

Risk Assessment

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 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/incident	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 AND 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 harm	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 cycle and pedestrian	Unlikely	Moderate harm	Medium	Cyclists to use road for majority of course and be aware of pedestrians on the towpath
General trips and falls	Unlikely	Slight harm	High	Site check, incl rafts in case slippery. Provide first aid cover
Collision between crew and	Unlikely	Moderate harm	Medium	Marshals or coaches 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, Event Safety Adviser or Event Chairman to call police. Event 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 Event Safety Advser.

Incidents on the water:

	Probability	Severity of Outcome	Risk	ACTION
INCIDENT				
Damage / injury resulting from collision between crews training before racing starts	Unlikely	Moderate harm	Medium	Crews to observe navigation rules for event,
Damage / injury resulting from collision between racing and 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 marshal/race official at all times. Rescue boats positioned at strategic points to assist as required.
Damage / injury resulting from collision with other river traffic.	Likely	Moderate harm	High	Warning boards placed at start and finish of course.
Competitor illness	Likely	Moderate harm	High	Umpire to liaise with safety boat and 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 M3 bridge. Waterbourne 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	Event Safety Adviser to check course before racing starts, initially by boat and then by radio via waterborne marshals.

Weather:

	Probability	Severity of Outcome	Risk	ACTION
INCIDENT				
Sudden bad weather causing unrowable / dangerous conditions, including lightning /	Unlikely	Moderate harm	Medium	Race Committee Chairman and Event Safety Adviser may suspend or abandon racing if conditions become dangerous. 30:30 rule to be applied in case of lightning. Employ Safety Plan
Fast stream / strong wind	Likely	Moderate harm	High	River conditions to be monitored by Event Safety Adviser, Chief Umpire and Event Chairman 7 days prior to race. Environment Agency to be consulted. Event 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. Hot showers available at BRC. First Aid suppliers to be prepared and have a treatment plan.
Extreme freezing conditions	Unlikely	Extreme harm	Medium	Chairman of Race Committee, Event Safety Adviser and Event Chairman to consider if event should be cancelled if temperature predicted to be several points below freezing, (also taking into account wind and stream conditions). Assessment of conditions to be undertaken before each Division, if appropriate.