Risk Assessment

Event	Autumn Fours	Date:	14/09/2017
Author	Oliver Hedges (latest edit RowSab 2019 Joanna Egan)	Rev:	16/09/2019

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-Ordinator	Launch Drivers	Senior Umpire	Marshals	other	If other, who?
Water																		
1	Boats afloat for racing	Coxes/steers, coaches and crews must have read the Safety Briefing and circulation plan before going afloat for practise or racing. Marshals to check that boats must have adequate buoyancy measures in place before boating is allowed.	Prepare and provide safety briefing and inform coaches and crews that they must read it. Marshals briefed on boat checks.	Capsize or sinking during a race	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	Coxswains/steers, coaches, crews
1	Boats afloat for racing	Crew: Heel restraints fitted. Coxes in bow loaded boats are not permitted to wear lifejackets that inflate automatically	Marshals to check heel restraints before boating	Capsize or sinking during a race	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.	Becoming trapped in boat	3	B	Low				X		X	X	Crews, coxswains
1	Boats afloat for racing	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 checks college athletes have passed swim test before boat is added to draw	Capsize or sinking during a race	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.	Drowning	4	A	Low	X	X		X			X	Crews
2	Safety Launch	All launch drivers to be RYA2 trained	Refresher training available if required	Capsize	Racing to be suspended is no launch is operational		Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	B	Low	X	X		X				
2	Safety Launch	Lifejackets worn by everyone on launch, kill cord worn by the driver at all times.	A reminder of life jackets and killcords to be given to all launch drivers	Falling Out	Racing to be suspended if no launch is operational		Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	B	Low				X			X	All launch passengers
Weather																		
1	Possibility of electrical storm	All crews to leave the water immediately, instructions from Race Secretary or Senior Umpire using radios carried by launch drivers.	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. AEDs accessible at University BH and upstream side of Balliol BH	Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped.	Electrical burns, shock	3	B	Low	X		X		X			
2	Bad weather causing un-rowable and/or dangerous conditions	Weather and stream to be monitored in consultation with EA and lock-keepers. Cancellation or restrictions to be implemented if appropriate. Modified flag system to be followed (see below)	SU and Race Committee to remain aware of weather and stream during racing	Crews swept into obstacles.	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	D	Moderate	X	X		X	X			
2	Bad weather causing un-rowable and/or dangerous conditions	Weather and stream to be monitored in consultation with EA and lock-keepers. Cancellation or restrictions to be implemented if appropriate. Modified flag system to be followed (see below)	SU and Race Committee/Secretary to remain aware of weather and stream during racing.	Boats capsizing or swamping	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	D	Moderate	X	X		X				
3	Low visibility	Crews to be instructed they need lights in potential low visibility situations. If visibility is reduced to less than 100m on any part of the racing course, racing is suspended or cancelled.	Crews to be warned before the race if low visibility is likely to occur. Marshals to be briefed on remaining aware of visibility. Race Committee, Secretary, and SU to remain aware of visibility.	Crews crashing into obstacles. Crews being potential obstacles to other river users	Rescue 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.	Injuries and damage caused during collisions with obstacles or other river users	3	B	Low	X	X		X	X	X	X	Crews, coxswains,
4	Ice in river	Race officials and marshals to monitor weather conditions. Safety launches used to clear small quantities of ice from the used section of river. Racing cancelled if launches cannot sufficiently clear the used section of river of ice.	Marshals/race officials/SU to remain vigilant for ice during racing	Damage to boats	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	3	B	Low	X	X		X	X			
5	Significant ice on towpath	Senior Umpire and Race Secretary will discuss measures to make racing safe which may include removing bank riders and crews that require them.		Slipping on ice			Injuries due to falling, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia, drowning	2	C	Low		X			X			
Other water users																		
1	Other River traffic	Pre-event contact made with other river users alerting them to the event (see event plan). Signs visible to river traffic displayed at the entry points onto the course. Senior Umpire to check river is clear using marshals. Marshals to make sure crews stick to the sides of the river, as shown by the circulation pattern, leaving the centre free. Also briefed not to allow crews to spin in front of cruisers. Key marshals equipped with megaphones to hail crews, and all marshals briefed to communicate to other river users and to the SU as they come onto the course. Holding points exist to moor cruisers up at when a race is about to go off, and transit lanes allow staying out of racing course. Coxes briefed 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 hazard to racing crews.	Marshals briefed at the start of event	Collison between a crew and another river user	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, damage to boats, injuries from collision	3	C	Moderate			X		X	X	X	Other river users
Local Environment																		
1	Objects in the river	Move any small object in the river that can cause an obstruction, using the launches if necessary. Protect the crews from larger, immovable, objects or suspend racing while it is moved.	Marshals to report any objects coming onto the course as part of river check. Race Sec/Committee/SU to remain vigilant for objects coming onto the course	Damage to boats, 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.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	3	B	Low		X		X				
Going afloat and landing																		
Handling boats on land																		
1	Boats being moved on the land	Crew and coxswains to remain aware of spectators on land whilst moving boats.		Collision between boats or blades and spectator	Medical Cover present	Marshals available at boathouses with radios to contact medical cover.	Injury to bystanders, cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	C	Low							X	Crews, coxswains
2	Lifting boats from the river	Crews recommended to use correct technique, lifting with a straight back.	Coxswains recommended to observe crew lifting boat and check for correct technique	Lifting boats with poor technique	Medical Cover present	Marshals available at boathouses with radios to contact medical cover.	Spinal or other injuries	3	B	Low							X	Crews, coxswains
Faulty, incorrectly set and poorly maintained equipment																		
1	Debris in river	Crew to clear river of debris as appropriate.	All launch users to remain vigilant of debris near propeller	Failure of engine due to fouling of propeller, launch afloat with no means of propulsion	Launch to carry British Rowing recommended safety equipment, including a knife and paddle. Racing to be suspended until launch operational		Damage to engine or propeller, launch swept into other river users, other objects, weir	2	A	Low		X			X		X	All launch passengers
2	Poorly maintained launch	Launch to be serviced regularly.	Launch drivers to remain aware of any abnormal launch behaviour during use.	Mechanical failure, falling in, launch afloat with no means of propulsion	Launch to carry British Rowing recommended safety equipment, including a knife and paddle. Racing to be suspended until launch operational		Launch swept into other river users, other objects, or weir. Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia.	2	B	Low		X		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.	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	X		
2	Pre-existing health conditions	Crew members are responsible for carrying their own medication if required (e.g. inhaler)	Crews reminded to carry any medication needed in Competitor's Instructions.	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.	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	X		
2	Pre-existing health conditions	Crew members are responsible for carrying their own medication if required (e.g. inhaler)	Crews reminded to carry any medication needed in Competitor's Instructions.	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.	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		
Other																		

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		Collision involving accompanying cyclists	Marshals to report any accidents		Injury to cyclists and pedestrians, possibly cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	1	D	Low		X					X	Bankriders

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 contingency plans to allow the Regattas to continue in some form. (In italics is the Flag state relating to the number of bucks drawn, which dictates what rowing takes place during training)

Controls in place to reduce risks	Persons responsible for ensuring controls in place
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. Crews may be permitted to withdraw with no financial penalty at the discretion of the Race Secretary. The course may be shortened on the SU's advice and consideration given to not permitting any above-Gut crew to go through the Gut.	Race Committee, Senior Umpire
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 Committee. The race may be completely cancelled at the SU's discretion.	
Red Flag (5+ bucks) No Racing – event is cancelled	