

STRONG STREAM, ADVERSE WEATHER AND RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES:

In times of strong stream rowers should check the flow gauge at <https://www.gaugemap.co.uk/#!Map/Summary/1224/1352> as well as EA stream warnings

Link to up-to-date river conditions (EA boards): <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-thames-current-river-conditions>

Danger points map of the reach: <http://www.waltonrowingclub.co.uk/safety/map-of-reach/>

Environment Agency – Boards status	River water conditions	Who can boat?
Green Boards:	Flow rate Below 80m3/s	Beginners/Novices particularly should use caution when boating. Boat round the island in an anti-clockwise direction. All crews should familiarise themselves with the danger points on the map on the club notice board.
Normal boating conditions	Water typically just below or equal to landing stage height.	
YELLOW BOARDS: CAUTION STREAM INCREASING/DECREASING	Approximate flow rate: 80-90 m3/s to 130m3/s. Water may be above the landing stage. In the absence of a notice on the club safety board or website: if an object takes 60 to 80 seconds to drift from one end of the landing stage to the other, assume yellow boards.	Beginners: No beginners in small boats. Four/quads/eights: must have a coach's permission <u>and</u> be accompanied from bank or launch. Adult novices/intermediates/juniors: with coach's permission. All crews must be accompanied from bank or launch. Experienced seniors/masters: please use caution when going out. CREWS SHOULD TAKE ADDITIONAL CARE WHEN TURNING, MAKING SURE TO KEEP WELL CLEAR OF BOTH THE LITTLE WEIR 200M BELOW THE CLUB, AND SUNBURY WEIR.
RED BOARDS: DANGER STRONG STREAM	Flow rate below 160 m3/s Water may be above the landing stage. In the absence of a notice on the club safety board or website: if an object takes 60 seconds to drift from one end of the landing stage to the other, assume red boards.	Beginners/novices and juniors/seniors/masters unless experienced: NO BOATING. Experienced juniors: must have coach's permission and be accompanied from the bank/launch. Experienced seniors/masters: the whole crew must individually undertake their own risk assessment that demonstrates they are able to cope with the conditions. Crews must be in unanimous agreement that they can cope with the conditions before boating. Crews should also check wind conditions as part of any risk assessment and not boat in a strong east wind. CREWS SHOULD TURN THEIR BOAT STRAIGHT AFTER THE CLUB (AT THE END OF THE LANDING STAGE). DO NOT ATTEMPT TO TURN CLOSE TO, OR IN FRONT OF, THE LITTLE WEIR SITUATED 200M BELOW THE CLUB OR NEAR SUNBURY WEIR.
RED BOARDS: DANGER STRONG STREAM	Flow rate 160 m3/s or above Water may be above the landing stage.	No outings in club nor private boats. <i>When the flow rate reaches or exceeds 160 m3/s, the Club landing stage is not available for launching or boating activities under Red Board conditions. Only brief embarkation and disembarkation consistent with public right is permitted.</i>
Other conditions	High winds: 20 mph+ and gusts	Experienced crews only.
	Thunder and lightning:	No rowing until 20 minutes clear of weather conditions. If lightning is seen during an outing and thunder is a count of 10 seconds away or less, return to the club or nearest landing stage immediately and seek shelter off the water.
	Fog:	No crews allowed if the black pile of the weir opposite Miskin Wharf is not visible. Experienced crews only when Thames Valley Skiff Club is visible.
	Low level light conditions:	Cox, bow, and steer must wear high visibility clothing. A constant white light must be affixed on stern and bow.
	Night rowing: <i>If you are due to be on the water before sunrise, or at/after sunset.</i> Water temperature (3°C and below) and icy conditions	No beginners, novices, juniors, inexperienced seniors/masters without coach's permission. A constant white light must be affixed on stern and bow. Sculling in club singles at night is not permitted. Rowing at night on red boards is not permitted. No beginners allowed out. Novices and juniors with coach's permission. Experienced seniors/masters may boat with caution. <i>Do not go into the lock cut when ice has formed.</i>

RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES:

All crews should complete a risk assessment of their experience and the conditions before each outing. When completing a risk assessment crews should consider the following as a minimum.

Conditions	EA Board Colour (available here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-thames-current-river-conditions) Flow rate (available here: https://environment.data.gov.uk/flood-monitoring/id/measures/3100TH-flow--i-15_min-m3_s/readings.html?sorted&limit=96  and here: https://www.gaugemap.co.uk/#!/Map/Summary/1224/1352)  Wind speed and direction Temperature Visibility (including low light) Weather forecast for the time of your outing
Crew	Age Level of experience (taking particular care to consider the range of experience levels) Experience of the cox (if applicable) Fitness levels and strength If anyone in the crew is currently unwell or injured Type of boat
Other	Equipment – check that all equipment is in good working order before boating. ALWAYS REMEMBER: If in doubt, don't go out!

