat trailers.	Provision of first aid AND quarantine damaged boats.	Maintain First Aid training and equipment.	Minor injury, potential damage to boat	2	B	Low						
3	Fire	The event has a Public Address system in the boathouse.	Briefings and reminders.	Injury caused by fire.	Fire extinguishers are available. Fire Brigade will be called in an emergency.	Boat-trailer park area and Marshals are present to control competitors. Details of response are provided in the Event Safety Plan sent to all Clubs and Umpires attending.	Major Injury.	4	B	Moderate	X	X			X	X
4	Interaction.	Crews keep a good lookout when handling boats.	Parking Marshalls and Crew Call communicate.	Collision between competitors and spectators.	Provision of first aid.	Parking Marshalls and Crew Call throughout trailer area.	Minor Injury.	2	B	Low	X	X			X	X
Faulty, incorrectly set and poorly maintained equipment																

1	Gate not correctly closed.	Check boats before going afloat.	Notices and reminders to rowers and coaches.	Scull or oar comes out of gate	Participating clubs to ensure all rowers have done a swim test and a capsizing drill. AND teach the Buddy Rescue Technique AND provide safety launches with qualified drivers AND provision of first aid.	Qualified umpires and use of Safety Launches. All launch drivers will have a RYA National Powerboat Level 2 Certificate and are in radio contact with Race Control, who can summon 1st aid if required. Coxes wear life jackets and athletes are coached in capsizing and person (man) overboard drills.	Capsizing	3	B	Low					X	X
2	Boat not correctly set up and adjusted for rower.	Ensure correct adjustment before going afloat.	Notice and reminders to rowers and coaches.	Rowers suffers musculo-skeletal injury.	Provide First Aid treatment and possibly provide physiotherapy or other appropriate treatment.	Maintain First Aid training and equipment.	Musculo-skeletal injury	2	C	Low					X	X
Pre-existing health conditions and low levels of fitness																
1	Sudden Illness	None.		Illness or collapse of a rower on land	1 st aid provision in each safety launch, or someone who can administer CPR. All safety launches carry a First Aid kit. AED positioned at mid-point on the course	Maintain training and equipment.	Unknown health effects	2	B	Low	X	X	X	X		
Other																
1	Inexperienced coxes or rowers.	Clubs provide suitable training.	Rowers attend regular training sessions.	Capsizing or collision.	All competitors are members of Rowing Clubs affiliated to British Rowing	The whole course is observed by marshals, safety boats or umpires with 2-way radios. They can provide advice to a steerer, warn officials downstream by radio about badly-steered boats, or hold a crew at the side of the river till the end of a division and then get a safety launch to accompany them back to the landing stages, if they are judged a hazard to others (e.g. due to steering equipment problems). An extended coxes & steerers briefing is held prior to each race to explain these hazards. A large scale (2 metre x 3 metre) annotated banner map of river (ex-Ordnance Survey) is provided to this briefing. Buoys provided on hazards. Temporary hazard markers on overhanging trees (near Catton Hall). Coxes wear life jackets and athletes are coached in capsizing and person (man) overboard drills.	Capsizing, Injury or Boat Damage.	3	A	Low	X	X	X	X	X	
2	Transport of boats by road.	Care by car and/or trailer drivers.	Information and guidance to drivers AND maintenance of trailers by participating clubs.	Collision when transporting boats.	Provision of first aid AND quarantine damaged boats.	Maintain First Aid training and equipment AND maintain boat repair equipment and skills.	Potential injury, damage to boats.	3	B	Low					X	X

Note

All boats are to be licensed with the Canal & River Trust.