

Risk Assessment

Event	Torpids Rowing On	Date:	26/02/2022
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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	Race Committee	Incident Co-Ord.	Launch Drivers	Senior Umpire	Marshals	Other	if other, who?						
Water																								
1	Boats afloat for racing	Coaches and crews must have read the safety briefing and circulation plan before going afloat for practice or racing. Marshals to check all boats for adequate buoyancy measures before boating.	Prepare and provide safety briefing and inform coaches and crews that they must read it. Coxes to attend pre-event safety briefing. Marshals briefed on boat checks. Crews or athletes/coxes may be removed from racing if they are deemed to be unsafe.	Capsize or sinking	Marshals to fire klaxon 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	2	C	Low	X	X		X		X	X							
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. Coxes to attend pre-event safety briefing. Coxes must be registered with OUCS. Race Committee/Secretary/marshals to remain vigilant for incorrect circulation and communicate to crews circulating incorrectly. Crews or athletes/coxes 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	Marshals to check all boats for bowballs and backstays, which minimise severity of damage in a collision. Rescue damaged boat with launch if necessary. Administer first aid.	Marshals briefed on boat checks. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover.	Damage to boats	2	C	Low	X	X		X		X	X							
					Marshals to check all boats for bowballs and backstays, which minimise severity of damage in a collision. Rescue injured athlete with launch if necessary. Administer first aid.	Marshals briefed on boat checks. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover.	Injury to crews	2	C	Low	X	X		X		X	X							
					Rescue with launch. Administer with first aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover.	Athlete knocked into the water. Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	C	Low	X	X		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/coxes may be removed from racing if they are deemed to be unsafe. Marshals to immediately fire klaxons if anyone ends up in the water during racing	Collision between boat and person in water	Rescue with launch. Administer with first aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover.	Injury, unconsciousness, water aspiration, drowning	4	B	Moderate	X	X		X	X	X	X							
4	Athletes who are unable to swim being present in racing crews	All college crews must have passed an OURCs swim test. All non college crews must enter a declaration of swimming ability or proof of passing an OURCs standard swim test.	Entries system prevents college crews with non-swim-tested crews being entered for racing.	Athletes who are unable to swim falling into deep water	Rescue with launch following each division	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		Club secretaries						

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.	Boats equipped with bowballs and backstays. A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Rescue with launch. Administer first aid. Warm casualty up slowly	Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Equipment damage Rowers injured Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	3	D	Moderate	X	X	X	X	X	Coxswains, crews, coaches
				Boats capsizing or swamping	Boats have floatation compartments. 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	2	B	Low	X	X	X	X		
3	Extreme* heat (* indicates subjective conditions, as decided by the SU team)	Athletes and officials to wear sunscreen and stay hydrated	Pre-event coxing briefing and emails before and during the event to be sent if forecasts suggest likelihood of hot weather	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	
4	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.	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 up casualties slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance for every division and at hand during warm up. Check there is sufficient safety cover. 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.	Senior Umpire to monitor conditions with the help of event committee	Officials becoming too cold	Provide adequate first aid cover. Regularly check marshals etc. are ok	Welfare team to be set up by Event committee to distribute hot drinks and monitor marshal and umpire wellbeing if necessary	Mild/moderate hypothermia, slowed response time to incidents due to cold	3	C	Moderate	X	X	X	X	Umpires	
5	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.	Organisers to monitor conditions Crews to be warned before the race if low visibility is likely to occur	Crews crashing into obstacles or other boats or 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.	Equipment damage Rowers injured Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	3	B	Low	X	X	X	X	Coxswains, crews, coaches	
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.	Race officials and marshals to monitor weather conditions.	Boats collide with ice	Rescue with launch if necessary. Use launch to escort damaged boats to closest landing stage.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Damage to boats	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	Provide adequate first aid cover	Injury from slipping or collision	2	B	Low	X	X	X	X	Bankriders	
Other water users																
		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 aware before starting racing.	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		Rescue damaged boat with launch if necessary. Administer first aid.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover.	Damage to boats	2	B	Low	X	X	X	X	Coxswains, other river users	

1	Other River traffic	<p>Start 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 up at when a race is about to go off. Coxes observe the circulation pattern and do not spin in front of cruisers. Racing to be stopped by marshals if river traffic seems likely to cause a hazard to racing crews.</p>	<p>leaving the centre free. Also not to allow crews to spin in front of cruisers.</p> <p>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 coxes 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.</p>	Collision between a crew and another river user	Rescue injured athlete with launch if necessary. Administer first aid.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover.	Injury to crews	2	B	Low	X	X			X	X	X	Coxswains, other river users
					Rescue with launch. Administer with first aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance at all times. Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover.	Athlete knocked into the water. Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	B	Low	X	X			X	X	X	Coxswains, other river users
Handling boats on land																		
1	Boats being moved on the land	Crew and coxwains to remain aware of spectators on land whilst moving boats	Clubs aware of responsibilities for any supporters and spectators	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
					Administer first aid. Warm casualty up slowly.	Ensure adequate Medical Cover present. Marshals available at boathouses with radios to contact medical cover.	Person knocked into river. Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	B	Low						X	Coxswains, crews	
2	Boats being moved on the land	Crews recommended to lift with a straight back and use good technique. Coxswains to monitor safe technique	Coxwains 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	
Faulty, incorrectly set and poorly maintained equipment																		
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.	Becoming trapped in boat	3	B	Low				X		X	X	Crews, coxswains, coaches
2	Cox wearing broken or poorly fitted lifejacket	Clubs to maintain lifejackets. Coxes to fit lifejackets correctly. Marshals to check that coxes are wearing lifejacket over outer layer.	Instructions to marshals and competitors. Coxes briefed on importance of lifejackets in pre-event briefing.	Lifejacket does not inflate when required	Rescue with launch following each division. 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	Cox wearing incorrect lifejacket	Coxes in bow loaded boats are not permitted to wear lifejackets that inflate automatically.	Instructions to competitors. Coxes briefed on importance of lifejackets in pre-event briefing.	Cox 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.	Becoming trapped in boat	3	A	Low				X			X	Coxswains, crews
4	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, flotation compartments and bowball).	Coxes and crews reminded in pre-event briefings to check equipment before boating.	Equipment failure. Possible collision or capsize.	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.	Damaged equipment Mild hypothermia	2	C	Low				X			X	Coxswains, crews
5	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.	Launch to carry British Rowing recommended safety equipment, including a knife and paddle. Two launches in operation.	Damage to launch	2	B	Low				X			X	All launch passengers
Pre-existing health conditions and low levels of fitness																		

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		Over-exertion	Marshal contacts Race Desk, who summons launch to assist and alerts First Aid by radio. Administer first aid	Ensure that Marshals are properly briefed and equipped and that there is medical cover	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)	Brief competitors	Collapse of athlete on landing stages (e.g., asthma attack or serious fall)	Marshal contacts Race Desk, who summons launch to assist and alerts First Aid by radio. Administer first aid	Ensure that Marshals are properly briefed and equipped and that there is medical cover	Serious health implications for competitor	3	B	Low	X						X	X	Coxswains, crews, coaches, captains
3	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		Collapse of athlete during a race (e.g., asthma attack)	Marshal contacts Race Desk, who summons launch to assist and alerts First Aid by radio. 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.	Serious health implications for competitor	3	C	Moderate	X		X			X	X	Coxswains, crews, coaches, captains,	
Towpath Use																			
1	Bankriders cycling fast to accompany crews	Only one bankrider allowed with each crew unless a second is allowed by Race Committee to train a novice cox. Racedesk to keep a list of crews allowed two bankriders to ensure total number of bankriders stays low. Bankriders must have attended bankrider briefing in past 18 months. Bankriders to keep a good look out. Bike marshal warns towpath users of imminent race. Bankriders to make sure bikes have working brakes.	Bankrider 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	Marshal contacts Race Desk, who summons launch to assist and alerts First Aid by radio. Administer first aid	Ensure that Marshals are properly briefed and equipped and that there is medical cover	Injury to cyclists and pedestrians	1	D	Low	X						X	X	Bankriders
								2	B	Low	X				X	X	Bankriders		
2	Bike marshal cycling fast along towpath	Marshal briefed both in advance and on the day; marshal to keep a good look out and to make sure bike has working brakes	Marshal told to cycle slowly, avoid pedestrians, and get off bike to talk to large groups of pedestrians	Collision involving bike marshal	Bike marshal to wear a helmet. Marshal contacts Race Desk, who summons launch to assist and alerts First Aid by radio. Administer first aid	Ensure that Marshals are properly briefed and equipped and that there is medical cover	Injury to cyclists and pedestrians	1	D	Low	X						X		
								2	B	Low	X				X				
COVID-19																			
1	Holding an event during COVID-19 pandemic	All participants will be requested not to attend the event if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19, or if they are self-isolating or in quarantine, as outlined in government guidance. Record of competitors kept via OURCs database for more than 21 days; contact details also supplied via database (GDPR-secure)	Brief college clubs through pre-event information as soon as entries open, encourage entrants to partake in the regular symptom free testing programs offered by the University	COVID-19 transmission during event through direct, airborne or indirect transmission. COVID-19 infection or symptoms appearing later	Use of Oxford University's in-house testing service, together with Test and Trace information-sharing	All students are required to keep colleges informed of COVID cases and symptoms and to cooperate with testing and tracing	Potential serious health implications for a difficult COVID case; wider spread of the virus within the University, households and local community	2	C	Low	X	X						X	Members of competing clubs
								2	C	Low	X	X			X	Members of competing clubs			

2	COVID transmission through race desk activities	Race desk to be set up in a well-ventilated space. Face coverings available at race desk to be worn inside buildings if desired.	Boat bay doors kept open during racing	Airborne transmission of COVID-19 amongst competitors and/or race desk. COVID-19 infection or symptoms appearing later	Use of Oxford University's in-house testing service, together with Test and Trace information-sharing	All students are required to keep colleges informed of COVID cases and symptoms and to cooperate with testing and tracing	Potential serious health implications for a difficult COVID case; wider spread of the virus within the University, households and local community	2	B	Low	x x	
		Spare hand sanitiser, wipes and cleaning materials available at race desk if needed		Indirect transmission of COVID-19 through equipment sharing/high-touch surfaces at race desk COVID-19 infection or symptoms appearing later	Use of Oxford University's in-house testing service, together with Test and Trace information-sharing	All students are required to keep colleges informed of COVID cases and symptoms and to cooperate with testing and tracing	Potential serious health implications for a difficult COVID case; wider spread of the virus within the University, households and local community	2	A	Low	X X X X X X	Members of competing clubs
3	COVID transmission through First Aid provision	First Aid providers (Epione Medical) are experienced and will take all necessary precautions; anyone assisting them will follow their advice	Discuss with Epione Medical beforehand	Direct transmission of COVID-19 through First Aid provision. COVID-19 infection or symptoms appearing later	Use of Oxford University's in-house testing service, together with Test and Trace information-sharing	All students are required to keep colleges informed of COVID cases and symptoms and to cooperate with testing and tracing	Potential serious health implications for a difficult COVID case; wider spread of the virus within the University, households and local community	2	C	Low	X X X X X X	Members of competing clubs, First Aiders
4	COVID transmission during marshal briefing	Marshal briefing to be conducted outdoors, if at all possible. Face coverings to be worn if briefing takes place indoors.		Direct transmission of COVID-19 during marshal briefing. COVID-19 infection or symptoms appearing later	Use of Oxford University's in-house testing service, together with Test and Trace information-sharing	All students are required to keep colleges informed of COVID cases and symptoms and to cooperate with testing and tracing	Potential serious health implications for a difficult COVID case; wider spread of the virus within the University, households and local community	2	B	Low	X X X X X X	Members of competing clubs
5	COVID transmission associated with shared equipment - i.e. between marshals, timing teams	Hand sanitiser available at race desk to be taken as desired by anyone using shared equipment		Indirect transmission of COVID-19 through equipment sharing. COVID-19 infection or symptoms appearing later	Use of Oxford University's in-house testing service, together with Test and Trace information-sharing	All students are required to keep colleges informed of COVID cases and symptoms and to cooperate with testing and tracing	Potential serious health implications for a difficult COVID case; wider spread of the virus within the University, households and local community	2	A	Low	X X X X X X	Members of competing clubs
6	High-Risk Individual helping on event committee or participating in event	Encourage individuals more at risk to severe COVID-19 infection to take outdoor roles	Brief race committee and competing clubs beforehand by email	COVID-19 infection of High Risk Individual leading to severe illness or hospitalisation	Use of Oxford University's in-house testing service, together with Test and Trace information-sharing	All students are required to keep colleges informed of COVID cases and symptoms and to cooperate with testing and tracing	High Risk Individual contracts a serious case of COVID-19, possible hospitalization; wider spread of the virus within the University, households and local community	4	B	Moderate	X X X X X X	Members of competing clubs

Glossary - COVID

direct contact transmission

Direct transmission occurs when microorganisms are transmitted directly from an infectious individual to another individual without the involvement of another contaminated person or object (fomite).

E.g. breathing, coughing, shouting, singing, physical contact

airborne transmission

The spread of infection from one person to another by airborne particles (aerosols) containing infectious agents.

indirect contact transmission

Indirect transmission occurs when microorganisms are transmitted from an infectious individual to another individual through a contaminated object or person (fomite) or person.

E.g. on surfaces, clothing, door handles etc.

High Risk Individual

An individual at high risk of severe illness from Coronavirus

In the event of the Environment Agency (EA) displaying Amber or Red Boards at the local locks which indicates a Strong Stream, OURCs have developed a range of

Controls in place to reduce risks	Persons responsible for ensuring controls in place
<p>Blue Flag (2-3 bucks) Good conditions (high water, but low stream and wind): Full Programme Poor conditions (high stream or winds): Senior Umpire to consider whether coxing restrictions, coxless-boat restrictions or small-boat racing restrictions are required, with the aid of the Captain of Coxes for coxed crews. The course may be shortened on the SU's advice. Crews may be permitted to withdraw with no financial penalty at the discretion of the Race Secretary.</p>	Race Committee, Race Secretary, Senior Umpire
<p>Amber flag (4 bucks) No Novice status coxes. SU to consult with the OURCs Captain of Coxes regarding any further coxing restrictions. SU may restrict small-boat or coxless boat racing depending on the precise conditions. The course will be shortened on the SU's advice and consideration given to not permitting any above-Gut crew to go through the Gut. Crews may be permitted to withdraw with no financial penalty at the discretion of the Race Secretary. The race may be completely cancelled at the SU's</p>	

Red Flag (5+ bucks) No Racing – event is cancelled