

Risk Assessment

Event	Trafford Head of the Bridgewater
Author	Chairman of the Race Committee - Graham Whistance Safety Officer

No:	Hazard	Reduce probability a Hazard causing a Hazardous Event		Hazardous Event
		Barriers	Action to maintain barriers	
1	Boats afloat for practice	Crews are not allowed to practice outside of the controlled event. Coaches and crews must attend the Safety Briefing and Traffic Circulation plan before going afloat for racing.	Prepare and provide safety briefing and inform coaches and crews that they must read the Competitors Instructions and Safety Plan	Capsize or sinking during progress to start
2	Other canal users	Canal is closed to all users, apart from competitors, for the duration of the event	All canal users advised by Bridgewater Canal Company. Any boats held at either end of course until racing is finished	Boat entering closed area without permission

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			Send Competitors Instructions to all entries	

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	Moored boats (including butty barge)	Can change overnight. Bridgewater canal send notice to all cruising clubs adjacent to course that canal is closed for racing	Include on pre race safety brief	Collision

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2	Debris on the course	Inspect the course before crews embark, authorisation to proceed	<p>Safety provision in place before boats embark</p> <p>Canal Company to clear overhanging branches and bushes prior to event</p> <p>Club also to arrange work parties before event to ensure course cleared of debris</p> <p>The course will be walked within 24hr of the race to confirm latest conditions / hazards</p>	Collision

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3	Boats afloat for racing	Coaches and crews must have attended the Safety Briefing and Traffic Circulation plan before going afloat for racing.	Prepare and provide safety briefing and inform coaches and crews that they must read the Competitors Instructions and Safety Plan	Capsize or sinking during a race

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4	Contact between boats	Umpired and Marshalled Event, allow suitable time between crews and sub-divisions	Course Marshalls located every 250 metres on the race course with visibility to the preceding and successive marshall	Minor damage to boats and minor injuries to Athletes
5	Capsize	Coaches ensure their crews are competent to race and have safe equipment	Competitor instructions and safety briefing.	Athlete ends up in the water
	Capsize	All participants should be able to swim and undertaken capsize drill in line with BR requirements - onus is on clubs and competitors to ensure adherence. Canal depth is such that a person who capsizes can walk to the bank	Notice to Competitors	Entrapment in Boats

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6	Safety Equipment	Clubs should ensure their equipment is safe	Inspection of equipment by umpires in accordance with "Rules of Racing 2021"	Impact damage no buoyancy
7	Leptospirosis (or other waterborne diseases)	Clubs should ensure their members are aware of the issues. Provide shower and sink facilities	Notice in Safety Instructions, and safety briefing	Impact to health of athletes
8	Entrapment in Boats	All participants should be able to swim and undertaken capsized drill	Notice to Competitors	Capsized
	Water foul including Canadian Geese and Swans			Contact with flying bird, Attack by mating pairs

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1	Sudden bad weather causing un-rowable and/or dangerous conditions	Any umpire or other key race official will stop racing. Any crews on the water will be moved into the most sheltered area and shepherded back to the landing stages by course marshals and safety boats.	Ensure that Marshals, Umpires, Coaches and crews are adequately briefed.	Boats capsize or are swamped

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2	Delays in cold / wet conditions	Work to the Competition programme Restriction on total number of boats in each division	Brief competitors on how to keep warm, competitor briefing	
3	Possibility of electrical storm	Electrical storms unlikely due probable cold winter weather. Provisions laid down in the document "Developing an action plan for risk from lightning" available from British Rowing to be followed:-	Ensure that Marshals, Umpires, Coaches and crews are adequately briefed.	Rower or official struck by lightning

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4		"Suspension and resumption of racing should follow the 30/30 rule: racing should stop when the flash-to-bang count is 30 seconds, and should not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning."	No variation from 30/30 rule to be agreed unanimously by Event Chairman, Safety Adviser, Starter. Race Committee Chairman and all members of Race Committee.	
5		All crews to leave the water immediately, instructions from Safety Adviser or Race Committee Chairman using radios distributed with on course marshals.. Transport to be available to move rowers from the bank to areas of safety.	Ensure that Marshals, Umpires, Coaches and crews are adequately briefed.	

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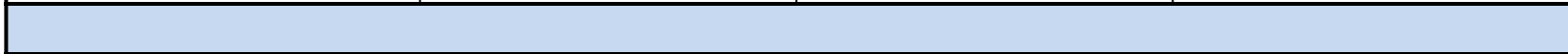
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6	Reduced water levels in canal	Monitor water levels before and during racing	Moniitor water levels	

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	Ice on canal	Weather conditions monitored and course inspected prior to start of racing	Event committee constantly reviewing conditions. Suspension of racing if needed	Damage to equipment from collision with ice



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1	Many Boats on the water	Marshals with megaphones and 2-way radios located at key points of the course to be vigilant for potential collisions and to take actions to minimize any collisions.	Ensure that Marshalls are properly equipped and briefed	Collision
			Provide a competitors and Coxes Briefing for all divisions	

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2	Moorings in marinas	Coaches and crews must have read the Safety Briefing before going afloat for practice or racing.	Ensure Umpires and Marshalls are suitably briefed, adequate planning on the start and finish. Mooring positions marked	Collision
		No warming up or practice starts are allowed in the marshalling areas at the start	Ensure that this is included in the information and briefing to coaches and crews under competitors instructions.	

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		Warning notices displayed for other canal users at each end of the Head course, requesting craft to adhere to the restrictions. Canal also closed for duration of event	Ensure that notices are displayed. Marshal at each end of course to prohibit other users during racing	
	Moored boats (including butty barge)	Can change overnight Course to be walked with 24hrs of race to provide latest information	Include on pre race safety brief	Collision

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3	Racing	In accordance with British Rowing's rules of racing.	Include this fact in information for competitors, brief competitors on local rules	Collision between 2 racing crews during a race
				Injury of athlete during a race (e.g., hit by blade as a result of a crab, hit by another boat in a collision, etc.)
1	Overhanging trees downwind of the route to the start	Warn crews and scullers to avoid trees and not to rest upwind of the trees	Include in briefing to competitors and marshals	Crews or scullers blown into the overhanging trees

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	Strong winds by Budenberg flats	Monitor weather forecast and feedback from club crews	Include in briefing to competitors and marshals	Crews or scullers blown into the bank
	Inconsiistent width and direction of canal including bridges and butresses	All crews to keep good look out	Include in briefing to competitors and marshals	Mnor Injury to rowers as blades / boat contactcs bank

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1	Congestion in the boating area	Landing stage managed by an experienced rower who has previously undertaken role, supported by club members to move boats quickly on and off the water.	All marshals to wear Hi Viz vests. Work to the Boating Schedule	Collision in boating area, delays on the start
		Have adequate gaps between boats and sub-divisions	Traffic Management System to be included in the Safety Plan to Coaches and Competitors	

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2	Sharp Objects on the Landing Stafe	Discarded needles and syringes	Landing Stage to be swept prior to start and at finish of the event	Monitoring for such items
3	Congestion at the Start	Boats moored towpath side only of the canal	Bank marked with sections for boat numbers. Start to be suitably marshalled, compeition to operate to boating schedule	Collision in starting area
In & around the bo				

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1	Boats being moved in the presence of pedestrians and cyclists	Crowd barriers and signage placed either end of the boating area to warn pedestrians and cyclists.	Include in briefing to competitors and marshal	Collision of boat or cyclist with pedestrian.
2	Transiting steps from trailer location to canal bank	Highlight at safety brief prior to start of each division	Experienced landing stage marshalls	Slip / trip / fall

Faulty, incorrect

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3	Failure of racing equipment	Coaches and Athletes responsible for ensuring their equipment is safe	Instructions in Row Safe Section 7.1	Capsize or Collision
Pre-existing health				
1	Pre-existing health conditions	Request competitors make the Organising Committee aware of any health conditions	Ensure Officials are aware of the Emergency Plan	Collapse of athlete on landing stages (e.g., asthma attack or serious fall)

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2		Request during the competitor briefing, and discuss with officials	Officials to note boat numbers and conditions	Collapse of athlete during a race (e.g., asthma attack)
1	Use of Scout Hut as race control	Statutory Risk Assessment	Check PAT testing dates, clear fire hazards	Electrical Equipment failure Electrocution

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	Use of scout hut kitchen	Inspect Fire Safety Equipment prior to competition	Plan for a Fire Evacuation Procedure	Fire
		Competition Policy. No alcohol served/sold and smoking not permitted	Ensure all officials enforce policy	Fire
2	Use of towpath by cyclists and pedestrians	Cycling is restricted in the boat marshalling area. Canal towpath is shared use and subject to by-laws of Bridgewater Canal Company	Ensure that Marshalls, coaches and crews are adequately briefed	Collision involving cyclists and pedestrians on the towpath

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3	Trailer park, loading/unloading, manoeuvring and assembling boats, near cars and pedestrians	Direct trailers to designated parking area adjacent to club	Access to trailer area controlled by marshal; area defined by crowd control barriers.	Collision in the Trailer Area
			Inform other Sports Centre users of the event so they can advise customers of the limited access - agreed parking arrangements and access pre-agreed and advised to users.	
4	Car Park /Boats @ TRC	Restricted Access to Car Park	Car Park Attendant needed, to control access	Little space to manoeuvre boats

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5	COVID 19	Notification of control measures	Follow government latest guidance. List of controls being sent with entry confirmation Signage	Spread of Covid 19 to attendees

Avian Flu

Effective boat and equipment cleaning, clear communication and personal hygiene measures.

Pass on the safety advise from BR to all competitors and ensure landing stage is clean and free from potentially infectious material.

Spread of avian flu

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Reduce the Severity of Harm		Harm	Severity (1-5)	Probability (A-E)	Residual Risk	Action	
Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Water							
Safety plan deters crews from practising or crews not participating to use the canal	Send Safety plans to clubs and instruct them to inform their crews. Display safety plan. Safety briefing prior to each division. Each course marshal will carry space blankets.	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	C	Low	X	
All canal users notified prior to the event. Marshals monitoring the course.	Regular contact maintained with Canal Cruising Clubs who are aware of the event. Maintain communication between race control and race umpires. Marshals stationed at bridges at either end of course to notify other users canal is closed for racing	Collision with motorised craft	3	C	Low	X	

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Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Safety plan and instructions to competitors advise crews that they must not go afloat unless there is a safety/rescue boat on the course.	Brief Landing Stage Marshalls					X	

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Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Additional marshalls [positioned 50 metres before moored craft All competitors should be looking where they are going Moored craft to be sent written communication asking to move for duration of event Canal Company to be asked also to write to moored boats not in designated marinas Currently the Willows and other shrubbery cut back improving racing line	Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Injury to competitors and damage to equipment. Potentiam Capsize	3	C	Moderate		

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Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
<p>In accordance with row safe 5.2 this RA determines that launches do not present the best solution for ensuring competitor safety.</p> <p>Course marshalls [positioned every 250 metres on towpath] with safety equipment (throwline and space blankets) and in radio contact.</p> <p>Each marshall is visible to the prior and next marshalling position</p> <p>A suitable number of vehilces will be positioned adjacent to the canal to allow any responsive capsized crew to be driven promptly back to HQ / 1st Aid for checks</p> <p>Unresponsive casualties will be not be moved, wrapped in space blankets, monitored and await professional assistance from the emergency services</p>	<p>Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.</p>	<p>Injury to competitors and damage to equipment. Potentiam Capsize</p>				X	

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Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Coxes' life jackets checked by Umpires prior to going afloat to race. Particular attention paid to "front loader" boats.	Ensure that Umpires and Marshalls checking equipment have instructions and a checklist					X	

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Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
	Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.					X	
Random Safety Checks to be completed on boats	Ensure that Umpires and Marshalls checking equipment have instructions and a checklist					X	
Coxes' life jackets checked by Umpires in accordance with "Rules of Racing 2022" prior to going afloat to race. Particular attention paid to "front loader" boats.	Ensure that Umpires and Marshalls checking equipment have instructions and a checklist					X	

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Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Course Map and managing traffic separation, provide boating schedule and prevent loitering	Ensure we have adequate numbers of Course Marshals	Damage to equipment and personal injury	3	B	Low	X	
Stage Marshals and Umpires to complete an equipment check when necessary. Ensure Officials have adequate throw lines. S	Umpires and Marshals monitor race traffic, BR to promote MOB and capsize drills	Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	3	C	Moderate		
Pre boating safety check No hoodies to be worn. Long hair must be tied up Maximum depth of canal is 3feet 6 inches	Safety documentation Safety Briefing Marshalls every 250m Person in water to stand up	Drowning. Hypothermia due prolonged time in water	4	B	Moderate		

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Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Umpires to complete an equipment check when necessary	Report Findings To the Regional Safety Advisor	Personal Injury, damage to boats and equipment	3	C	Moderate		
Remind athletes on day of typical symptoms. Also regular updates from NGB on matter	No stagnant water on canal as stream due to water extraction further down canal creates a flow	Illness	4	B	Moderate	X	
Boats correctly fitted and checked. Hoodies not allowed to be worn on the water. Encourage people with long hair to tie up Noise and motion of boats normally scares birds away	Reminders in Safety Documentation and during safety briefings during the day	Hypothermia and prolonged time in the water	3	C	Moderate		X
		Cuts / bruising	2	C	Low		

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Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
er / Alternative arrangements							

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Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
<p>In accordance with row safe 5.2 this RA determines that launches do not present the best solution for ensuring competitor safety.</p> <p>Course marshalls [positioned every 250 metres on towpath] with safety equipment and in radio contact.</p> <p>Each marshall is visible to the prior and next marshalling position</p> <p>A suitable number of vehilces will be positioned adjacent to the canal to allow any responsive capsized crew to be driven promptly back to HQ / 1st Aid for checks</p> <p>Unresponsive casualties will be not be moved, wrapped in space blankets, monitored and await professional assistance from the emergency services</p> <p>A suotably crewed and</p>	<p>Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use, especially radio communication. Ensure that alternative arrangements are considered and planned for.</p>	<p>Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia</p>	3	C	Moderate	X	X

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Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Coxes' life jackets checked by Umpires prior to going afloat to race. Particular attention paid to "front loader" boats. Check for suitable clothing eg layers / waterproofs	Ensure that Umpires/Marshals checking equipment have instructions and a checklist. Space blankets available at each marshall (250m)	Mild hypothermia	3	C	Moderate	X	X
Provisions for first aid, medical treatment, and casualty evacuation to hospital. All marshals instructed by a Zoom call and supporting documentation on protocols to follow in the event of an emergency	Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped.	Electrical burns, shock	4	B	Moderate	X	X

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						X	X
						X	X

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							X

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Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Review of conditions by event committee	Suspension / cancellation of racing	Financial loss	2	B	Low	X	
Other water users							

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Bow balls, heel restraints and buoyancy compartment aids may be inspected by Umpires prior to going afloat to race.	Include in briefing for Control Commission		2	C	Low	X	
Remind other users of the the event details, provide information if requested.						X	

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Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Umpires and Marshals to divert crews away from the hazards	Ensure Marshals have forms of communication , megaphones	Potential for major injury and cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	3	C	Moderate		
Competitors and coaches are responsible for ensuring that their boats are safe and are prepared to the required standards at all times including practice.	Include in information to Clubs					X	X

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Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
						X	
Additional marshalls [positioned 50 metres before moored craft. Whilst one craft remains, with removal of shrus, racing line and visibility improved significantly All competitors should be looking where they are going	Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Injury to competitors and damage to equipment. Potentiam Capsize	3	C	Moderate		

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If a clash becomes serious and is likely to damage equipment or athletes, the umpire should stop the race.	Ensure that Umpires are properly equipped and briefed	Damage to equipment. Potential for minor injury and cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	3	B	Low	X	
Umpire contacts Race Control, who summons lifeguards and designated individual to assist and alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio.	Ensure that Umpires and Race Control are properly equipped and briefed					X	
Local Environment							
Assist with throw lines by marshals	Ensure that there is sufficient safety cover. Check equipment prior to use.	Rowers entangled in tree (minor inconvenience, no damage)	1	C	Low	X	

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Reduce the Severity of Harm		Harm	Severity (1-5)	Probability (A-E)	Residual Risk	Action	
Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Coxes / crew briefing to highlight course	All crews to attend briefing	Damage to equipment. Potential for minor injury and cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	B	Low		
Coxes / crew briefing to highlight course	All crews to attend briefing	Damage to equipment. Potential for minor injury and cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	3	B	Low		
Going afloat and landing							

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BR

Reduce the Severity of Harm		Harm	Severity (1-5)	Probability (A-E)	Residual Risk	Action	
Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Disqualify competitors who endanger the safe operation of the event. If rescue is required, this will be coordinated by Event Control	Ensure that Marshalls are properly equipped (throw lines, etc.) and adequately briefed, with copies of the race/boating schedule.	Minor injury or Cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	C	Low	X	
Ensure all boats are moored							

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Reduce the Severity of Harm		Harm	Severity (1-5)	Probability (A-E)	Residual Risk	Action	
Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Regular checks to monitor	Sweep and clear landing stage of litter and debris	Personal injury and possible illness	3	A	Low		
Start area managed by an experienced rower supported by a team of 4 people	Ensure the conditions are suitable	Damage to equipment. Potential for minor injury and cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	3	B	Low	X	
outhouse including handling boats on land							

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Reduce the Severity of Harm		Harm	Severity (1-5)	Probability (A-E)	Residual Risk	Action	
Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Marshall contacts Race Control, who summons alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio.	Umpires and Marshals are briefed. Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped. Provide radio for contact with first aid personnel.	Slight physical injury	2	C	Low	X	
Clubs to ensure sufficient competitors to manhandle their boats	Experienced landing stage marshalls	Musco-skeletal injury Cuts/ bruise	3	C	Moderate		

ly set and poorly maintained equipment

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Reduce the Severity of Harm		Harm	Severity (1-5)	Probability (A-E)	Residual Risk	Action	
Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Umpire Commission Checklist at Landing Stages	Checklist Report to ESA and RSA	Damage to equipment. Potential for minor injury and cold water immersion leading to mild hypothermia	2	B	Low	X	
Health conditions and low levels of fitness							
Umpire contacts Race Control, who summons appropriate assistance and alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio.	Umpires and Marshals are briefed. Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped. Check that radios work properly and that users are competent to use them. Use St John's Ambulance personnel where possible.	Serious health implications for competitor	3	B	Low	X	

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Reduce the Severity of Harm		Harm	Severity (1-5)	Probability (A-E)	Residual Risk	Action	
Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Umpire contacts Race Control, who summons lifeguards to assist and alerts Medical Officer and First Aid by radio.	Umpires and Marshals are briefed. Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped. Check that radios work properly and that users are competent to use them. Use St John's Ambulance personnel where possible.	Serious health implications for competitor	3	C	Moderate	X	
Other							
All equipment PAT tested Max 240V	Ensure that volunteers are adequately briefed	Minor injury	2	C	Low	X	

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Reduce the Severity of Harm		Harm	Severity (1-5)	Probability (A-E)	Residual Risk	Action	
Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
All electrical equipment PAT tested	Adequate provision of fire blankets, extinguishers and sand buckets by building owners. TRC barbeque set up outside of building	Burns	2	C	Low	X	
Signage and visual observance by club and race officials	Signage						
Provisions for first aid, medical treatment, and casualty evacuation to hospital.	Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped. Check that radios work properly and that users are competent to use them.	Minor injury to spectators and cyclists	2	B	Low	X	

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Reduce the Severity of Harm		Harm	Severity (1-5)	Probability (A-E)	Residual Risk	Action	
Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Provisions for first aid, medical treatment, and casualty evacuation to hospital.	Ensure that first aiders, etc., are competent and properly equipped. Check that radios work properly and that users are competent to use them. Use St John's Ambulance personnel where possible.	Traffic congestion, damage to vehicles and minor injury to pedestrians	3	C	Moderate	X	
Road Closed and safety signs	Trailer Marshal to monitor traffic, Marshall situated at top of Raglan Road. Visibility maintained by application of temporary parking restrictions and use of traffic cones. Arrangements agreed with Trafford Council.					X	
Provide a Relief Rota	Maintain high visibility and retain space for moving boats, only allow official cars.	Damage to vehicles and boats	2	C	Low	X	

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Reduce the Severity of Harm		Harm	Severity (1-5)	Probability (A-E)	Residual Risk	Action	
Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA
Follow government guidance. From Thur 24th Feb 2022 no mandatory government requirements regarding COVID countermeasures.	Predominantly an outdoor event attended by sports persons unlikely to be classified as vulnerable or extremely vulnerable Scout hut well ventilated Hand gel available Request to wear face coverings when indoors and socially distance where possible Signage	Person catches COVID and becomes unwell	3	C	Moderate	X	

Follow BR guidance

Information to participants and active management of the landing stage.

Spread of Avian Flu

2

E

Low

x



on Owners		
Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
X		
X		



on Owners		
Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other



on Owners		
Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
X	X	X



on Owners		
Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other



on Owners		
Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
X	X	



on Owners		
Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
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Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
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Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
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on Owners		
Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
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on Owners		
Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other





on Owners		
Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
X	X	



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Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
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on Owners		
Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
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Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
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Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other



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on Owners		
Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
X		



on Owners		
Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
	X	X