

Risk Assessment



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| Event | Chester Regatta 2023 | Date: | 17/04/2023 |
| Author | Water Safety Officer/Advisor | Rev: | 1 |

| No: | Hazard | Reduce probability a Hazard causing a Hazardous Event | | Hazardous Event | Reduce the Severity of Harm | | 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 | | | | | Event Committee | Event RSA | Officials & Marshalls | Control Commissions | other | |
| Water | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Boats afloat for practice | Practice not permitted in race area. | Marshalls to enforce. | Capsize or sinking. Subm & exhaustion. | Safety plan and instructions to competitors advise crews that practice sessions are not permitted in the race area | Send Safety plans to clubs and instruct them to inform their crews. Display safety plan. | Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia or drowning. Prolonged exposure to sun causing sun burn and exhaustion. | 2 | B | Low | X | | | | | |
| 2 | Boats returning to landing stage following faults | Marshalls to ensure boats are checked before launching or other hazards not part of scrutineering | Ensure crews are briefed on procedures for returning to landing stage | Collision with boats proceeding to start not expecting other traffic | Stewards will warn all crews of returning boats. | Ensure returning boats follow rules of the river | Collision | 2 | B | Low | X | | X | X | | |
| 3 | Boats afloat for racing | Coaches and crews must have read the instructions for competitors and be aware of boating procedures before going afloat for racing. | Prepare and provide safety briefing and inform coaches and crews that they must read it. | Capsize or sinking during a race | Every race will be supervised by Marshalls. | Ensure that there are sufficient Officials have sufficient visibility upstream and downstream, and understand their boundaries of responsibility. | Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia or drowning. Prolonged exposure to sun causing sun burn and exhaustion. | 2 | C | Moderate | X | X | | | | |
| 4 | Boats rowing to race course from satellite club bases | Coaches and crews must have read the instructions for competitors and be aware of boating procedures before going afloat for racing. | Review safety briefing. | Collision or other emergency whilst boats are afloat | Two safety launches manned by first aid trained personnel equipped with two way radios in position through out the event. | Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check of boats and equipment before taking to water. | personel injury and boat damage. | 2 | C | Moderate | X | X | | | | |
| 5 | Incorrect life jacket | Equipment assessment prior to boating | Marshalls briefing | Cox wearing incorrect lifejacket for style of boat | Coxes' life jackets checked by Officials prior to going afloat to race. | Ensure that Officials checking boats and equipment are adequately trained / briefed or have instructions and a checklist. | impared safety performance | 2 | C | Moderate | | | X | X | | |
| 6 | Water Level/Flow | Conditions are assessed by Race Committee before event starts. | Brief crews if flows are high but manageable. | High or Low water levels, danger to boating | Awareness of weather and tidal conditions affecting the River Dee. | Ensure race committee have appropriate contacts | increased risk to boat crews | 2 | A | Low | X | X | X | X | | |
| 7 | Rubbish and Debris in river | Conditions are assessed by Race Committee before event starts. | major debris clearance from Chester Boat Company. | Debris such as Logs, Weed, increasing rowing hazards | Debris cleared by Chester Boat Company, hidden weed is more difficult to identify | Rescue boats will check for weeds and other hazards | Increased risk of capsize etc | 2 | A | Low | X | X | X | X | | |
| Weather | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Sudden bad weather causing un-rowable and/or dangerous conditions | Any key race official will stop racing. Any crews on the water will be moved into the most sheltered area and shepherded back to the landing stages by rescue boats. | Pre-meeting briefing | Boats capsize or are swamped | Rescue launches are in attendance at key strategic points on the course and are all equipped with two way radios. | Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use. | Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia | 3 | C | Moderate | X | X | X | | | |
| 2 | Inflation of Cox's life jacket whilst in the boat | Pre-race equipment checks | Pre race inspection and safety briefing | Crew or Coxes trapped in boat | Coxes' life jackets checked by Officials prior to going afloat to race. Particular attention paid to "front loader" boats. | Ensure that Officials checking boats and equipment are adequately trained / briefed or have instructions and a checklist. | Injury | 3 | C | Moderate | X | X | X | X | | |
| 3 | Cold Weather | Poor weather forecast not severe enough to cancel event | Race Commission to monitor weather forecast | Crews and Officials cold and wet leading to Hypothermia | Ensure all crews and Officials have adequate clothing | Race Committee and Safety Advisor to monitor developing weather patterns and consider actions including lifting crew types for racing. | Hypothermia | 3 | C | Moderate | X | X | | X | | |
| 5 | Hot Weather | Hot weather forecast | Race Commission to monitor weather forecast | Crews, Coxes and Officials suffer sunburn, dehydration and exhaustion | Ensure adequate water and sunblock provided. Advise on suitable racing attire and to shelter from sun as appropriate. | Race Committee and Safety Advisor to monitor developing weather patterns and consider actions including lifting crew types for racing. | Sun burn, dehydration, exhaustion. | 3 | C | Moderate | X | X | X | | | |
| 4 | Possibility of electrical storm | Provisions laid down in the document "Developing an action plan for risk from lightning" available from British Rowing to be followed:- | Ensure that Marshalls, Officials, Coaches and crews are adequately briefed. | Rowers or official struck by lightning | Provisions for first aid, medical treatment, and casualty evacuation to hospital. | Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped. | Electrical burns, shock | 3 | B | Low | X | | | | | |
| 5 | | "Suspension and resumption of racing should follow the 30/30 rule: racing should stop when the flash-to-bang count is 30 seconds, and should not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning." | Any variation from 30/30 rule to be agreed unanimously by Event Chairman, Safety Adviser, Starter, Race Committee Chairman and all members of Race Committee. | Electrical strike causing severe injury | Monitoring of weather- actual and forecast. | in event water safety advisor role | Electrical burns/shock | 3 | B | Low | X | X | | | | |
| 6 | | All crews to leave the water immediately, instructions from Safety Adviser or Race Committee Chairman using radios in rescue launches. Transport to be available to move rowers from the bank to areas of safety. | Ensure that Marshalls, officials, Coaches and crews are adequately briefed. | as '5' above | All personel should be aware of safe sites in which to shelter during storm. | Instruction included in competitors instructions and reiterated at the marshalls briefing | Electrical burn/shock | 3 | B | Low | X | | | | | |
| 7 | Severe rainfall overloads local drain infrastructure causing sewage to be discharged directly into river | Awareness by Race Committee of risk | monitor weather | health risk from exosure to untreated sewage. | Recognition of need to cancel event | Communication with competitors through Tannoy and internet based event radio | Health Risk | 3 | A | Low | X | X | X | | | |
| Other water users | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Many Boats on the water including safety powered launches - Collision risk | Marshalls with megaphones and 2-way radios located at key points of the course to be vigilant for potential collisions and to take actions to minimise any collisions. | Ensure that Marshalls are properly equipped and briefed | Collision | Bow balls, heel restraints and buoyancy compartment aids may be inspected prior to going afloat to race. Launch drivers suitably qualified and briefed | Include in briefing for Control Commission and instructions to competitors. | Injury to crew | 2 | C | Low | X | | X | | | |

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| 2 | As above | No warning up or practice starts are allowed in the race area . | Ensure that this is included in the information and briefing to coaches and crews. | Collision | Competitors and coaches are responsible for ensuring that their boats are safe and are prepared to the required standards at all times including practice. | Include in information to Competitors. | Injury to crew | 2 | C | Low | X | X | X | | | | |
| 3 | As above | No crews are allowed on to the course unless for a race itself. | Ensure that this is included in the information and briefing to coaches and crews. | Collision | Marshall to monitor race area | Marshalls briefing | Injury to crew | 2 | C | Low | X | | X | | | | |
| els. | Collision with other river users | Chester council advised of and have permitted the event | Commercial river traffic will still be present. Operators have been advised of regatta. | Collision | Requirements for Public River Event Safety made by Chester City Council have been complied with. | Advice to other river users made through rowing clubs and usual council channels | Injury to crew, public and officials | 3 | C | Moderate | X | X | | | | | |
| 5 | Racing | In accordance with British Rowing's rules of racing. | Include this fact in information for competitors | Collision | If a clash becomes serious and is likely to damage equipment or athletes, the Marshall should stop the race. | Ensure that Officials are properly equipped and briefed | Injury to crew | 3 | B | Low | X | | X | | | | |
| 6 | Racing | Marshalls at stations along the course to instruct the crews to move apart (or for one out-of-station crew to move into their own water). | Remind Marshalls | Collision | Collision | Marshalls briefing | Injury to crew | 3 | B | Low | X | | | | | | |
| 7 | Rowing in race event causing injury | Marshalls supervising race | Marshalls briefing | Injury of athlete during a race (e.g., hit by blade as a result of a crab, hit by another boat in a collision, etc.) | Official contacts Race Control, who summons safety boat to assist and alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio. | Ensure that Officials and Race Control are properly equipped and briefed | Injury to crew | 3 | B | Low | X | | X | | | | |
| Local Environment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Overhanging trees and other boats and there pontoons on the route to the start | Warn crews and scullers to avoid trees , pontoons etc | Include in briefing to competitors and marshals | Crews or scullers blown into the overhanging trees | Assist with safety launch | Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use. | Rowers entangled in tree or reeds (minor inconvenience, no damage) | 1 | C | Low | X | | | | | | |
| 2 | Wells Disease and other waterborne infections | Remind water users of the risk | | Capsize or other entry in to the water | Ensure all water users wash hands after being afloat | Washing Facilities include soap and water. | Wells Disease. Other stomach infections. | 2 | E | Low | X | X | X | | | | |
| Boating and landing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Congestion in the boating area | Crews are to be called for boating strictly by rotation and in sequence. Boats not allowed to progress to start until released by Start Controller. | Ensure that Marshalls, coaches and crews are adequately briefed | Collision in boating area | If rescue is required, this will be coordinated by Regatta Control via 2-way radios. | Ensure that Marshalls are properly equipped (radios, throw lines, etc.) and adequately briefed. | Minor injury or Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia | 2 | C | Low | X | | | | | | |
| 2 | Wet launching required. Risk of treading on sharp object | Crews to wear protective footwear until in boat | List in instructions to competitors | Penetrating wound | competitors and marshalls aware of risk. | check launch footwear. | Minor injury | 1 | B | Low | | | | | | | |
| Handling boats on land | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Boats being moved in the presence of pedestrians | Regatta enclosure area not a public thoroughfare. Eight's parking area does have public rt of access. Council has permitted pedestrian access to Regatta but | Include in briefing to competitors and marshals | Collision of boat with pedestrian. | Marshall contacts Race Control, who summons alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio. | Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped. Check that radios work properly and that users are competent to use them. | Minor injury | 2 | C | Low | X | | | | | | |
| 2 | Boats being moved on public path @ Queens Pk B H - site for visitors trailers. | Marshalls and coaches to supervise boat movements at all times | Include in briefing to competitors and marshals | Collision of boat or cyclist with pedestrian. | clear launch and boat removal circulation information provided with in competitors instructions | ensure marshalls briefed in this role. | Minor injury | 2 | C | Low | X | X | X | | | | |
| Faulty, incorrectly set and poorly maintained equipment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Failure of Rescue launch | . Race will continue; Marshalls have full sight of the course from the start line and can use megaphone to control most of the race – finish judges to take control over last 150m. | All rescue boats and engines checked in week prior to event | Launch breaks down during a race | Any available launches in the vicinity will take over the duties | Ensure that launch drivers and static marshalls are appropriately briefed. | Reduced rescue capacity | 2 | B | Low | X | | | | | | |
| 2 | Failure of Marshalls launch | As above | Launches to be checked prior to event | reduced event supervision | Launch driver will radio to Race Control to advise of problem; Race control to summon rescue launch to retrieve the broken-down launch and recover to the boat house for repair. | Ensure that communications are effective. | Reduced supervision of event | 2 | B | Low | X | | | | | | |
| 3 | Communications failure | Radios checked prior to event. | Include in briefing to marshalls | Failure of Radios. | Use of internet radio and Tannoy system for communications. Use of mobile phone for key personnel | Briefing of Marshalls | Reduced supervision of event | 2 | B | Low | X | X | X | X | | | |
| Pre-existing health conditions and low levels of fitness | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Pre-existing health conditions | Coaches and crews should be aware of crew health concerns. | Information should be as up to date as possible | Collapse of athlete on landing stages (e.g., asthma attack or serious fall) | Official contacts Race Control, who alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio. | Ensure that Officials are properly briefed and equipped and that there are competent, well equipped first aiders, etc. WSO briefs St Johns Ambulance First Aiders | Serious health implications for competitor | 3 | B | Low | X | | | | | | |
| 2 | Pre-existing health conditions | Coaches and crews should be aware of crew health concerns. | As above | Collapse of athlete during a race (e.g., asthma attack) | Official contacts Race Control, who summons safety boat to assist and alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio. | Ensure that all Officials are properly briefed and equipped and that there are competent, well equipped first aiders, etc. | Serious health implications for competitor | 3 | C | Moderate | X | | | | | | |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Use of towpath by cyclists and pedestrians | Cycling is permitted in the spectators' area. | Ensure that Marshalls, coaches and crews are adequately briefed | Collision involving cyclists and pedestrians on the towpath | Provisions for first aid, medical treatment, and casualty evacuation to hospital. | Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped. Check that radios work properly and that users are competent to use them. | Minor injury to spectators and cyclists | 2 | B | Low | X | | | | | | |
| 2 | Fire in the buildings | Cooking is taking place | Safe operation of cookers | Fire around cooking area | Ensure Fire Extinguishers are easily to hand | Ensure Tea Tent operators know where fire extinguishers are located and how to raise the alarm (horn) | Serious damage to people and buildings. | 3 | B | Low | | | X | | | | X |
| 3 | Fire whilst refuelling | Boats may need refuelling during the event | Refuelling must be ashore | Spillage or Fire | Refuel ashore, use appropriate funnels, ensure fire extinguishers are available | Ensure Fire Extinguishers are correct type (not water) | Damage to person refuelling | 2 | B | Low | | X | X | | | | |
| 4 | Obstruction of Marshalls sight lines by Spectators | Marshalling sites chosen to reduce this hazard and physical barriers in place where required | Sites not moved after selection and barriers to remain in place | Marshalls are unable to supervise boat movements | Ensure barriers are in place around marshalls stations | Ensure they remain in place throughout the event | Impaired safety provision | 2 | B | Low | X | | | | | | |
| 5 | Slips, trips and falls | Holes in regatta field filled in, barriers erected around dangerous areas of slope leading to river. | Inspection of regatta site prior to event. | Sprains, cuts, grazes. | Provisions for first aid, medical treatment, and casualty evacuation to hospital. | Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped. Check that radios work properly and that users are competent to use them. | Minor injury to spectators and cyclists | 2 | B | Low | X | | | | | | |