

Burway Small Boats Head
Saturday 28th November 2015

This risk assessment follows the pattern set out in the British Rowing document RowSafe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing.

All coaches, marshals, umpires and officials act in accordance with RowSafe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing. All participants should be familiar with the Guide and abide by it.

Risk Assessment Matrix:

Probability of accident	Severity		
	Slight harm (low)	Moderate harm (medium)	Extreme harm (high)
Highly unlikely (low)	Very low risk	Low risk	Medium risk
Unlikely (medium)	Low risk	Medium risk	High risk
Likely (high)	Medium risk	High risk	Very high risk

Risks and Actions:

RISK LEVEL	ACTION & TIMESCALE
Very low	No action required
Low	No additional controls required. Consideration may be given to a more effective solution or improvement.
Medium	Efforts should be made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period. Where the moderate risk is associated with Moderate Harm/serious consequences, further assessment may be necessary to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the need for improved control measures.
High	The activity should not be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may have to be allocated to reduce the risk. Where risk involves activity already in progress, urgent action should be taken.
Very high	Activity should not be started or continued until the risk has been reduced. If it is not possible to reduce the risk, even with unlimited resources, activity has to remain prohibited.

Land-based incidents:

INCIDENT	Probability	Severity of outcome	Risk	ACTION
Vehicle/pedestrian/ trailer collision	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	Controlled parking in public car parks.
Minor injury or illness to competitor, official, spectator, public	Likely	Slight harm	Medium	Provide first aid cover.
Collision between pedestrian and crews manoeuvring on land	Likely	Slight harm	Medium	Raft marshals to supervise crews boating. Details of boating procedures sent to crews.
Collision between cycles & pedestrians	Unlikely	Moderate harm	Medium	Cyclists to use road for majority of course, & be aware of pedestrians on towpath.
General trips & falls	Unlikely	Slight harm	High	Site check, incl rafts in case slippery. Provide First Aid cover.
Collision between crew & vehicle when crossing road	Likely	Moderate Harm	High	Marshals to assist crews crossing road with boats.
Missing junior competitor	Highly unlikely	Extreme harm	High	Competing clubs required to supervise juniors throughout the day. Welfare Officer aware.
Confrontation/physical assault	Unlikely	Moderate harm	Medium	Generally not an issue at BRC but officials advised to be alert. In the event of physical assault or significant confrontation, Safety Adviser or Event Chairman to call police. Welfare Officer to be aware.
Equipment: Electrical	Unlikely	Slight harm	Low	Radio equipment supplied by reputable contractor.
Equipment: Temporary structures	Unlikely	Moderate harm	Medium	Portaloos to be installed by operator. Tents to be properly secured and checked by SA.

Incidents on the water:

Incident	Probability	Severity of outcome	Risk	Action
Damage and injury resulting from collision between crews training before racing starts	Unlikely	Moderate Harm	Medium	Crews to observe navigation rules for event.
Damage and injury resulting from collision between racing & returning crews	Likely	Moderate Harm	High	Course to be buoyed. Officials to supervise and enforce navigation rules. Returning crews advised to keep to navigation channel. Race competitors are in sight of a marshal/race monitor at all times. Rescue boats positioned start, middle and finish.
Damage and injury resulting from collision with other river traffic	Likely	Moderate Harm	High	Warning boards placed at start and finish of course. Marker buoys separate racing course from navigation channel. Local River Users Group to be notified of the event. Race Monitors and marshals to be equipped with and loudhailers to warn other river users if necessary.
Competitor illness	Likely	Moderate Harm	High	Umpire to liaise with safety boat & ambulance to treat casualty.
Crew capsize	Likely	Moderate Harm	High	Umpire to liaise with rescue boat/water marshal to recover casualty/casualties and equipment. Competitors must ensure their boats have adequate buoyancy and heel straps fitted to facilitate quick release.
Crew over Chertsey weir	Unlikely	Extreme harm	High	Crews forbidden from passing downstream of the M3 bridge. Waterborne marshal will stop any crews from drifting under the bridge. Start marshal will turn crews above M3 bridge. Rescue boat positioned under bridge.
Man overboard from boats used for course preparation and marshalling	Unlikely	Slight harm	Low	All boats to have two crew members and to be given personal buoyancy aids. Radios will also be provided.
Debris	Unlikely	Low harm	Low	Safety Adviser to check course before racing starts, initially by boat and then by radio via waterborne marshals.

Weather:

Incident	Probability	Severity of outcome	Risk	Action
Sudden bad weather causing unrowable/dangerous conditions incl. lightning.	Unlikely	Moderate Harm	Medium	Race Committee Chairman and Safety Adviser may suspend racing if conditions become dangerous. 30:30 rule to be applied in the case of lightning. Employ Safety Plan/Abandonment Protocol.
Fast river conditions/strong wind conditions.	Likely	Moderate Harm	High	River conditions to be monitored by Safety Adviser , Chief Umpire and Event Chairman 7 days prior to race. EA to be consulted. Race will be cancelled if Red Boards predicted. Risk Assessment to be done 72 hours and 24 hours ahead. Decisions may include reducing boat numbers, eg smaller boat categories and/or less experienced competitors.
Extreme cold/Hypothermia	Likely	Moderate Harm	High	Competitor instructions to advise competitors to wear appropriate clothing and have a complete change of clothing. Rescue launches to have thermal blankets and hot showers at BRC to be available. First Aid suppliers to be prepared and have a treatment plan.
Extreme freezing conditions	Unlikely	Extreme Harm	Medium	Chairman of Race Committee, Safety Adviser and Event Chairman to consider if event should be cancelled if temperature predicted to be several points below freezing; also to assess conditions before each division if necessary.