

# RISK ASSESSMENT 2015



Instructions for Competitors, Officials, Visitors and Coaches are all available online at [www.wallingford-head.org.uk](http://www.wallingford-head.org.uk) from a minimum of 14 days prior to the regatta. Provision is made for supplying hard copies as appropriate. Instructions detail such items as circulation patterns for vehicles and boats, location of facilities etc.

All Boat Movements on the Water are covered by [Row Safe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing](#) (“The Code”) as published by British Rowing. The Code applies to all participants, who are responsible for self-policing the code. Further, coaches, marshals, umpires and all officials enforce the code.

**Failure to comply with any part of that code in relation to equipment or behaviour will lead to the crew or participants not being able to go afloat and /or race.**

Hazard	Potential Outcome	Likelihood	Measures to Reduce Risk	Overall Risk
<b>VEHICLE &amp; CYCLE MOVEMENTS &amp; USE:</b>				
Fall hazard while unloading boats	Injury to rowers and /or damage to boats	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reliance on competency of crews and coaches. British Rowing provides guidelines on trailers and towing</li> </ul>	Low / Moderate
Collision hazard due to trailers, boats and cars	Injury to rowers and /or damage to boats	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Car park marshals to ensure trailers and cars are parked to allow adequate space to manoeuvre boats and people and that no speeding is allowed</li> <li>Traffic to trailer park buildings is restricted to trailers and cars with boats</li> <li>No spectator cars are allowed into the trailer car parks, but directed to alternative parking under marshal supervision</li> </ul>	Low

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<b>LANDING STAGES:</b>				
Slip hazard due to frost / ice on the landing stages	Injury to rowers, and/or damage to boats	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rafts will be gritted and salted if temperatures are close to freezing</li> <li>Slope down to rafts will be treated or covered in straw to reduce chances of slipping</li> </ul>	Low
Trip hazard due to items being left on landing stages	Injury to rowers, and/or damage to boats	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raft marshals instructed to minimise time crew equipment is left on staging</li> <li>Blade storage is provided at the sandy bank to keep blades off the floating stages</li> <li>Shoes to be cleared from the stages by coaches and raft marshals</li> </ul>	Low
Hazard	Potential Outcome	Likelihood	Measures to reduce risk	Overall risk
<b>PRIOR TO RACE START:</b>				
Collision with other boats on way to start or in marshalling area	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On water safety cover provided from 20 minutes prior to start</li> <li>Reliance on competency of crews and coaches, and compliance with the Code</li> <li>Traffic rules are circulated to athletes prior to the event, non-compliance may lead to race penalties being applied</li> </ul>	Low
Long wait in marshalling area prior to start	Potential for hypothermia	Low, varies according to November weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reliance on competency of crews and coaches supported by British Rowing Coach Education Programme</li> <li>Raft marshals to advise crews, especially coxes, thought to have inadequate protection for the current conditions</li> </ul>	Low

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<b>DURING A RACE:</b>				
Incidents involving other race crews	Injury to rowers and /or damage to boats	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All racing is carried out under British Rowing Rules of Racing and in compliance with the Code. All races are observed by marshals at all times</li> <li>Bank marshals along the course will advise boats to move as necessary if there is a safety issue</li> <li>No warm-up on the course and warming up is restricted to the marshalling area under strict instructions of the bank marshals</li> </ul>	Low
Capsize	Potential for hypothermia	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Umpires and marshals along the course can summon safety boats with emergency blankets</li> <li>Water and air temperatures unlikely to be low enough in late December to cause hypothermia given short exposure times</li> </ul>	Low
Hazard	Potential Outcome	Likelihood	Measures to Reduce Risk	Overall Risk
<b>ON THE COURSE:</b>				
Overhanging trees on the race line	Injury to rowers and/ or damage to boats	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overhanging trees have been cut back to minimise the possibility of interference</li> <li>Marshals to warn boats if safety may be compromised</li> </ul>	Low
Cruisers, long boats and other river traffic	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lock Keepers at Benson Lock and Cleeve Lock will be given hand-outs for boats entering the rowing reach and giving advice</li> <li>Marshals will ensure bends are clear before start of racing and keep particularly vigilant in guiding cruisers etc. in the area of the bends</li> </ul>	Low
Bends (1km into race)	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extra marshals allocated to keep crews visible at all times and advise on safe line</li> </ul>	Low
Four-arches Railway Bridge	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take care going through narrow arches and under control of marshals</li> </ul>	Low

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<b>THUNDER STORMS:</b>				
Lightning	Severe injury, death or damage to equipment and structures	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Race Committee to apply 30 second/10 minute rule. When gap between visible lightning and thunder is 30 seconds or less, racing to be stopped, water to be cleared. All tents are to be evacuated, and all spectators to be advised to get into vehicles, to close doors and windows. Then await the all clear</li> <li>• All clear when lightning /thunder gap exceeds 30 seconds for 10 minutes</li> <li>• In the case of lightning, all blades MUST be put flat on the ground and not held by athletes or coaches</li> </ul>	Very Low
<b>INCLEMENT WEATHER:</b>				
Squalls, heavy rain, sleet, snow, fog, severe crosswinds, etc.	Severe injury, death or damage to equipment and structures.	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Race Committee to assess race conditions and agree time delay(s), postponement of racing, cancellation of all racing, or cancellation of classes of crews felt to be at particular risk in the conditions</li> <li>• Participants will be advised of the situation over the public address system.</li> </ul>	Low