

Risk Assessment

Event	Summer Eights	Date:	24-27/05/2023
Author	Oliver Hedges (last edit Natasha Smith)	Rev:	17/04/2023

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	Coaches, coxswains, crews					
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 klaxon 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	Crews, coxswains, coaches					
					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	Crews, coxswains, coaches					
					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	Crews, coxswains, coaches					
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	Crews, Coxswains, Other River Users					
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					
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 someone enters the water. Rescue with launch, administer first aid, warm up slowly	A fully equipped safety launch in attendance for every division and at hand during warm up. Check there is sufficient safety cover.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	B	Low	X	X		X			X	Crews					

6	Debris in the river	Committee and officials to clear river of debris as needed, using the launches if necessary. Protect the crews from larger, immovable, objects or suspend racing while it is moved.	Inspect course before start of racing. Race officials and marshals to remain vigilant for new objects entering	Collision with objects, Capsize	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, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	B	Low	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.		Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	B	Low		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.		Damage to launch	2	C	Low		X		X				
					Second launch available to assist. Rescue with launch. Administer first aid.		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 life jackets 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	2	C	Low		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.		Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia. Damage to launch.	2	C	Low		X		X				
12	Debris in river	Crew 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. Two launches in operation.	Damage to launch	2	B	Low				X			X	All launch passengers
Weather																		
1	Possibility of electrical storm	All crews to leave the water rapidly, instructions from Race Secretary or Senior Umpire using radios carried by launch drivers.	"30-30 Rule" to be used as advised by BR. Senior Umpire issues instructions to everyone at river by radios. Coxes 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 University BH, and upstream side of Balliol BH.	Medical personnel to be competent and properly equipped.	Electrical burns, shock	3	B	Low	X					X		
2	Bad weather causing un-rowable	Modified flag system to be followed (see below).	Senior Umpire to assess weather and conditions in consultation	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

2	Boats being moved on the 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		
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, floatation compartments and bowball).	Coxes and crews reminded in pre-event briefings to check equipment before boating.	Equipment failure. Possible collision or capsizes.	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, coxes to be reminded of this in pre-event briefing.	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	Bankrider briefing must be re-attended each 18 months. bankriders must be wearing "bankrider bibs" to aid in recognising 1 per crew, bibs will only be given to people who have been to a briefing in the past 18	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

		Bankriders briefing in past 10 months. Bankriders to keep a good look out. Bike marshal warns towpath users of imminent race. Bankriders to make sure bikes have working brakes.	months. Event Committee to make intermittent checks on the number of bikes accompanying crews.		Rescue with launch if necessary, administer first aid, warm casualties up slowly	Fully equipped safety launch available during warm up and racing	Someone falls in river, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	B	Low	X					X	X	Bankriders
2	Umpires cycling fast along the towpath	Umpires briefed by college and on the day; umpires to keep a good look out; bike marshal warns towpath users of imminent race; umpires to make sure bikes have working brakes		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	Umpires
					Rescue with launch if necessary, administer first aid, warm casualties up slowly	Fully equipped safety launch available during warm up and racing	Someone falls in river, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	B	Low	X				X	X	Umpires	
3	Bike marshal cycling fast along towpath	Marshal briefed by college 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		
					Rescue with launch if necessary, administer first aid, warm casualties up slowly	Fully equipped safety launch available during warm up and racing	Someone falls in river, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	B	Low	X				X			
Other																		
1	Tannoy horns fall over	Tripods for tannoy to be set up in a stable manner	Tripods to be set up on level ground where possible or leaning away from towpath if not possible. Tannoy to be chained to solid structures such as buildings, fences, or trees whenever possible to limit movement	Person hit by tannoy	Administer first aid	Marshals to be equipped with 2-way radios to call for first aid if necessary	Injury, concussion	3	A	Low		X					X	
2	Incorrectly placed tannoy cables	Cables to be kept away from towpath	Tannoy cables to be run through/behind vegetation and other objects and kept off the towpath whenever possible. Cables to be covered with mats or ramps in any high-traffic areas	Person trips over tannoy cables	Administer first aid if necessary	Marshals to be equipped with 2-way radios to call for first aid if necessary	Injury	1	B	Low		X					X	
3	Bunglines on towpath	Bunglines to be kept off towpath at all times	Bunglines to be kept neatly on grass to side of towpath when not in use	Towpath user trips over bungline	Administer first aid if necessary	Marshals to be equipped with 2-way radios to call for first aid if necessary	Injury	1	B	Low						X	X	Polemen
4	Bunglines collision with passing towpath user	Mitigate risk of someone being hit by pole/line	Warn passing towpath users	Towpath user being hit by a pole/bungline when in use	Marshals/poleman should advise passing users. Administer first aid if necessary	Marshals to be equipped with 2-way radios to call for first aid if necessary	Injury	1	B	Low						X	X	Polemen

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 (e.g. high stream or winds, but also possibly in very cold weather): Senior Umpire to consider whether safety measures are needed using all sources of available information and in discussion with the Race Secretary, Sabbatical Officer and Captain of Coxes. Safety measures may include moving bunglines upstream, restricting coxes, moving to half-divisions, extra launches or a mix of measures. Crews may be permitted to withdraw with no financial penalty at the discretion of the Race Secretary. Curry contingency timetables to be used.</p>	
Amber flag (4 bucks)	

Senior Umpire to consider what safety measures are needed using all sources of available information and in discussion with the Race Secretary, Sabbatical Officer and Captain of Coxes. Safety measures may include moving bunglines upstream, restricting coxes, moving to half-divisions, extra launches or a mix of measures. Cancellation may be required. Novice coxes are highly unlikely to be used in most amber flag conditions. Crews may be permitted to withdraw with no financial penalty at the discretion of the Race Secretary. Curry contingency timetables to be used.

Red Flag (5+ bucks) Senior Umpire to consider what safety measures are needed using all sources of available information and in discussion with the Race Secretary, Sabbatical Officer and Captain of Coxes. Safety measures may include moving bunglines upstream, restricting coxes, moving to half-divisions, extra launches or a mix of measures. Cancellation may be required. Red flag is highly likely to lead to half-divisions and S or X/S coxes only. Crews may be permitted to withdraw with no financial penalty at the discretion of the Race Secretary. Curry contingency timetables to be used.

Senior Umpire with the help of the Race Committee, Race Secretary and Sabbatical Officer

		People	Assets
Severity	1	Slight injury or health effect <i>(Requires little or no treatment; no need to take time off rowing or training)</i>	Minor damage to equipment (<£100)
	2	Minor injury or health effect <i>(Requires First Aid or rest; potentially a few days off rowing or training)</i>	Damage repair costs low (£500)
	3	Moderate injury or health effect <i>(Requires treatment beyond simple First Aid; potentially a week or so off rowing or training)</i>	High damage repair costs (>£1000)
	4	Major injury or health effect <i>(Requires hospital treatment for more than one day; potentially a few weeks off rowing or training)</i>	Very high damage repair costs <i>(loss of boat, 3rd party damage)</i>
	5	Fatality or Life Threatening Injury or Health Effect <i>(could end a rowing career or cause hospitalisation for a few months)</i>	Major damage & major costs <i>(loss of several boats, high 3rd party damage)</i>

Low	An acceptable level of risk
Moderate	An acceptable level of risk
Substantial	An unacceptable level of risk
Intolerable	An unacceptable level of risk

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

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