

Safety Plan and Risk Assessment 2022 V1.0

The following notes are distributed to the Clubs racing at Wallingford Head for distribution to competitors, their coaches, organisers, marshals, umpires and safety personnel and are available on the event website.

They must be read by every person taking part together with the [Competitors' Instructions](#), Row Safe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing ("Row Safe") and the Course Map.

Wallingford Head Safety Advisor

The Organising committee has appointed Tim Brock as the Safety Advisor. He is a member of the Organising Committee and has produced this document and updated the risk assessment which is annexed in this document.

Race committee

A race committee chaired by Adrian Champion will undertake the duties detailed in the British Rowing Rules of Racing. In particular, they will decide whether weather conditions are too dangerous to permit racing to continue.

Covid-19

Attendees (competitors, spectators, volunteers) of the event are asked to undertake a lateral flow test within 2 days of the event and not to attend the event if the test is positive. Additionally attendees are asked not to attend if they have been in the presence of someone who has tested positive in the last 7 days, or if they themselves have the symptoms of Covid-19.

All possible safety precautions will be taken to limit the exposure of any attendees to Covid-19.

Race Safety

Wallingford Head is run in accordance with the British Rowing Rules of Racing ("Rules of Racing"). It is compulsory that all competitors comply fully with the Rules of Racing and all aspects of Row Safe.

It cannot be emphasised too strongly that it is the responsibility of Clubs, their athletes and coaches to ensure that their equipment complies in all regards with the requirements of Row Safe.

Race officials may inspect boats chosen at random. Boats that fail to comply with Row Safe and the Rules of Racing will be excluded from the event. All crews attending Wallingford Head must comply fully with the rules as laid out in the [Competitors' Instructions](#). Specific attention is drawn to competitors and coaches that boats designed to have watertight hatches and/or bungs must have these in place and fitted correctly.

All club/crew coaches are to ensure that their athletes are correctly briefed on Row Safe, in particular in relation to capsizing procedures.

Participants who have any potential health problems that might cause problems to themselves or other competitors (e.g. epilepsy) must advise the Race Officials of their condition prior to going afloat. The Race Committee retains the right not to allow a competitor to go afloat if, in their opinion, the health condition constitutes an unacceptable risk.

Suspending/Stopping the Race

The primary duty of every Race Official is to care for the safety and welfare of competitors and others. Any concerns regarding safety or welfare should be reported to the Chairman of the Race Committee who will decide on the appropriate action to take. It is the decision of the Chairman of the Race Committee to decide whether racing should be suspended or stopped.



In the event that racing is suspended, marshals will immediately instruct racing boats to stop by shouting "STOP RACING" on megaphones and guiding boats into the most sheltered part of the river adjacent to one of the banks. If conditions are equal on each bank, preference should be given to bringing crews in to the towpath bank where assistance can be given more easily.

Launches are to stay in position so as to give cover over the entire course and drivers are to be vigilant and respond to any request for help from Marshals. All launches are equipped with Safety Boxes which include emergency foil blankets which should be used to ensure rowers remain warm.

The Safety Advisor and the Chairman of the Race Committee shall decide on terminating the event or re-starting if conditions improve.

Safety cover, incidents, and emergencies

All launches will carry radios and safety equipment as specified by Row Safe. Safety cover will be provided for the reach bounded by the old Wallingford Bridge and the marshalling position of the last boat in each division. Cover will commence 90 minutes before the start of each division, with limited cover provided by safety boats initially. Full cover will be in place 20 minutes before the start of each division. Boats going outside this area do so at their own risk.

Bank and on-water marshals will be in place to provide line of sight cover for the whole course from 20 minutes prior to the start of the division, until the last boat in that division has cleared the area for which that Marshal is responsible. A safety launch will follow the last crew in each division. On the water safety cover will terminate for each division as the last crew arrives at the rafts.

First aid kits are located at Wallingford Rowing Club, with the catering facility in the boating area and on board all launches.

A radio system will be in operation. The radio system covers the bank marshals along the course, the start, the safety boats along the course and the finish. This is supplemented by use of officials' mobile phones as a backup in the event of radio failure.

In the event of an on the water incident, competitors should firstly ensure their own safety, and then ensure a Race Official is aware of the problem who will decide on the most appropriate action. In the event of a person being injured on land, a Race Official should be informed.

All accidents, collisions or capsizes must be reported to Race Control and a BR incident report form filled in prior to leaving the event. Copies of Incident Forms will be held at Race Control.

In a serious incident call the Emergency Services on 999. Do not wait for the event's first aiders or Medical Officer to arrive.

Please note that a conventional ambulance may not be able to get close to the riverbank. Do not hesitate to ask for the Air Ambulance if you are at a position inaccessible by road. Safe landing areas, clear of obstructions are shown on the Course Map.

Clothing

Do think of conditions and the fact that you may be sat at the start area for some time. Ensure that rowers have suitable clothing, particularly juniors.



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Annex: Safety Risk Assessment 2022

Instructions for competitors, officials, visitors, and coaches are available online at www.wallingford-head.org.uk from a minimum of 14 days prior to the event. 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
VEHICLE & CYCLE MOVEMENTS & USE:				
Fall hazard while unloading boats	Injury to rowers and /or damage to boats	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliance on competency of crews and coaches. British Rowing provides guidelines on trailers and towing 	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"> 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 Traffic to trailer park buildings is restricted to trailers and cars with boats No spectator cars are allowed into the trailer parks, but directed to alternative parking under marshal supervision 	Low



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Hazard while navigating to parking area	Injury to rowers and spectators	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marshalls to advise drivers on parking locations • Speed limits to be maintained using signs and marshals 	Low
Hazard for pedestrians when proceeding to racing and spectators	Injury to rowers and spectators or pedestrians	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed limits to be maintained using signs. • Marshalls to ensure that the speed limits are maintained 	Low
LANDING STAGES:				
Slip hazard due to muddy slope leading to rafts	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slope will be treated or covered in straw to provide a non slip surface 	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"> • Raft marshals instructed to minimise time crew equipment is left on staging • Blade storage is provided at the sandy bank to keep blades off the floating stages • Shoes to be cleared from the stages by coaches and raft marshals 	
PRIOR TO RACE START:				
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"> • On water safety cover provided from 20 minutes prior to start • Reliance on competency of crews and coaches, and compliance with the Code • Traffic rules are circulated to athletes 	Low



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			prior to the event, non-compliance may lead to race penalties being applied	
Long wait in marshalling area prior to start	Potential for hypothermia	Low, varies according to November/December weather	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliance on competency of crews and coaches supported by British Rowing Coach education programme • Raft marshals to advise crews, especially coxes, thought to have inadequate protection for the current conditions • Competitors are asked to wear appropriate clothing for the conditions 	Low
DURING A RACE:				
Incidents involving other race crews	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Bank marshals along the course will advise boats to move as necessary if there is a safety issue • No warm-up on the course and warming up is restricted to the marshalling area under strict instructions of the bank marshals 	Low
Capsize	Potential for	Low (in larger boats)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Umpires and marshals along the course can 	Low



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	hypothermia		summon safety boats with emergency blankets	
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THUNDERSTORMS

Lightning	Severe injury, death or damage to equipment and structures	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • All clear when lightning /thunder gap exceeds 30 seconds for 10 minutes • In the case of lightning, all blades MUST be put flat on the ground and not held by athletes or coaches 	Very Low
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ON THE COURSE:

Overhanging trees on the race line	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overhanging trees have been cut back to minimise the possibility of interference • Marshals to warn boats if safety may be compromised 	Low
Cruisers, narrow boats and other	Injury to rowers and/or damage	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for river closure during the time 	Low



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river traffic	to boats		<p>of the race to prevent cruisers being affected by number of rowing craft</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lock Keepers at Benson Lock and Cleeve Lock will be given hand-outs for boats entering the rowing reach and giving advice • Marshals will ensure that the bends are clear before start of racing and keep particularly vigilant in guiding cruisers etc. in the area of the bends 	
Bends (1km into race)	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra marshals allocated to keep crews visible at all times and advise on safe line 	Low
Four-arches railway bridge (above start)	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take care going through narrow arches and under control of marshals 	Low
INCLEMENT WEATHER				
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"> • 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 • Participants will be advised of the 	Low



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			situation over the public address system.	
COVID 19				
Covid Spread	Spread of virus, leading to serious or critical illness	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All attendees shall be asked to complete a lateral flow test in the 2 days prior to the event. • All attendees shall be asked to not attend if they have been in contact with a positive COVID 19 case. • All attendees shall be asked not to attend if they have any of the recognised COVID 19 symptoms as detailed on the government website (Coronavirus (COVID-19): guidance and support - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)) • Wherever possible, interactions shall be outside. • On-Site admin kept to a minimum, and completed outside, or under open sided canvas. • All documents to be made available on-line, with competitors requested to print and bring their own if required. • Crew numbers to be minimised to ensure adequate crew spacing when boating, 	Moderate



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- enabling club bubbles to be maintained.
- Additional toilets facilities made available to minimise bottlenecks.
- Finish line moved down stream to increase space between finish and landing stages, removing the potential for grouping on the landing stages.
- Umpiring and marshalling kit to be allocated and kept with one person for the event.
- Any umpire or volunteer will only touch rowers equipment if absolutely necessary and sanitise hands before and after, or wear latex gloves.
- Launch crews shall be minimised to a maximum of two and be from one household wherever possible.
- First Aid shall be given appropriate PPE (face coverings etc.)
- Raft marshals will wear appropriate PPE (face coverings etc.)



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