


Risk Assessment																							
Event		Northwich RC Autumn HARR 2024						Date:			3/11/25												
Author		Event Rowing Safety Advisor						Rev:			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 Committee	Event RSA	Officials & Marshalls	Control Commissions	Other								
Water																							
1	Boats afloat for practice	Practice not permitted in Head format			Safety plan and instructions to competitors advise crews that practice sessions are not permitted	Send Safety plans to clubs and instruct them to inform their crews. Display safety plan.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	B	Low	X												
2	Boats returning to landing stage following faults	Marshalls to ensure boats are checked before launching for other hazards not part of scrutineering	Ensure crews are briefed on procedures for returning to landing stage	Collision with boats proceeding to start not expecting other traffic	Stewards will warn all crews of returning boats.	Ensure returning boats follow rules of the river	Collision	2	B	Low	X		X	X									
3	Boats afloat for racing	Coaches and crews must have read the Notes for Officials and Crews and be aware of boating procedures before going afloat for racing.	Prepare and provide safety briefing and inform coaches and crews that they must read it.	Capsize or sinking during a race	Every race will be supervised by Marshalls.	Ensure that there are sufficient Officials have sufficient visibility upstream and downstream, and understand their boundaries of responsibility.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	C	Moderate	X	X											
4				Collision or other emergency whist boats are afloat	A fully equipped rescue launch manned by lifesavers is also in attendance at all times.	Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.		2	C	Moderate	X												
5				Cox wearing incorrect lifejacket for style of boat	Coxes' life jackets checked by Officials prior to going afloat to race.	Ensure that Officials checking equipment have instructions and a checklist		2	C	Moderate			X	X									
6	Water Level/Flow/Debris	Conditions are assessed by Race Committee before each launch commences.	Brief crews if flows are high but manageable.	High or Low water levels, danger to boating	C&R Trust have the ability to control water levels at short notice	Ensure race committee have appropriate contacts		2	A	Low	X	X	X	X									
7				Weed, visible and invisible	Pennywort floats and is managed actively, hidden weed is more difficult to identify	Rescue boats will check for weeds and other hazards		2	A	Low	X	X	X	X									
8	Boat without sealed buoyancy compartments sinking.	Boat without sealed buoyancy compartments to have buoyancy bags.	Pre-boating safety check.	Submersion			Cold water submersion.	2	D	Low			X				X						
Weather																							
1	Sudden bad weather causing un-rowable and/or dangerous conditions	Any key race official will stop racing. Any crews on the water will be moved into the most sheltered area and shepherded back to the landing stages by rescue boats.		Boats capsize or are swamped	Rescue launches are in attendance at key strategic points on the course and are all equipped with two way radios.	Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	3	C	Moderate	X	X											
2				Crew or Coxes trapped in boat	Coxes' life jackets checked by Officials prior to going afloat to race. Particular attention paid to "front loader" boats.	Ensure that Officials checking equipment have instructions and a checklist		3	C	Moderate	X	X			X								

3	Cold Weather (Winter Event)	Poor weather scheduled not severe enough to cancel event	Race Commission to monitor weather forecast	Crews and Officials cold and wet leading to Hypothermia	Ensure all crews and Officials have adequate clothing	Race Committee and Safety Advisor to monitor developing weather patterns and consider actions including lulling crew types for racing.	Hypothermia	3	C	Moderate	X	X		X	
4	Possibility of electrical storm	Provisions laid down in the document "Developing an action plan for risk from lightning" available from British Rowing to be followed:-	Ensure that Marshals, Officials, Coaches and crews are adequately briefed.	Rower or official struck by lightning	Provisions for first aid, medical treatment, and casualty evacuation to hospital.	Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped.	Electrical burns, shock	3	B	Low	X				
5		"Suspension and resumption of racing should follow the 30/30 rule: racing should stop when the flash-to-bang count is 30 seconds, and should not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning."	Any variation from 30/30 rule to be agreed unanimously by Event Chairman, Safety Adviser, Starter, Race Committee Chairman and all members of Race Committee.					3	B	Low	X	X			
6		All crews to leave the water immediately, instructions from Safety Adviser or Race Committee Chairman using radios in rescue launches. Transport to be available to move rowers from the bank to areas of safety.	Ensure that Marshals, officials, Coaches and crews are adequately briefed.					3	B	Low	X				
	Weather not suitable for event.	Event will be cancelled if there are any met office weather warnings.	RSA will subscribe to met office alerts.	Capsize, general unsafe conditions for handling boats.				2	D	Moderate	X	X			
Other water users															
1	Many Boats on the water	Marshals with megaphones and 2-way radios located at key points of the course to be vigilant for potential collisions and to take actions to minimise any collisions.	Ensure that Marshals are properly equipped and briefed	Collision	Bow balls, heel restraints and buoyancy compartment aids may be inspected prior to going afloat to race.	Include in briefing for Control Commission		2	C	Low	X		X		
2		No warming up or practice starts are allowed in the navigation channel.	Ensure that this is included in the information and briefing to coaches and crews.		Competitors and coaches are responsible for ensuring that their boats are safe and are prepared to the required standards at all times including practice.	Include in information to Clubs					X	X			
3		No crews are allowed on to the course unless for a race itself.	Ensure that this is included in the information and briefing to coaches and crews.								X				
4		Pleasure craft are not normally in use at this time of year, and existing boat users are warned of the event.	Ensure Marshalls understand the significance of this instruction.		Canal and River Trust to authorise marshalls to enforce and inform of any breaches.	Distribute notices to local river users with information about temporary closures.					X				
5	Racing	In accordance with British Rowing's rules of racing.	Include this fact in information for competitors	Collision between 2 racing crews during a race	If a clash becomes serious and is likely to damage equipment or athletes, the Marshall should stop the race.	Ensure that Officials are properly equipped and briefed		3	B	Low	X				
6		Marshalls at stations along the course to instruct the crews to move apart (or for one out-of-station crew to move into their own water).	Remind Marshalls								X				
7	Racing			Injury of athlete during a race (e.g., hit by blade as a result of a crab, hit by another boat in a collision, etc.)	Official contacts Race Control, who summons lifeguards and safety boat to assist and alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio.	Ensure that Officials and Race Control are properly equipped and briefed		3	B	Low	X				

8	Other river traffic	Effective marshalling	Umpires, safety boats and lock keepers in radio contact to coordinate other traffic. Officials to maintain a lookout of the course.	Collision between racing crews and other river users.	Safety boats with first aid kits stationed along the course.		Collision/ capsiz.	2	C	Low	X	X	X	X	X
Local Environment															
1	Overhanging trees and reed beds on the route to the start	Warn crews and scullers to avoid trees and reedbeds	Include in briefing to competitors and marshals	Crews or scullers blown into the overhanging trees	Assist with safety launch	Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Rowers entangled in tree or reeds (minor inconvenience, no damage)	1	C	Low	X				
2	Weils Disease and other waterborne infections	Remind water users of the risk.		Capsize or other entry in to the water	Ensure all water users wash hands after being afloat	Washing Facilities include soap and water.	Weils Disease. Other stomach infections.	2	E	Low	X	X	X		
3	Trailers in congested car park.	Trailer drivers reminded to use caution.		Trailer striking person or property		First aiders on site.	Injury or property damage.	3	B	Low	X	X	X	X	X
4	Invasive species	All clubs to be aware of check, clean, dry. Both before and after the event.	https://www.nonnativespecies.org/what-can-i-do/check-clean-dry	Introducing an invasive species		Notify the CRT of any unusual river conditions	Invasive species in the environment	1	B	Low	X	X	X	X	X
Going afloat and landing															
1	Congestion in the boating area	Crews are to be called for boating strictly by rotation and in sequence.	Ensure that Marshalls, coaches and crews are adequately briefed	Collision in boating area	If rescue is required, this will be co-ordinated by Regatta Control via 2-way radios.	Ensure that Marshalls are properly equipped (radios, throw lines, etc.) and adequately briefed.	Minor injury or Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	C	Low	X				
Handling boats on land															
1	Boats being moved in the presence of pedestrians and cyclists	Public space, no restrictions on public movements	Include in briefing to competitors and marshals	Collision of boat or cyclist with pedestrian.	Marshall contacts Race Control, who summons alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio.	Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped. Check that radios work properly and that users are competent to use them.	Slight physical injury	2	C	Low	X				
2		Marshals and coaches to supervise boat movements at all times	Include in briefing to competitors and marshals	Collision of boat or cyclist with pedestrian.											
Faulty, incorrectly set and poorly maintained equipment															
1	Failure of Rescue launch	All rescue boats and engines checked in week prior to event. Race will continue; Marshalls have full sight of the course from the start line and can use megaphone to control most of the race – finish judges to take control over last 150m.		Launch breaks down during a race	Any available launches in the vicinity will take over the duties	Ensure that launch drivers are appropriately briefed.		2	B	Low	X				
2					Launch driver will radio to Race Control to advise of problem; Race control to summon rescue launch to retrieve the broken-down launch and recover to the boat house for repair.	Ensure that communications are effective.		2	B	Low	X				
	Gas leak	Well maintained equipment	Regular servicing by a qualified engineer.	Carbon monoxide(CO) leak	CO monitor installed in clubhouse.	Procedure printed next to monitor explaining steps to be taken if alarm sounds.	CO poisoning	2	A	Low		X			X
Pre-existing health conditions and low levels of fitness															
1				Collapse of athlete on landing stages (e.g., asthma attack or serious fall)	Official contacts Race Control, who summons lifeguards and safety boat to assist and alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio.	Ensure that Officials are properly briefed and equipped and that there are competent, well equipped first aiders, etc.	Serious health implications for competitor	3	B	Low	X	X			

2	Pre-existing health conditions	Clubs are required to ensure athletes are competent and fit to complete the course.	When entering a crew, the coach must declare if an athlete has a known risk for collapsing.	Collapse of athlete during a race (e.g., asthma attack)	Official contacts Race Control, who summons lifeguards and safety boat to assist and alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio.	Ensure that all Officials are properly briefed and equipped and that there are competent, well equipped first aiders, etc.	Serious health implications for competitor	3	C	Moderate	X	X	X		
				Incapacitation	Official contacts Race Control, who summons lifeguards and safety boat to assist and alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio.	Ensure that all Officials are properly briefed and equipped and that there are competent, well equipped first aiders, etc.	Serious health implications for competitor	3	C	Moderate	X	X	X		X
Other															
1	Use of towpath by cyclists and pedestrians	Cycling is permitted in the spectators' area.	Ensure that Marshalls, coaches and crews are adequately briefed	Collision involving cyclists and pedestrians on the towpath	Provisions for first aid, medical treatment, and casualty evacuation to hospital.	Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped. Check that radios work properly and that users are competent to use them.	Minor injury to spectators and cyclists	2	B	Low	X				
2	Fire in the buildings	Cooking is taking place	Safe operation of cookers	Fire around cooking area	Ensure Fire Extinguishers are easily to hand	Ensure Tea Tent operators know where fire extinguishers are located and how to raise the alarm (horn)	Serious damage to people and buildings.	3	B	Low			X		X
3	Fire whilst refuelling	Boats may need refuelling during the event	Refuelling must be ashore	Spillage or Fire	Refuel ashore, use appropriate funnels, ensure fire extinguishers are available	Ensure Fire Extinguishers are correct type (not water)	Damage to person refuelling	2	B	Low		X	X		
4	Obstruction of Marshals sight lines by Spectators			Marshalls are unable to supervise boat movements	Ensure barriers are in place around marshalls stations	Ensure they remain in place throughout the event		2	B	Low	X				
5	Safeguarding	Marshalls and Coaches are unaware of the welfare officer details	Ensure Welfare Officer details are in the safety notes	Complaint by competitor or coach	Ensure complaints are handled appropriately	Keep a record of complaints	Welfare issues	2	A	Low	X	X	X		
6	Safeguarding			Suspicious Activity or filming	Approved or known photographers	Check identity	Publication of pictures without permission	2	B	Low	X	X	X		
7	Slips, trips and falls.	Keep the landing stage clear of blades, shoes and trestles	Marshals stationed on the landing stage to aid boating and monitor.		First aider stationed at the club house.		Injury	3	C	Moderate	X	X			X
Notes: 1. All boats will be licensed.	Antisocial behaviour.	Issue warning of a penalty to competitors.	Umpires along the course and marshals in boating areas. Welfare officer at event.	Abuse/bullying.	Contact club representative to discuss issue/ involve police if a serious incident.	Welfare officer present at event.	Abuse.	2	B	Low	X	X			X
9	Invasive species introduction to the river.	https://www.nonnativespecies.org/what-can-i-do/check-clean-dry/		Harm to ecosystem	Notify the CRT of unusual species		Harm to ecosystem.	1	A	Low	X	X			X

			Intolerable	An unacceptable level of risk. Improve the barriers/controls and Do not start or continue the act
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Probability			
A	B	C	D
Highly improbable <i>(has not been known to happen in rowing)</i>	Improbable <i>(has been known to happen in rowing)</i>	Possible <i>(could happen to about 1% of the club's active members per decade)</i>	Probable <i>(could happen to about 1% of the club's active members per year)</i>
Low	Low	Low	Low
Low	Low	Low	Moderate
Low	Low	Moderate	Substantial
Low	Moderate	Substantial	Intolerable
Moderate	Substantial	Intolerable	Intolerable

are required.
t check that the current barriers/controls remain effective.

should be reviewed.
ontrols to reduce the risk if the opportunity arises.
th care.

nd allocate resources to reduce the risk.
ivity until the risk has been reduced.

nd allocate resources to reduce the risk.
ivity until the risk has been reduced. Prohibit the activity if it is not possible to reduce the risk.

E

Highly probable (<i>could happen to about 10% of the club's active members per year</i>)

Moderate

Substantial

Intolerable

Intolerable

Intolerable

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1	A		Phone to summon assistance
2	B		Navigation rules
3	C		Cox, bow steer competence
4	D		Club rescue launch
5	E		
1A	Low		
1B	Low		
1C	Low		
1D	Low		
1E	Moderate		
2A	Low		
2B	Low		
2C	Low		
2D	Moderate		
2E	Substantial		
3A	Low		
3B	Low		
3C	Moderate		
3D	Substantial		
3E	Intolerable		
4A	Low		
4B	Moderate		
4C	Substantial		
4D	Intolerable		
4E	Intolerable		
5A	Moderate		
5B	Substantial		
5C	Intolerable		
5D	Intolerable		
5E	Intolerable		

Event Committee	Event RSA
Prepare and provide safety briefing and inform coaches and crews that they must read it.	
Send Safety plans to clubs and instruct them to inform their crews. Display safety plan.	
Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover.	Check safety equipment prior to use.
Ensure that there are sufficient Umpire's launches.	Ensure that launch drivers are appropriately briefed.
Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped.	
Ensure that Marshals, Umpires, Coaches and crews are adequately briefed on response to lightning	
Any variation from 30/30 rule to be agreed unanimously by Event Chairman, Safety Adviser, Starter. Race Committee Chairman and all members of Race Committee.	
Ensure that Umpires are properly equipped and briefed	
Ensure that Warning notices are displayed for pleasure craft at each end of the regatta course, requesting craft to travel at very slow speed.	
Ensure that Umpires and Race Control are properly equipped and briefed	
Ensure that Marshalls are properly equipped (throw lines, etc.) and adequately briefed.	
Ensure that communications are effective.	
Ensure that caterers are adequately briefed (on plastic "glasses")	

Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions
	Ensure that Umpires checking equipment have instructions and a checklist

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