

Risk Assessment

Event	Head of the Float 2019	Date:	12th September 2019
Author	Event Rowing Safety Advisor	Rev:	1



Head of the Float 2019 will be held at the West Float in Wallasey/Birkenhead. Although the event is held on a commercial dock, close liaison is held with the Dockmaster to ensure that no commercial shipping movements will occur during the event. If there is a commercial shipping movement on the racing course, racing will be suspended or abandoned, as appropriate. There is no risk of strong stream conditions and any variation in water level will not affect racing 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. This Risk Assessment should be read alongside the Event Safety Plan and the Event Emergency Response Plan.

No:	Hazard	Reduce probability of 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	Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other						
Water																					
1	Boats afloat for practice	Coaches and crews must have read the Safety Briefing and circulation plan before going afloat for practise or racing.	Prepare and provide safety briefing and inform coaches and crews that they must read it.	Capsize or sinking during practice	Safety plan and instructions to competitors advise crews that they must not go afloat unless there is a rescue boat on the course.	Send Event Safety Plan and Event Emergency Response Plan to clubs and instruct them to inform their crews. Display safety plan.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	C	Low	X										
2					Rescue launches manned by lifesavers are in attendance at all times crews are on the water. All safety launches are in 2-way radio contact at all times.	Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.					X	X									
3					Coxes' life jackets checked by Umpires prior to going afloat to race. Particular attention paid to "front loader" boats.	Ensure that Umpires checking equipment have instructions and a checklist									X						
4	Boats afloat for racing	Coaches and crews must have read the Safety Briefing and circulation plan before going afloat for practise or 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 monitored by bank-based umpires.	Ensure that there are sufficient rescue launches and that drivers are appropriately briefed.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	C	Low	X	X									
5					Coxes' life jackets checked by Umpires prior to going afloat to race.	Ensure that Umpires checking equipment have instructions and a checklist									X						
6	Commercial traffic on water	No rowing boats to be on water in potentially conflicting situations with commercial traffic	Dockmaster is consulted before racing and is in telephone and VHF radio contact with Event Rowing Safety Advisor	Near miss or collision with commercial vessel, which has the potential to cause serious harm to participants	If a ship is to berth at Lewis's Quay/Mobil Quay or to use the Graving Dock then all crews will be removed from the water (or prevented from boating) as the ship reaches 500 metres from the boathouse. If a ship is to berth at Oil Quay or Cavendish Quay, no boat should pass 500 metres from the boathouse. If a vessel is known to be leaving a berth in the West Float the separation distances above shall be maintained (i.e. no boating if a ship is leaving Lewis's Quay or Mobil Quay or no rowing beyond 500 metres from the boathouse if a ship is leaving a berth between the 500 metre mark and Duke Street Bridge). Safety/marshalling boats will be in place throughout the event between Duke Street Bridge and the start/finish line, mid course and at the Lewis's Quay start/finish.	Race Committee to suspend/abandon racing as necessary. Once ships have moored, crews have been stopped and all attendant tugs have passed through Duke Street Bridge, the event can resume.		4	C	Substantial	X	X	X								

Weather													
7	Sudden bad weather causing un-rowable and/or dangerous conditions	Any umpire or other 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 umpire launches and rescue boats.	Race Committee take decision to shorten course/suspend/abandon racing as necessary. No crews to remain on water during storm	Boats capsize or are swamped	Fully equipped rescue launches manned by lifesavers are also in attendance at all times. All safety launches are in 2-way radio contact at all times.	Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use. All pedestrians to shelter in building. Chair of Organising Committee to announce action to be taken over PA system.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	3	C	Moderate	X	X	
8					Coxes' life jackets checked by Umpires prior to going afloat to race. Particular attention paid to "front loader" boats.	Ensure that Umpires checking equipment have instructions and a checklist. All boats to be inspected for efficiency of buoyancy compartments before being allowed on water.							X
9				Mild to moderate hypothermia experienced by competitors and officials	First Aid team available throughout event and will alert Emergency Services if necessary. Dedicated warm room in boathouse. Tented shelter provided for officials on dockside.	Stage marshals prevent inadequately dressed crews from boating, dependent upon prevailing conditions.	Mild/moderate hypothermia						
10	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, Umpires, 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	4	C	Substantial	X		
11		"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.			If closer than 6 miles, racing suspended and all crews removed from water. Racing resumed after 30 minutes of no lightning/thunder. Chair of Organising Committee to announce suspension of racing and subsequent resumption over radio net and PA.					X	X	
12		All crews to leave the water immediately, instructions from Safety Adviser or Race Committee Chairman using radios in rescue boats and in umpires' launches. Transport to be available to move rowers from the bank to areas of safety.	Ensure that Marshals, Umpires, Coaches and crews are adequately briefed.								X		
Other water users													
13	Many Boats on the water	Circulation pattern in place. Umpires and 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 between crews training before racing commences	Bow balls, heel restraints and buoyancy compartment aids may be inspected by Umpires prior to going afloat to race.	Circulation pattern in place. Include in briefing for Control Commission and Stage Control		3	C	Moderate	X		X
14		No warming up or practice starts are allowed in the racing lanes.	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		
15		No crews are allowed on to the race lanes unless for a race itself.	Ensure that this is included in the information and briefing to coaches and crews.		Circulation pattern map and instructions provided for all crews. Crews going up to the start use the Birkenhead side and warm up beyond the start.	Circulation pattern is to be enforced by Safety Boats and Marshals/Umpires. Stage Marshals advise all crews of circulation pattern as they boat.	Collisions				X		
16	Hypothermia	Long wait in marshalling area prior to start	Circulation pattern and marshalling area before start allows crews to keep on the move.	Potential hypothermia	Control over boating to prevent crews waiting unduly long period at the start	Stage marshals prevent inadequately dressed crews from boating, dependent upon prevailing conditions.		3	C	Moderate			X
17	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 umpire should stop the race.	Ensure that Umpires are properly equipped and briefed	Collisions	3	B	Low	X		
18		Umpires observing each race from the bank to instruct the crews to move apart (or for one out-of-station crew to move into their own water).	Umpire training. All trainee umpires to be supervised by a qualified umpire.								X		

19	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.)	Umpire contacts Race Control, who summons safety boat to assist. Race Control alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio.	Ensure that Umpires and Race Control are properly equipped and briefed		3	B	Low	X					
Local Environment																
20	Contracting Weil's Disease due to contact with infected areas	All participants warned on the need for good hygiene, including washing hands after contact with floors, equipment and dock water.	Club coaches to advise crews. Notes in the Instructions to Competitors		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.		4	B	Moderate	X					
21	Contracting infection due to contact with Escherichia coli (e coli) from infected water	All participants warned on the need for good hygiene, including washing hands with warm water and soap after boating and contact with equipment and dock water.	Club coaches to advise crews. Notes in the Instructions to Competitors		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.		3	C	Moderate	X					
Going afloat and landing																
22	Congestion in the boating area	Stage control to manage boating on and off pontoon stage	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 (located in the boathouse). Safety boat in finish area	Ensure that Marshalls are properly equipped (throw lines, etc.) and adequately briefed.	Minor injury or Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	C	Low	X					
handling boats on land																
23	Boats being moved in the presence of pedestrians	Only crew members and stage team allowed on pontoon landing stage	Include in briefing to competitors and marshals	Collision of boat 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					
24	Minor injuries caused during rigging etc.	Safe boat handling practices	Club coaches to manage boat rigging	Minor injuries	Provide First Aid cover	Provide First Aid cover	Minor injury	2	B	Low						X
25	Collisions between pedestrians and crews manoeuvring on land	Competence of crews and coaches	Boat rigging area managed to leave corridor for pedestrians	Minor injuries	Provide Landing Stage Marshals	Landing Stage Marshals report to Organising Committee Chair	Minor injury	2	D	Moderate			X			
Faulty, incorrectly set and poorly maintained equipment																
26	Failure of safety launch	All engines serviced prior to event. Spare Safety boat to replace failed safety boat.	Racing suspended by Race Control until full safety boat cover is restored.	failure of safety launch	Spare Safety Boat to replace failed safety boat	Ensure that launch drivers and Umpires are appropriately briefed.		2	B	Low		X				
27					Umpire 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.					X					
28	Equipment Failure whilst on water	Adequate maintenance of boats	Regular checks by participant clubs	Failure of equipment	Pre-boating checks of boats	Control Commission 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 via racing lane and repairs effected there. Racing suspended as appropriate.		2	D	Moderate			X	X	X	
Pre-existing health conditions and low levels of fitness																
29	Pre-existing health conditions			Collapse of athlete on landing stages (e.g., asthma attack or serious fall)	Umpire/Stage Marshal contacts Race Control, who summons Medical Officer and First Aid by radio.	Ensure that Umpires/Stage Marshals are properly briefed and equipped and that there are competent, well equipped first aiders, etc.	Serious health implications for competitor	3	B	Low	X					
30	Pre-existing health conditions			Collapse of athlete during a race (e.g., asthma attack)	Umpire contacts Race Control, who summons safety boat to assist and alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio.	Ensure that Umpires are properly briefed and equipped and that there are competent, well equipped first aiders, etc.	Serious health implications for competitor	3	C	Moderate	X					
Other																

31	Vehicle/Pedestrian/Trailer collisions	Marshals to allocate vehicles and trailers to allocated parking areas	Vehicles and trailers parked in managed areas off road. Vehicle parking separate from trailer parking	Collision between vehicle/trailer and pedestrian or other vehicle/trailer	Separate vehicle and trailer parking areas. No trailers to be moved unless supervised	Trailer and parking area marshals	Physical injury	3	A	Low	X					
32	General trips and falls	Boating area to be kept tidy and clear of unused equipment	Blades to be stored on racks against fence backing landing stage	Minor injuries	Provide Landing Stage Marshals	Landing Stage Marshals control crews boating and disembarking	Minor injury	2	B	Low			X			
33	Spectators falling into dock	Mesh fencing provided alongside quayside	Fencing to be erected before event		Mesh fencing, marshals patrol boating area	Maintain fencing barrier throughout event. Finish area safety launch to monitor quayside area.	Major injury/drowning	4	B	Moderate	X					
34	Fatal illness			Fatal illness	Provide First Aid cover	Provide First Aid cover	Fatal illness	5	B	Substantial	X					X
35	Dangers from electrical equipment, computers, cabling on ground	Tidy cable runs. Effective electrical connections protected from water ingress.	All electrical equipment powered from boathouse. All circuits protected by RCD unit.	Electrical burns, shock		Maintain electrical equipment within boathouse	Electrical burns, shock	4	B	Moderate	X					
36	Fire in boathouse	Marked Fire Exits and Fire Extinguishers. Telephone to Emergency Services.	Fire Extinguishers checked annually.	Fire	All occupants to leave building in the event of fire.	Club Rowing Safety Adviser to manage Fire Marshals. Telephone Emergency Services. See Event Emergency Response Plan.	Major injury	4	A	Low	X	X				
37	Vehicle Fire	Fire Extinguishers in boathouse	Fire Extinguishers checked annually.	Fire	All occupants to leave area in the event of fire.	Club Rowing Safety Adviser to manage Fire Marshals. Telephone Emergency Services	Major injury	4	A	Low	X	X				
38	Bomb warning	All club members to be vigilant of suspicious items	Club members/marshals to be briefed	Major injury	All occupants to leave area in the event of bomb warning.	Evacuation of area by announcement on PA and loudhailers. See Event Emergency Response Plan.	Major injury	4	A	Low	X					
39	Chemical incident at Lewis's Quay	United Molasses internal procedures	Close liaison maintained with United Molasses management	Major injury	All participants to shelter in boathouse	Evacuation of area by announcement on PA and loudhailers. See Event Emergency Response Plan.	Major injury	4	A	Low	X					
40	Boat trailers falling into dock	Vehicles and trailers parked in managed area off road away from dock edge. Temporary mesh fencing provided along high dock wall	Temporary mesh fencing erected before event and removed after event	Loss of equipment	Trailer parking plan. Fencing along quayside	Trailer parking marshals to ensure that trailers are parked along warehouse wall and not along quayside. All trailer drivers to ensure that trailer brakes are firmly applied	Loss of equipment. Possible injury	1	A	Low	X		X			
41	Major injury to competitor or spectator on site	First Aid team in boathouse	First Aid team to be available in boathouse throughout event	Major injury	Provide First Aid cover	First Aid present and will telephone Emergency Services	Major injury	4	B	Moderate	X					X
42	Minor injury to competitor or spectator on site	First Aid team in boathouse	First Aid team to treat as appropriate	Minor injuries	Provide First Aid cover	First Aid team to treat as appropriate	Minor injury	2	B	Low	X					X
43	Vehicle collision at egress from LVRC site	Only trailers to exit via LVRC main gate	Traffic marshal provided on gate	Vehicle collision	Only trailers to exit via LVRC main gate, all other vehicles to leave via Jenkins Yard	Traffic marshals and restrictions on non-trailer vehicle movements	Vehicle collision and consequent injuries	4	B	Moderate	X		X			
44	Burns, scalds in kitchen	Provision of adequate kitchen equipment and training	Maintain tidy kitchen and safety equipment	Burns, scalds	Provision of adequate kitchen equipment and training	Maintain tidy kitchen and safety equipment	Burns, scalds	4	B	Moderate	X					