

Risk Assessment

Regattas at Spring Hill site under the auspices of Lea Rowing Club

Instructions for competitors, officials, visitors and coaches are all available online at www.learc.org.uk. Instructions details such items as Safety plan, circulation pattern, location of facilities etc.

| <u>Hazard</u> | <u>Probability of accident occurring</u> | <u>Potential harm if accident occurs</u> | <u>Risk Level</u> | <u>Measures to reduce risk</u> | <u>Overall risk</u> |
|---|--|--|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| Person in water - spectator, competitor or official | Moderate (1) | Drowning | Moderate | There will be a safety launch with outboard motor and radio contact with marshals and umpires. Umpires are equipped with throw lines and thermal blankets. Competitors advice is to “stay with the boat” | Moderate |
| Collision of boats, including stake boats | Low (2) | Injury to rowers or other occupants and/or damage to boats | Moderate | Boats are launched for one 'division' of 7 races and sent up to a marshalling area upstream of the start. Only when a division's racing has been concluded are the marshalled competitors for the next division allowed to launch their craft and proceed upstream. Stake boats are only held in place by weights. Any poorly moored narrowboats or boats that pose a problem for racing crews will be asked to move prior to the regatta. There are marshals downstream of the finish and upstream of the start to assure orderly navigation in both areas. | Moderate |

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|--|-----------------------------|--|-----------|--|----------|
| | | | | All racing is carried out under British Rowing Rules of Racing and in compliance with Row Safe. Bank marshals along the course will advise boats to move if there is a safety issue. Reliance on competency of crews and coaches and compliance with RowSafe | |
| Difficulties with spectators | Low None at this regatta | Injury | Tolerable | We work to be sure the event does not generate antipathy. Most of the spectators are known to many of the others - rowing is a friendly community. | Low |
| Lightning | Low | Severe injury, death or damage to equipment | Moderate | Race Committee to apply 30 second rule (gap between visible lightning and thunder less than 30 seconds) racing will cease and crews will leave the water. All present to be advised to take cover in buildings or cars. All clear given when the gap is more than 30 seconds | Very low |
| Inclement weather e.g. squalls, heavy rain, snow | Low | Severe injury, death or damage to equipment/property | Moderate | Race Committee to assess conditions and agree time delays, postponement of racing or cancellation of all or some events Crews will be advised over public address system | Low |
| Long wait in marshalling area | Low | Hypothermia/sunstroke | Low | Crews are sent to the start in divisions of not more than seven races. | Low |

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| | | | | Reliance on competency of crews to use adequate clothing, sunscreen and have water with them | |
| Trip hazard due to items being left on landing stage | Moderate | Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats | Moderate | Boating marshals instructed to minimise time crew equipment is left on the landing stage and shoes to be cleared from area | Low |
| Cyclists | | Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats, and pedestrians on the towpath | | Details to be but in the safety document about cycling etiquette for coaches | |

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| Fall hazard while unloading boats | Low | Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats | Moderate | Reliance on competency of crews, coaches and drivers. British Rowing provides guidelines on towing and trailers | Low/moderate |
| Collision between trailers, cars and boats and objects in the environment | Low | Injury to rowers, rugby registration attendees and/or damage to boats | Moderate | Car park marshals to ensure trailers and cars are parked to allow sufficient space to manoeuvre crews and boats. Two banks persons to be supplied by the visiting club to escort each trailer through the gate and to parking position. | Low/moderate |
| Damage to ground | Moderate | Financial penalty | Moderate | Car park marshals to ensure trailers and cars are parked on hardcore at far side of pitches if weather is very wet. No vehicles are to drive over the rugby pitches whatever the weather. | Moderate |
| Water-borne disease | Low | Illness | Low | Bathers are always urged to shower thoroughly after swimming. Furthermore, in accordance with RowSafe, they will be urged to consult their physician should any symptoms develop. | Low |

Notes

(1) *The sides of the river are vertical for the entire course; so we are very keen to have all the provisions in place, even though we have never needed to use anything besides the safety launch, and that only to expedite recovery. Scullers are well-versed in dealing with this eventuality, but spectators are less so and not so lightly clothed.*

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(2) *Because the stretch of river is narrow, it will not comfortably accommodate more than two boats abreast. Our procedure therefore is the only practicable way to run the marshalling at our regatta. Other regattas have more room and send competitors to the start during racing, and in that process, collisions are not unheard-of.*