

# Trafford RC Head of the Bridgewater 2020 – risk assessment

Version 1.01  
Date 29/01/20 15:21:48

Risk	Probability H / M / L	Severity H / M / L	Residual Risk	Planned Action to Control Risk	Action owners					
					Control	RSA	Coaches	Coxes	Other (specify)	
<b>Risks associated specifically with this event</b>										
Collision on landing stage outside boathouse	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Landing stage is marshalled by an experienced rower. Numbers boating are strictly controlled and no boats are allowed to enter the water unless sufficient space on landing stage. All crews boat in the same time period.	X	X			X	Marshals
Collision between crews rowing in different directions during racing	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Limited opportunity as race is processional. All boats race in the same direction Sufficient time period is allowed between boat to reduce and minimise the chances of a collision. Safety marshalls are located every 250 metres along the course to monitor safety. All safety marshalls are briefed on rules of overtaking and ensuring safety of all competitors and spectators.	X	X		X	X	Marshals
Damage and injury resulting from collision	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Bow balls, heel restraints and buoyancy compartments aids will be inspected by Control Commission – a qualified British Rowing umpire - prior to going afloat to race. Buoyancy aids will be visually checked by Control Commission. All boats are also checked to ensure sufficient buoyancy fitted. Competitors and coaches are responsible for ensuring that their boats are safe and are prepared to the required standards at all times.	X		X	X	X	Competitors
Capsize other than during the race	Low	Medium	Tolerable	All officials, including marshals and race (launch) umpires are warned to be on the alert for any capsize on the course. Should a capsize occur in the boating area, assistance will be rendered rapidly. The shallow depth of the canal allows capsized rowers to stand and walk to the bank. Marshalls are in position as crews make their way down to the start of the event Hoodies are not allowed to be worn during the event	x	x			x	Marshals, Competitors

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Capsize during the race	Low	Medium	Tolerable	<p>Each division is limited to a maximum of 40 boats for the long course and 20 boats for the short course with sufficient intervals between each boat.</p> <p>Race marshal is stationed every 250 metres with full visibility of a stretch of water and able to summon assistance.</p> <p>Two launches are stationed on the course at roughly even intervals.</p> <p>All marshalls have radio contact and able to summon further assistance if required.</p> <p>All marshals are fully briefed on rescuing stranded crews – separate document.</p> <p>Particular attention paid to “front loader” boats, where only the correct type of buoyancy aid must be worn by coxes.</p> <p>Hoodies are not allowed to be worn during the event</p>	x	x		x	x	Marshals
Sudden bad weather causing unrowable and / or dangerous conditions	Medium	Medium	Moderate	<p>Any umpire or other key race official will stop racing.</p> <p>Any crews on the water will be pulled into the bank and exit the boats.</p> <p>If necessary, towpath is close to a number of documented evacuation points allowing crews to be picked up by car.</p> <p>Particular attention is paid to the canal around Budenburg Flats and the narrows by Salisbury Road Playing Fields</p>	x	x			x	Marshals
Severe storm accompanied by thunder and lightning during racing.	Low	High	Moderate	<p>Provisions laid down in the document “Advice for Events and Clubs in Developing Action Plans for Risk from Lightning” available from British Rowing to be followed:</p> <p><i>“Suspension and resumption of play should follow the 30/30 rule: rowing should stop when the flash-to-bang count is 30 seconds ( or less), and should not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning”.</i></p> <p>Crews and officials will be cleared from the course as quickly as possible, aiming to get everyone to safe shelter within 15 minutes.</p> <p>Any variation from 30/30 rule to be agreed by Race Committee.</p>	x	x			x	Marshals

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Problem occurs that requires medical attention, e.g. athlete collapses with asthma during an event.	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Regatta officials will summon medical aid by radio. First aid cover is usually provided by St John's Ambulance Points with road access identified and documented. Number of parents are also medically qualified and able to assist as required. Safety plan provided to all competitors include details of nearest Accident & Emergency unit	x	x			x	Marshals, First Aid Crew
Accident involving cyclists and pedestrians on canal towpath	Medium	Medium	Moderate	During event, cyclists are requested (by signboards) to exercise care when approaching the boating areas. At these and also all other times, athletes and coaches need to exercise vigilance when boating or landing, or when coaches are accompanying crews by bicycle. Temporary crowd safety barriers are also positioned across the towpath either side of the boating area.	x	x	x	x	x	All
Accident involving cars, towing vehicles or trailers in car parking areas	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Clear signs are displayed to regulate vehicles. The main carpark is under the control of an attendant. Vehicle speeds are very slow. Towing movements concentrated at beginning and end of the day. Only trailers and towing vehicles are permitted in the regatta car park to reduce risk of accidents.		x			x	Car park stewards
Strong tail wind blowing crews which have finished racing onto landing stage	Low	Medium	Tolerable	If there is a strong tail wind, Landing Stage marshal to monitor situation constantly and warn crews of an impending collision. Megaphone to be provided for this purpose. Also provided with radio to summon aid and throw lines. Landing stage also has a team of 6 people to assist crews to exit boats quickly and safely.					x	Landing stage marshal
<i>Leptospirosis</i> (or other water-borne disease) infection	Low	Medium	Tolerable	All rowers assumed to be aware of the risk from leptospirosis and should take appropriate precautions. Hygiene welfare facilities are available in the boat house and Scout hut.		x	x	x		

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Hypothermia	Medium	Medium	Tolerable	Appropriate clothing worn for expected conditions. Awareness of participants condition throughout activity. Appropriate emergency equipment readily available All marshals carry at least 4 space blankets in case a capsizes occurs. Marshalls rotated to ensure breaks and opportunity to warm up Scout hut available to all to escape weather All competitors must have change of clothing.	x		x		x	Competitors, marshals
Sharp objects on Landing Stage	Low	Low	Tolerable	Landing stage swept at start of event. Footwear worn at all times Briefing to participants to watch out and check are for hazardous sharp objects.	x	x			x	Marshals
<b>General Risks associated with Rowing</b>										
Drowning	Low	Medium	Tolerable	All rowers are required to be able to swim at least 25 metres All rowers expected to undergo capsizes training organised by their clubs. Canal depth is such that most rowers will be able to exit a boat safely and make their way to the bank. Participants water confidence known. Hoodies are not allowed to be worn for this event	x	x	x	x	x	Marshals
Injury when moving and handling boats	Medium	Medium	Tolerable	Any boat movement to have sufficient people (as a minimum the number of crew for a boat) to share the load when moving boats or equipment. Also applies to loading and unloading boat trailer. Appropriate care and sufficient number of people – at least number of people per seats in a boat – when emptying a swamped boat All crews and coaches are responsible to ensure that their boats meet the safety requirements as laid out by British Rowing. Steps onto canal bank from boat house / trailer park to be kept clear. Blades to be stored on canal bank away from car park steps. Manage landing stage to remove unnecessary persons e.g. parents , pedestrians etc	x	x			x	Landing stage marshal

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Entrapment in Boats	Medium	Medium	Tolerable	Boats correctly fitted for participants Hoodies not allowed to be worn during this event All boats are regularly maintained to include check of buoyancy aids and remain operational See above on capsize training.	x	x	x		
Adverse Weather Conditions	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Weather forecasts regularly monitored and conditions assessed. If windy, junior and inexperienced crews are not allowed beyond Manchester Road bridge. Experienced crews are only allowed beyond Manchester Road bridge with an experienced coxswain If foggy, Marsland Road bridge and passenger footbridge over Metrolink track have to be visible before boating is permitted.	x	x			
Collision with other craft/water users	Medium	Medium	Tolerable	Rules of navigation are displayed in the clubhouse and on the club's website All visiting crews are briefed on the rules of navigation as part of a safety briefing undertaken at the start of each division. Copies of the rules covering navigation are forwarded in advance to each participating club prior to the event to be circulated to all participants All crews are regularly reminded of the need to adhere to the rules Coaches and Bank Supporters are also required to ensure that accompanied crews adhere to rules of navigation. Any sculler or the bow person in a boat are required to wear a high visibility jacket whilst on the water Any incidents are immediately recorded on the British Rowing Incident Reporting system and notified to the Club's Water Safety Advisor, who will undertake a thorough investigation of the incident. Canal is temporarily closed to barges / other users during event. Racing stopped if barges moving / ignore canal closure.	x	x			
Attack by animals e.g. dogs or wild geese	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Notices displayed ahead of the event warning of increased towpath usage. Dog owners asked to put dogs on leads as required. Geese have not previously nested on club house side of canal and no hatchlings at time of event		x			x

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<b>THREATS</b>										
Fire in Trafford Boathouse	Low	Low	Tolerable	Nominal flammable materials kept in the boathouse reducing risk. Extremes of heat unlikely to trigger any reaction. No cooking or gas appliances in boathouse – scout hut used for catering Fire exit to front and rear of boathouse to allow exit in case of fire Fire extinguisher at rear of boathouse – regularly tested and maintained by the building landlords – Walton Park Sports Centre Limited		x			x	
Fire in Scout hut	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Dedicated kitchen area and server Fire blankets and extinguishers in place Multiple persons in kitchen / on hand to raise alarm Multiple fire exits Barbeque is external to building Rubbish is bagged and removed away from building		x			x	
Lack of amenities	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Portaloos hired to supplement leisure centre facilities. Changing rooms and showers available in leisure centre					x	
Serious public disorder/violent behaviour	Low	Unknown	Tolerable	None considered Call Police as required Advance warning signs posted on towpath 2 weeks prior to event to warn locals and other shared space regular users	x	x			x	
Terrorist Incident				None considered Call Police as required	x	x				
Alcohol	Low	Unknown	Tolerable	Alcohol is not served at the event in order to reduce the potential impact of incidents arising from alcohol consumption		x			x	

Legend

**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.