

Walton Small Boats Head

Saturday 6th December 2025

This risk assessment follows the pattern set out in the British Rowing Row Safe 2023
<https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/2023-British-Rowing-RowSafe.pdf>

Risk Assessment Matrices

Likelihood of harm	Severity of harm		
	Slightly harmful	Moderately harmful	Extremely harmful
Highly unlikely	Very low risk	Low risk	Low risk
Unlikely	Low risk	Medium risk	Medium risk
Likely	Medium risk	Medium risk	High risk
Very likely	Medium risk	High risk	Very high risk

RISK LEVEL	EVALUATION OF ACCEPTABILITY
Very low risk	Acceptable
Low risk	Risks should be reduced so that they are acceptable, if reasonably practicable to do so
Medium risk	
High risk	
Very high risk	Unacceptable

Risk Assessment

Land Based

	Likelihood	Severity of harm	Risk	Action
Occurrence	Highly unlikely Unlikely Likely Very likely	Slightly harmful Moderately harmful Extremely harmful	Very low Low Medium High Very high	
Vehicle / Pedestrian / Trailer collisions.	Unlikely	Extremely harmful	Medium	Trailers parked in a designated area controlled by a marshal.
Minor injuries caused during rigging etc.	Likely	Slightly harmful	Medium	Provide First Aid cover
Collisions between pedestrians and crews manoeuvring on land.	Likely	Slightly harmful	Medium	Provide boating marshals. Details of boating areas provided in competitors instructions
Collision between crew and motor vehicle when crossing road	Unlikely	Extremely harmful	Medium	Issue instructions to crews and make aware of dangers. Provide marshal to supervise car park and road crossing.
General trips and falls.	Unlikely	Slightly Harmful	Low	Ensure crews do not leave blades lying around and reduce trip hazards to all. Provide first Aid cover.
Dangers from Inclement weather – thunder & lightning.	Unlikely	Extremely harmful	Medium	Suspend racing, do not allow crews to boat. Spectators warned not to stand under trees by nearest bank umpire.
Person attending event infected with Covid-19	Likely	Slightly harmful	Medium	Advise all competitors and volunteers not to attend if exhibiting and symptoms of Covid-19
Fatal illness	Unlikely	Extremely harmful	Medium	First Aid present + telephone to emergency services.

Water Based

All boat movements on the water are covered by the British Rowing Row Safe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing. The Guide applies to all participants, who are responsible for following its instructions. All coaches, marshals, umpires and officials enforce the regulations when actual or likely breach observed.

WATER BASED	Likelihood	Severity of harm	Risk	Action
Flood stream	Likely	Extremely harmful	Very high risk	Event cancelled.
Equipment failure whilst on water.	Unlikely	Moderately harmful	Medium	Boat marshal check boats comply with regulations before boating.
Long wait in marshalling area prior to start, giving potential for hypothermia	Unlikely	Moderately harmful	Medium	Raft Marshals to advise crews thought to have inadequate protection for the prevailing conditions.
Collision between crews training before race commences	Likely	Moderately harmful	Medium	Crews to follow safety rules for event. Instructions provided for all crews.
Collisions between crews racing and crews warming up/down.	Likely	Moderately harmful	Medium	Buoy course at critical points. Circulation pattern map and instructions are provided for all crews. This is enforced by safety boats and marshals/ umpires afloat and on bank
Crew going over weir near race finish (Tumblin Bay)	Unlikely	Extremely harmful	Medium	Marshal stationed on weir with megaphone to warn crews
Crew member falling ill/ sustaining injury whilst still in boat.	Unlikely	Moderately harmful	Medium	Umpire to call for Safety boat (one of 6 present), which then conveys casualty to St Johns for medical attention.
Competitor falling out of boat or capsising. Risk of drowning/ hypothermia.	Likely	Extremely harmful	High	Umpire to call for Safety boat (one of 6 present), which then conveys casualty to first aid ambulance for medical attention.
Marshal afloat or on Tumblin Bay Weir or person in work boat falling overboard	Unlikely	Slightly harmful	Low	All persons afloat or on the weir must wear a buoyancy aid
Failure of engine on powered vessel.	Unlikely	Slightly harmful	Low	Radio and shouted warnings given and boat paddled to nearest shore.
Wind causes sinking conditions, i.e. “white horses”	Unlikely	Extremely harmful	Medium	If conditions are bad, then Race Committee will delay and/or abandon racing. If afloat, crews will be told to return to rafts by safest route, with Safety boats in attendance.
Foggy conditions	Unlikely	Moderately harmful	Medium	Race committee abandon or delay event . No crews allowed to boat until conditions are safe.
Thunder and lightning.	Unlikely	Extremely harmful	Medium	If closer than 6 miles (lightning / thunder gap < 30 sec.). Racing suspended. Crews off water. Resumed after 10mins of no thunder.
Very cold weather, ice and snow	Unlikely	Moderately harmful	Medium	High risk areas gritted. Race Committee to assess viability of event
Other river users encroach on course	Likely	Extremely harmful	High	Other river users warned by marshals to keep to navigation channel which is buoyed at important points. Desborough Cut closed to non-racing traffic. Warning boards placed at each end of the course. River User Group and local clubs warned of event in advance.