

**Risk Assessment**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Torpids Rowing On</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>21/02/2025 or 23/02/2025</b>
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No:	Hazard	Reduce the probability that a Hazard causes a Hazardous Event		Hazardous Event	Reduce the Severity of Harm caused by the occurrence of a Hazardous Event		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					Race Secretary	Event Committee	Sabbatical Officer	Launch Drivers	Senior Umpire	Marshals	Other	If other, who?							
<b>Water</b>																									
1	Boats afloat for racing	Coaches and crews must have read the Safety Briefing and circulation plan before going afloat for warm-up or racing. Marshals to check all boats for adequate buoyancy measures, e.g. properly fitted hatch covers, before boating.	Prepare and provide Safety Briefing and inform coaches and crews that they must read it. Coxswains to attend pre-event safety briefing. Marshals briefed on boat checks. Crews or athletes/coxswains may be removed from racing if they are deemed to be unsafe.	Capsize or sinking	Marshals to immediately fire klaxons if race is in progress. Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality	2	C	Low	X	X		X	X						Crews, coxswains, coaches				
2	Boats afloat for racing	Crews to be aware of and follow circulation plan. Marshals to direct crews. During racing, crews set off in approximate speed order and with sufficient gaps between them so boats should not be near each other. Race klaxoned if racing line unavoidably blocked and/or collision is imminent.	Prepare and provide Safety Briefing and inform coaches and crews that they must read it. Coxswains to attend pre-event safety briefing. Coxswains must be registered with OUCS. Event Committee/Race Secretary/marshals to remain vigilant for incorrect circulation and communicate to crews circulating incorrectly. Crews or athletes/coxswains may be removed from racing if they are deemed to be unsafe. Marshals briefed on circulation pattern and when to klaxon.	Collision with bank or another boat	Boats fitted with backstays on forward-most port and starboard riggers and securely attached bow balls. Recover damaged boat with launch if necessary. Administer First Aid.	Marshals to perform boat checks on all boats before boating, having been briefed beforehand. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Damage to equipment	2	C	Low	X	X		X								Crews, coxswains, coaches			
					Boats fitted with backstays on forward-most port and starboard riggers and securely attached bow balls. Rescue injured athlete with launch if necessary. Administer First Aid.	Marshals to perform boat checks on all boats before boating, having been briefed beforehand. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Injury to athletes	2	C	Low	X	X		X											Crews, coxswains, coaches
					Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Athlete knocked into the water. Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality	2	C	Low	X	X		X											
3	Boats afloat for racing with people in the water	No individuals to voluntarily enter the water during the event. Crews expected to be competent enough to avoid being ejected from their boat.	Marshals to report people in the water during river checks. SU shall not start racing if people are in the water. Crews or athletes/coxswains may be removed from racing if they are deemed to be unsafe.	Collision between boat and person in water	Boats fitted with backstays on forward-most port and starboard riggers and securely attached bow balls. Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	Marshals to perform boat checks on all boats before boating, having been briefed beforehand. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Injury, unconsciousness, water aspiration, drowning, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality	4	B	Moderate	X	X	X	X	X	X						Crews, coxswains, coaches, other river users			
4	Athletes who are unable to swim being present in racing crews	All crews must have passed an OUCRs swim test.	Entries system prevents crews with non-swim-tested athletes being entered for racing.	Athletes who are unable to swim falling into deep water	Rescue with launch following each division. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Water aspiration, drowning	4	A	Low	X		X	X						X		Club secretaries & captains			

5	Poor rowing technique	Athletes expected to be sufficiently competent.	Athletes may be removed from racing if they are deemed to be dangerous.	Ejector crab	Marshals to klaxon race immediately if ejector crab occurs. Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality	2	B	Low	X	X	X	X			X	Crews
6	Debris in river	Move any small object in the river that can cause an obstruction, using the launches if necessary. Protect crews from larger, immovable objects or suspend racing while they are moved.	Inspect course before start of racing. Race officials, especially marshals, to remain vigilant for new objects entering the course.	Collision with objects, capsize	Recover damaged boat with launch if necessary. Rescue with launch if necessary. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Damage to equipment, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality	2	B	Low	X	X	X	X	X			
7	Launches afloat	All launch drivers operating during the hours of racing are to be RYA2 trained.	Refresher training available if required.	Capsize of launch	All people on board launches must wear lifejackets. Second launch available to assist. Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A fully equipped second safety launch afloat at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use. A reminder of lifejackets and kill cords to be given to all launch drivers.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality	2	B	Low		X	X	X				
8	Launches afloat	All launch drivers operating during the hours of racing are to be RYA2 trained.	Refresher training available if required.	Collision involving launch	Second launch available to assist and tow damaged launch.	A fully equipped second safety launch afloat at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover.	Damage to launch	2	C	Low		X	X					
					Second launch available to assist. Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid.	A fully equipped second safety launch afloat at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover.	Injury to launch crew	2	B	Low		X	X					
9	Launches afloat	All drivers or passengers to be seated or holding on to something.	Passengers to be instructed on how to stay safe whilst on a launch.	Falling out of launch	Lifejackets worn by everyone; kill cord worn by the driver at all times. Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A reminder of lifejackets and kill cords to be given to all launch drivers. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality	2	C	Low		X	X	X			X	All launch passengers
10	Launches afloat	Kill cord worn by the driver at all times.	A reminder of kill cords given to all launch drivers.	Uncontrolled driverless launch	Second launch available to recover and tow first launch.	A second launch is available at all times.	Uncontrolled launch collides with boats/obstacles.	3	B	Low		X	X					
11	Spare launch afloat outside of racing hours	All spare launch drivers operating outside the hours of racing to have been instructed in required competencies for the role.	Refresher training available if required.	Capsize of launch or collision involving launch	All people on board launches must wear lifejackets. Second launch available to assist. Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.		Damage to launch, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality	2	C	Low		X	X	X				
12	Debris in river	Launch crews to clear river of debris as appropriate.	Marshals and all launch users to be vigilant for debris in river.	Failure of engine due to fouling of propeller, stranded launch	Self-rescue of launch using paddle. Rescue with another launch. Remove debris from propeller.	Launch to carry British Rowing recommended safety equipment, including a knife and paddle. At least two launches in operation.	Damage to launch	2	B	Low			X				X	All launch passengers
13	Gastrointestinal illness (caused through poor water quality in Isis (Thames))	Cover any cuts/abrasions as far as possible beforehand. Clean hands with soap and water or use anti-bacterial gel ASAP. Clean any cuts/abrasions using soap and water. After removed from water (even after rowing), handle clothes with care and rinse in mains water at boathouse. Use detergent to wash clothes thoroughly thereafter. Wash equipment, especially handles of oars, with soap and water after use.	Crews reminded in Safety Briefing to be aware of actions to prevent gastrointestinal illness. Coaches and coxswains to remind crews to wash equipment and, in particular, hands after racing.	Any contact with river water from rowing activity, a capsize, or fall into river	Refer to information sites such as <a href="#">River health   Performance   About us   Thames Water</a> ( <a href="https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/performance/river-health">https://www.thameswater.co.uk/about-us/performance/river-health</a> )	Check prior to event.	Possible high temperature, upset stomach resulting in vomiting and/or diarrhoea.	2	E	Low	X	X	X				X	Anyone who comes into contact with the river water, coaches, coxswains

Weather																
1	Possibility of electrical storm	All crews to leave the water as quickly as possible, instructions from Race Secretary or Senior Umpire using radios carried by launch drivers and marshals.	"30-30 Rule" to be used as advised by British Rowing. Senior Umpire issues instructions to everyone at river by radios. Coxswains briefed on what to do in the event of an electrical storm at pre-event briefing.	Rower or official struck by lightning.	Provisions for First Aid, medical treatment and casualty evacuation to hospital; AEDs mounted on downstream side of Pembroke BH, upstream side of Balliol BH, front of University BH, downstream side of Longbridges BH, downstream side of Falcon BH and downstream side of the Riverside Centre.	Medical personnel to be competent and properly equipped.	Electrical burns, shock	3	B	Low	X		X			
2	Bad weather causing un-rowable and/or dangerous conditions	Modified flag system to be followed (see below). Cancellation or restrictions to be implemented if appropriate.	Senior Umpire to assess weather and conditions in consultation with EA and other advisors to decide if race is safe to occur.	Crews swept into obstacles.	Recover damaged boat with launch if necessary. Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Damage to equipment, injury to athletes, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality	3	C	Moderate	X	X	X	X	X	Coxswains, crews, coaches
				Boats capsizing or swamping	Boats to have floatation compartments. Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	Marshals to check all boats for adequate buoyancy measures, e.g. properly fitted hatch covers, before boating, having been briefed beforehand. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality	2	B	Low	X		X	X		
3	Low visibility	Use adequate lighting on boats. If visibility is reduced to less than 100m on any part of the racing course, then racing is suspended or cancelled.	Senior Umpire to monitor conditions with the help of Event Committee and marshals. Crews to be warned before the race if low visibility is likely to occur.	Crews crashing into obstacles, other boats or other river users	Boats fitted with backstays on forward-most port and starboard riggers and securely attached bow balls. Recover damaged boat with launch if necessary. Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	Marshals to perform boat checks on all boats before boating, having been briefed beforehand. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Damage to equipment, injury to athletes, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality	3	B	Low	X	X	X	X	X	Coxswains, crews, coaches
4	Extreme* heat (* indicates subjective conditions, as decided by the SU team)	Athletes and officials to wear sun cream and stay hydrated.	Pre-event coxing briefing and emails before the event to be sent if forecasts suggest likelihood of hot weather. Senior Umpire to monitor conditions with the help of Event Committee and marshals.	People unprotected from sun	Administer First Aid. Keep casualties cool and hydrated.	Water available at boathouses, all marshals have radios to summon First Aid if needed.	Heatstroke, sunburn	2	B	Low	X	X		X	X	Crews, Coxswains
5	Extreme* cold (* indicates subjective conditions, as decided by the SU team)	Athletes to wear sufficient layers during warm-up and racing. Delays, cancellation, or restrictions on racing to be implemented if appropriate.	Pre-event coxing briefing and emails before the event to be sent if forecasts suggest likelihood of cold weather. Senior Umpire to monitor conditions with the help of Event Committee and marshals.	Athletes becoming too cold on the water	Rescue with launch if needed. Administer First Aid. Warm casualties up slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use. Hot water for drinks available at Race Desk.	Mild hypothermia, injury due to cold muscles before racing	2	B	Low	X	X		X	X	Crews, Coxswains
		Officials to wear sufficient layers during shifts. Delays, cancellation, or restrictions on racing to be implemented if appropriate.	Emails before the event to be sent if forecasts suggest likelihood of cold weather. Senior Umpire to monitor conditions with the help of Event Committee.	Officials becoming too cold	Provide adequate First Aid cover. Regularly check officials are ok.	Welfare team to be set up by Event Committee to distribute hot drinks and monitor officials' wellbeing if necessary.	Mild/moderate hypothermia, slowed response time to incidents due to cold	3	C	Moderate	X	X		X	X	X

6	Icy conditions	Safety launches used to clear small quantities of ice from the racing course. Racing cancelled if launches cannot sufficiently clear the race course of ice.	Senior Umpire to monitor conditions with the help of Event Committee and marshals.	Boats collide with ice	Recover damaged boat with launch if necessary.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Damage to equipment	3	B	Low	X	X	X	X							
7	Significant ice on towpath	No bank riding: crews requiring bank riders not allowed to race.	Senior Umpire and Race Secretary monitor conditions and make decision.	Slipping on ice, cyclist collides with bystander, cyclist or fixed object.	Event-related cyclists (if permitted) should wear helmets. Administer First Aid.	Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover.	Injury from slipping or collision	2	B	Low	X				X	X		Bank riders			
<b>Other water users</b>																					
1	Other river traffic	Signs visible to river traffic displayed at the entry points onto the course. Senior Umpire to check river is clear using marshals and ensure other river users on the racing course are static before starting racing. Marshals to make sure crews stick to the sides of the river, as shown by the circulation pattern, leaving the centre free. Ensure crews do not spin in front of cruisers. Moor cruisers when a race is about to go off. Coxswains to observe the circulation pattern and not to spin in front of cruisers. Racing to be stopped by marshals if river traffic seems likely to cause a hazard to racing crews.	Pre-event contact made with other river users alerting them to the event (see event plan). Install signs displayed at the entry points onto the course. Brief marshals to make sure crews stick to the sides of the river, as shown by the circulation pattern leaving the centre free. Also not to allow crews to spin in front of cruisers. Key marshals equipped with megaphones to hail crews, and all marshals to communicate to other river users entering the course. Create holding points to moor cruisers up at when a race is about to go off. Brief coxswains to observe the circulation pattern and not to spin in front of cruisers. Brief coxes and crews to be aware of small craft such as paddleboarders and/or swimmers.	Collision between a crew and another river user	Boats fitted with backstays on forward-most port and starboard riggers and securely attached bow balls. Recover damaged boat with launch if necessary. Administer First Aid.	Marshals to perform boat checks on all boats before boating, having been briefed beforehand. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Damage to equipment	2	B	Low	X	X			X	X			Coxswains, other river users		
					Boats fitted with backstays on forward-most port and starboard riggers and securely attached bow balls. Rescue injured athlete with launch if necessary. Administer First Aid.	Marshals to perform boat checks on all boats before boating, having been briefed beforehand. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Injury to athletes or other river users/members of the public	2	B	Low	X	X			X	X					Coxswains, other river users
					Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Athlete or other river user/member of the public knocked into the water, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality.	2	B	Low	X	X			X	X					
<b>Handling boats on land</b>																					
1	Boats being moved on land	Crews and coxswains to remain aware of spectators on land whilst moving boats.	Clubs aware of responsibilities for any supporters and spectators. Coxes to be reminded of this in pre-event briefing.	Collision between boats or blades and spectator	Administer First Aid.	Ensure adequate medical cover present. Marshals available at boathouses with radios to contact medical cover.	Injury to bystanders	2	C	Low								X	Coxswains, crews, captains		
					If necessary, marshal contacts Race Desk, which summons launch to assist and alerts first aiders by radio. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	Ensure adequate medical cover present. Marshals available at boathouses with radios to contact medical cover. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times Check equipment prior to use.	Person knocked into river, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality.	2	B	Low										X	Coxswains, crews, captains
2	Boats being moved on land	Crews recommended to lift with a straight back and use good technique. Coxswains to monitor safe technique.	Coxswains recommended to observe crew lifting boat and check for safe technique.	Lifting boats with poor technique	Administer First Aid.	Ensure adequate medical cover present. Marshals available at boathouses with radios to contact medical cover.	Spinal or other injuries	3	B	Low							X	Coxswains, crews			
<b>Faulty, incorrectly set and poorly maintained equipment</b>																					
1	Heel restraints broken or too loose.	Boat checks to be conducted by marshals and crews.	Ensure that marshals checking equipment have instructions and a checklist.	Rower trapped in capsized boat.	Rescue with launch.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Water aspiration, drowning	3	B	Low				X	X	X			Crews, coxswains, coaches		

2	Coxswain wearing broken or poorly fitted lifejacket	Clubs to maintain lifejackets. Coxswains to fit lifejackets correctly. Marshals to check that coxes are wearing lifejacket over outer layer.	Safety Briefing to marshals and competitors Coxswains briefed on importance of lifejackets in pre-event briefing.	Lifejacket does not inflate when required, lifejacket detaches from cox on inflation or fails to keep their head above water.	Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Water aspiration, drowning	4	B	Moderate					X		X	X	Club safety officers, coxswains, crews
3	Other poorly maintained parts of rowing boat (e.g. steering cables, rudder, gates, riggers)	Boat checks for these issues to be conducted by crews, with marshals pointing them out if noticed during marshal boat checks (for heel restraints, backstays, floatation compartments and bow ball).	Coxswains and crews reminded in pre-event briefing and Safety Briefing to check equipment before boating. Ensure that marshals checking equipment have instructions and a checklist.	Equipment failure, possible collision or capsiz	Rescue with launch. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Damage to equipment, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality	2	C	Low					X			X	Coxswains, crews
4	Poorly maintained launch	Launch to be serviced regularly.	All launch users to be vigilant of any abnormal launch behaviour, and report it.	Mechanical failure, stranded launch	Self-rescue of launch using paddle. Rescue with another launch. Racing to be suspended until minimum number of operational launches achieved (2).	Launch to carry British Rowing recommended safety equipment, including a knife and paddle. At least two launches in operation.	Damage to launch	2	B	Low				X	X			X	All launch passengers
<b>Pre-existing health conditions and low levels of fitness</b>																			
1	Strenuous exercise	Rowers should warm up on land, and warm down and stretch. Coaches and captains to take into account medical history when selecting crews. Rowers should not compete if they feel unwell or are injured.	Remind crews to warm up before boating, especially in cold conditions.	Over-exertion	Marshal contacts Race Desk, which summons a launch to assist and alerts first aiders by radio. Administer First Aid.	Ensure that marshals are properly briefed and equipped and that there is medical cover. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times	Hyperventilation, pulled muscles, cramp, back injury	1	D	Low	X						X	X	Coxswains, crews, coaches, captains
2	Pre-existing health conditions	Crew members are responsible for carrying their own medication if required (e.g. inhaler). Athletes with pre-existing conditions are (along with their club) expected to be managing these in line with medical and BR guidance and taking appropriate precautions.	Prepare and provide Safety Briefing for competitors and inform them that they must read it.	Collapse of athlete on landing stages (e.g. asthma attack or serious fall)	Marshal contacts Race Desk, which summons a launch to assist and alerts first aiders by radio. Administer First Aid.	Ensure that marshals are properly briefed and equipped and that there is medical cover. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times	Serious health implications for competitor	3	B	Low	X					X	X	Coxswains, crews, coaches, captains	
				Collapse of athlete on the water (e.g. asthma attack)	Marshal contacts Race Desk, which summons a launch to assist and alerts first aiders by radio. Administer First Aid. Marshals to klaxon a race if immediate First Aid is needed.	Ensure that marshals are properly briefed and equipped and that there is medical cover. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times	Serious health implications for competitor	3	C	Moderate	X		X		X	X	Coxswains, crews, coaches, captains		
<b>Contagious diseases</b>																			
1	Contagious diseases	Following National Health Service advice and government advisories	Sabbatical Officer to remain aware of national health emergency news.	Participants needing to be hospitalised	Follow national health advice at the time.	Follow national health advice at the time.	Potentially serious health issues	2	A	Low	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Members of competing clubs
<b>Towpath use</b>																			
1	Bank riders cycling fast to accompany crews	Only one bank rider allowed with each crew unless a second is allowed by Event Committee to train a Novice coxswain. Race Desk to keep a list of crews allowed two bank riders to ensure total number of bank riders stays low. Bank riders must have attended bank rider briefing in past 18 months. Bank riders to keep a good look out. Marshals warn towpath users of imminent race. Bank riders to make sure bikes have working brakes.	Bank rider briefing must be re-attended each 18 months. Event Committee to make intermittent checks on the number of bikes accompanying crews.	Collision involving accompanying cyclists	Bank rider stops to provide assistance and/or information as required. Marshal contacts Race Desk, which summons launch to assist and alerts first aiders by radio. Administer First Aid.	Ensure that marshals are properly briefed and equipped and that there is medical cover. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times	Injury to cyclists and pedestrians	1	D	Low	X						X	X	Bank riders
					Bank rider stops to provide assistance and/or information as required. If necessary, marshal contacts Race Desk, which summons launch to assist and alerts first aiders by radio. Administer First Aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Someone falls in river, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, possible gastrointestinal illness due to poor water quality.	2	B	Low	X				X	X	Bank riders		

