



OARSport

Junior Sculling Head at Dorney Lake

Monday 18 March 2019

Held under British Rowing Rules of Racing.

Risk Assessment

Overview

The event will be held at the Eton College Rowing Centre, Dorney Lake. As it is on a lake there is no risk from passing vessels and no risk of strong stream conditions. The Rowing Centre is professionally managed and the advice given by the staff on safety matters is always followed.

Bad weather is a significant risk for an outdoor event in the UK in March. The Race Committee and Event Safety Advisor will monitor the weather forecast in the run-up to the event with the intention of cancelling before competitors travel if appropriate. The event may be altered, suspended or cancelled on the day if necessary.

The number of boats in each division will be limited to a level that umpires and officials believe can be safely managed on the water. The overall number of accepted entries will at most be around 500 and the overall number of competitors around 3,000. Contractors familiar with Dorney are used to manage traffic and parking.

All boat movements on the water are covered by British Rowing's Row Safe. Row Safe applies to all participants, who are responsible for following the standards and recommendations set out therein. All coaches, marshals, umpires and officials enforce these standards and recommendations when actual or likely failure is observed. Officials have radio communication with race control.

Risk Register

The identified risks are tabulated below, together with the actions taken to reduce their likelihood or mitigate their impact. Ratings are defined in the Appendix. The approach to risk assessment follows the principles set out in the guidance issued by British Rowing in April 2018 (RowSafe Chapter 4) but the template is simpler.

	Probability	Severity	Risk	Action
ON LAND				
Vehicle / Pedestrian / Trailer collisions.	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Trailers parked in a segregated area. Traffic and car parking professionally managed. Number of competitors, spectators, trailers and cars on site limited to level deemed manageable in light of experience.
Minor injuries caused during rigging etc.	Likely	Slightly Harmful	Moderate	First Aid present
Collisions between pedestrians and crews manoeuvring on land.	Likely	Slightly Harmful	Moderate	Provide Raft and Apron Marshals. Reliance on competency of crews & coaches. The boat rigging and racking areas are clearly defined and supervised and separated from vehicle and trailer storage areas.
Collisions between bicycles and pedestrians	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Bicycles restricted to roads where there are no pedestrians, following a one-way system. No cycling allowed on apron, or on North side of Lake. Bank Umpires to enforce this rule.
Collisions between cyclists and vehicles on Island Road	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	It may be necessary in flood conditions for cycles to travel against the flow of the occasional departing trailer or car. Vehicles will be supervised when or if this occurs.
General trips and falls.	Unlikely	Slightly Harmful	Tolerable	First Aid present.
Fatal illness	Unlikely	Very Harmful	Substantial	First Aid present + telephone to emergency services.
Dangers from Electrical equipment, computers, generators, cabling (on ground and overhead.)	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	At this event, there is a minimal amount of this type of equipment. Any necessary remedial action will be taken following a site inspection the day before.
Dangers from stays supporting ropes to closed areas.	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	There was an incident in 2013 resulting in serious injury when truck driver disobeyed one-way instructions. Circulation has been changed to avoid repeat.
Dangers from Inclement weather – thunder & lightning.	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Pedestrians warned not to stand under trees, by nearest bank umpire. No crews on water during lightning.
Fire in boathouse	Highly Unlikely	Harmful	Tolerable	Marked Fire Exits & extinguishers
Vehicle Fire	Highly Unlikely	Harmful	Tolerable	Fire extinguishers in boathouse.
Bomb warning	Highly Unlikely	Harmful	Tolerable	Evacuation of area by PA & loudhailers
Major incident (e.g. air crash)	Highly Unlikely	Extremely harmful	Moderate	Evacuation of area by PA & loudhailer.

	Probability	Severity	Risk	Action
ON WATER				
Equipment failure whilst on water.	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Control Commission to examine boats before crews boat. Outer and middle lanes reserved for any crew with equipment or illness problems.
Collision between Crews Training before Racing Commences.	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Circulation Pattern in place, No pre-race training permitted and no crew allowed to boat until a rescue boat is on water.
Long wait in marshalling area prior to start, giving risk of hypothermia.	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Warm up circulation pattern allows crews to keep on the move. Raft Marshals to advise crews thought to have inadequate protection for the prevailing conditions.
Collisions between crews racing and crews warming up/down.	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Circulation Pattern map and instructions are provided for all crews. Physical separation barrier in place at entrance to warm up lake to avoid contact and buoys mark circulation. This is designed to minimise collisions, and is enforced by rescue boats and Marshals/Umpires afloat and on bank. Number of entries per division limited to level deemed manageable in light of experience.
Crew member falling ill/ sustaining injury whilst still in boat.	Unlikely	Harmful	Moderate	Umpire to call for rescue boat (one of five present), which then conveys casualty to rafts for medical attention. Outer and middle lanes reserved for a crew still able to move unaided.
Competitor falling out of boat. Risk of drowning/hypothermia.	Unlikely	Extremely Harmful	Substantial	As Above
Failure of engine on powered vessel. giving risk of collision.	Likely	Slightly harmful	Moderate	Radio and shouted warnings given and boat paddled to nearest shore.
Wind causing "sinking" conditions. i.e. "white horses"	Unlikely	Harmful	Substantial	Race Committee take decision adopt alternative circulation patterns to permit racing under safe conditions. If conditions become unsafe, Race Committee will delay or abandon racing. If afloat, crews will be told to return to rafts by safest lane, with rescue boats in attendance.
Thunder and lightning.	Unlikely	Extremely Harmful	Intolerable	If closer than 6 miles (lightning /thunder gap < 30 sec.). Racing suspended. Crews off water. Resumed after 30mins of no lightning / thunder. (30/30 rule)
Very cold weather, ice and snow	Unlikely	Harmful	Substantial	High risk areas gritted. Race Committee to assess viability of event.
Fog or heavy mist reducing visibility below 250m	Unlikely	Extremely Harmful	Intolerable	Racing to be stopped until visibility restored beyond 250m

APPENDIX

Risk Assessment Matrix

Probability of Accidents	Severity of Outcome		
	Slightly harmful (Low)	Harmful (Medium)	Extremely harmful (High)
Highly unlikely (Low)	Trivial Risk	Tolerable Risk	Moderate Risk
Unlikely (Medium)	Tolerable Risk	Moderate Risk	Substantial Risk
Likely (High)	Moderate Risk	Substantial Risk	Intolerable Risk

Risks and Actions

RISK LEVEL	ACTION AND TIMESCALE
Trivial	No action required.
Tolerable	No additional controls are required. Consideration may be given to a more effective solution or improvement.
Moderate	Efforts should be made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period. Where the moderate risk is associated with harmful/serious consequences further assessment may be necessary to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the need for improved control measures.
Substantial	The activity should not be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may have to be allocated to reduce the risk. Where the risk involves activity already in progress, urgent action should be taken.
Intolerable	Activity should not be started or continued until the risk has been reduced. If it is not possible to reduce risk even with unlimited resources, activity has to remain prohibited.