



LIVERPOOL VICTORIA ROWING CLUB – GENERAL ROWING RISK ASSESSMENT

West Float, Wallasey/Birkenhead

This risk assessment is prepared in accordance with the recommendations and standards set out in the British Rowing's 'Row Safe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing' ('Row Safe').

Risk Assessment Matrix Principles

PROBABILITY OF ACCIDENTS	SEVERITY OF OUTCOME		
	Slightly harmful (Low)	Harmful (Medium)	Extremely harmful (High)
Highly unlikely (Low)	Trivial Risk	Tolerable Risk	Moderate Risk
Unlikely (Medium)	Tolerable Risk	Moderate Risk	Substantial Risk
Likely (High)	Moderate Risk	Substantial Risk	Intolerable Risk

Risks and Actions

RISK LEVEL	ACTION AND TIMESCALE
Trivial	No action required
Tolerable	No additional controls are required. Consideration may be given to a more effective solution or improvement.
Moderate	Efforts should be made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period. Where the moderate risk is associated with harmful/serious consequences further assessment may be necessary to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the need for continued control measures.
Substantial	The activity should not be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may have to be allocated to reduce the risk. Where the risk involves activity already in progress, urgent action should be taken.
Intolerable	Activity should not be started or continued until the risk has been reduced. If it is not possible to reduce risk even with unlimited resources, activity has to remain prohibited.

General rowing activity is carried out at the West Float in Wallasey/Birkenhead. Although rowing activity is carried out on a commercial dock, close liaison is maintained with the Dockmaster to ensure that no commercial shipping movements will conflict with rowing activity. If there is a commercial shipping movement on the water used by the rowing club, rowing may be suspended or abandoned, as appropriate. There is no risk of strong stream conditions and any variation in water level will not affect rowing or embarkation, as the landing pontoon can rise and fall with the water level, on fixed guides. All land-based activity is on concrete or tarmac hard-surfaced areas. Separate risk assessments have been prepared for the two open racing events carried out on the West Float: Merseyside Regatta, held at the beginning of May each year and the Head of the Float, held at the beginning of December each year. These risk assessments are reviewed before each event.

Land Based

	PROBABILITY	SEVERITY OF OUTCOME	RISK	ACTION
OCCURRENCE	Highly Unlikely Unlikely Likely	Slightly Harmful Harmful Extremely Harmful	Trivial Tolerable Moderate Substantial Intolerable	
Vehicle/Pedestrian/Trailer collisions	Highly Unlikely	Harmful	Tolerable	Vehicles and Trailers parked in managed areas off road. Vehicle parking separate from trailer parking.
Minor injuries caused during rigging etc.	Unlikely	Slightly Harmful	Tolerable	Provide First Aid cover.
Collisions between pedestrians and crews manoeuvring on land	Likely	Slightly Harmful	Moderate	Reliance on competency of crews and coaches. Boat rigging area managed to leave corridor for pedestrians.
General trips and falls	Unlikely	Slightly Harmful	Tolerable	Blades to be stored on racks against fence backing landing stage.
Participants falling into dock	Unlikely	Extremely Harmful	Substantial Risk	Life rings and throw lines available. Safety boats on water. All participants to undergo capsize drill and satisfy coaches and club officers of swimming

				competence (being able to swim at least 100m in light clothing)
Fatal illness	Highly Unlikely	Extremely Harmful	Moderate	First Aid present and telephone to Emergency Services.
Dangers from electrical equipment, computers, cabling on ground	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	All electrical equipment powered from boathouse. All circuits protected by RCD unit.
Dangers from inclement weather – thunder and lightning, snow and ice	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	All pedestrians to shelter in building. No crews to remain on water during storm (see later section on action to be taken during thunderstorms).
Fire in boathouse	Highly Unlikely	Harmful	Tolerable	Marked Fire Exits and Fire Extinguishers. Telephone to Emergency Services. Rear fire escape opened before any participant uses the boathouse.
Vehicle Fire	Highly Unlikely	Harmful	Tolerable	Fire Extinguishers in boathouse.
Bomb warning	Highly Unlikely	Harmful	Tolerable	Evacuation of area by announcement on PA and loudhailers.
Boat trailers falling into dock	Highly Unlikely	Slightly Harmful	Trivial Risk	Vehicles and Trailers parked in managed

				area off road away from dock edge.
Major injury to participant or spectator on site	Highly Unlikely	Extremely Harmful	Moderate	First Aid present and telephone to Emergency Services.
Minor injury to participant or spectator on site	Unlikely	Slightly Harmful	Tolerable	First Aid present. All participants to be coached on correct technique for boat handling, rowing and indoor rowing/training.
Vehicle collision at egress from LVRC site	Unlikely	Extremely Harmful	Substantial	Drivers to exercise due care on exit from site.
Slips, trips, falls due to spillage on hardstanding/landing stage	Unlikely	Slightly Harmful	Tolerable	Hardstanding and landing stage to be inspected before each rowing session. Regular cleaning of hardstanding and landing stage.
Slips due to ice on hardstanding	Unlikely	Slightly Harmful	Tolerable	Hardstanding to be inspected before rowing session in winter. Salt available to be spread on affected areas.
Contracting Weils disease due to contact with infected areas	Unlikely	Extremely Harmful	Substantial Risk	All participants warned of the need for good hygiene, including washing hands after contact with floors, equipment and dock water. All cuts and

				abrasions to be cleaned and covered with waterproof dressings. All participants to be advised that medical attention should be sought if cramps, fever or flu-like symptoms develop after activity.

Water Based

All boat movements on the water are covered by British Rowing's Row Safe. Row Safe applies to all participants, who are responsible for following the standards and recommendations set out therein. All coaches and club officers enforce these standards and recommendations when actual or likely failure is observed.

Equipment failure whilst on water	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Crews and coaches to examine boats before crews boat. Safety boats to be within hailing distance to effect on-water repairs. If necessary crew will be escorted back to landing stage and repairs effected there. Rowing suspended as appropriate.
Collision between crews training on water	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Circulation pattern in place. No crew allowed to boat before safety boats in position. Circulation pattern enforced by coaches and club officers.
Long wait on water, giving potential for hypothermia	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Circulation pattern allows crews to keep on the move. Coaches and club officers to prevent inadequately dressed crews from boating, dependent upon

				prevailing conditions. Programme of training to be implemented by coaches to prevent long waiting times on the water.
Mild to moderate hypothermia experienced by participants	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Coaches and club officers to be trained in First Aid and will alert emergency services if necessary. Dedicated warm room in boathouse. Coaches and club officers to prevent inadequately dressed crews from boating, dependent upon prevailing conditions.
Severe hypothermia following immersion	Unlikely	Extremely Harmful	Substantial Risk	Coaches and club officers to be trained in First Aid team and will alert emergency services if necessary. Dedicated warm room in boathouse. Coaches and club officers to prevent inadequately dressed crews from boating, dependent upon prevailing conditions.
Crew member falling ill/sustaining injury	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Coaches and club officers to observe all

whilst still in boat				crews on water and Safety Boat to be on water, manned. Safety Boat to convey casualty to landing stage for medical attention. Rowing suspended until Safety Boat cover is restored to other participants.
Participant falling out of boat. Risk of drowning/hypothermia	Unlikely	Extremely Harmful	Substantial Risk	Coaches and club officers to observe all crews on water and Safety Boat to be on water, manned. Safety Boat to convey casualty to landing stage for medical attention. Rowing suspended until Safety Boat cover is restored to other participants. All coxes and Safety Boat crew and passengers to wear appropriate PFD (personal flotation devices). Inexperienced junior rowers may also be required to wear PFD. All participants to undergo regular capsized drill and to satisfy

				coaches and club officers of their swimming competence (able to swim at least 100m in light clothing).
Failure of engine on safety boat	Unlikely	Slightly Harmful	Tolerable Risk	Coaches and club officers to ensure that engine and safety boat in good condition before activity takes place. Paddle provided in safety boat. Rowing suspended until Safety Boat cover is restored to participants.
Wind causing 'sinking' conditions ie 'white horses'	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Coaches and club officers to take decision to shorten course used for rowing/suspend/abandon rowing as necessary. Crews afloat will be escorted back to landing stages by Safety Boat. All rowing boats to be inspected for efficiency of buoyancy compartments by coaches and crews before being allowed on water.
Thunder and lightning	Unlikely	Extremely Harmful	Substantial Risk	If closer than 6 miles (lightning/thunder gap <

				30 sec), rowing suspended and all crews removed from water. Rowing resumed after 30 minutes of no lightning/thunder (30/30 rule).
Very cold weather, ice and snow	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Salt grit available. Coaches and club officers to assess continuing viability of rowing activity and to consider abandonment of activity or restriction to older/less vulnerable participants.
Commercial traffic on water	Highly Unlikely	Harmful	Tolerable	Dockmaster is consulted each day by telephone before first crew takes to water. Coaches and club officers to determine whether to limit/suspend/abandon rowing activity as necessary.
Collisions between boats due to poor visibility (fog, night-time)	Highly Unlikely	Harmful	Tolerable	Coaches and club officers to assess visibility before each rowing activity session and limit/suspend/abandon rowing activity as necessary. Night-time rowing strictly

				limited to experience, adult crews under separate club rules and stringent conditions.
Contracting Weils disease due to contact with infected areas	Unlikely	Extremely Harmful	Substantial Risk	All participants warned of the need for good hygiene, including washing hands after contact with floors, equipment and dock water. All cuts and abrasions to be cleaned and covered with waterproof dressings. All participants to be advised that medical attention should be sought if cramps, fever or flu-like symptoms develop after activity.
Contracting infection due to contact with Escherica coli (e coli) from infected water	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	All participants warned of the need for good hygiene, including washing hands with soap and warm water after boating and contact with equipment and dock water. All cuts and abrasions to be cleaned and covered with waterproof dressings. All contaminated kit to be

				washed as soon as possible. All participants to be advised that medical attention should be sought if diarrhoea, abdominal cramps, blood in stools, vomiting, fever or flu-like symptoms develop after activity.
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