

Risk Assessment for Warrington Regatta August 2014

Risk Assessment Matrix

	Severity of Outcome		
Probability of Accidents	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.

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Risks on the Mersey at Warrington

Risk	Probability H / M / L	Severity H / M / L	Risk Level	Planned Action to Control Risk
Risks that apply to Regatta Race				
Collision with Kingsway Bridge Buttress	Low	Medium	Tolerable	In the event of strong stream conditions crews to be marshalled and turn well above the bridge as marked by buoys.
Collision in boating area	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Regatta safety plan issued confirming circulation pattern to be followed. Crew race times confirmed in programme and boating in order with opposition 15 mins prior. Marshals placed in the boating area to control crews waiting to disembark.
Collision between crews rowing in opposite directions during practice or race	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Practice Circulation Pattern in Safety Instructions. Marshal's on Landing Stage to instruct crews. Safety Launch on standby at Landing Stage.
Damage and injury resulting from collision	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Bow balls, heel restraints and buoyancy compartments & aids will be inspected by Landing Stage marshals prior to going afloat to race. Buoyancy aids may be visually checked by Landing Stage marshals. Competitors and coaches are responsible for ensuring that their boats are safe and are prepared to the required standards at all times including practice.
Capsize during a race	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Two fully equipped safety launches are along the race course. All race monitors, umpires, start marshals and safety launches are linked by radio. Race monitors and umpires equipped with loud hailers and radios to summon assistance plus throw lines to provide immediate assistance. Cox's life jackets may be checked by raft marshals prior to going afloat to race. Particular attention paid to "front loader" boats.
Crews warming up or cooling down obstructing races or launches.	Medium	Low	Tolerable	Safety Instructions and instructions to crews advise that cooling down on the race course is not allowed. Warming up and cooling down in designated Practice Area above Kingsway Bridge only.
Sudden bad weather causing unrowable and / or dangerous conditions	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Any umpire or other key race official will stop racing. Any crews on the water will be moved into the most sheltered lane and shepherded back to the landing stages by umpire launches and rescue boats.

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Collapse of athlete on landing stages (e.g. asthma attack) or falling into the water	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Control Commission or Race Umpire or Safety Boat summons Medical Aid by radio (First Aid at the race control.)
Fast river conditions	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Take advice from the Environment Agency four days before the race on their assessment of likely race conditions. Check Tide Tables. Committee review actual conditions on-site on afternoon before the race. Depending on the severity of the river conditions observed decide whether to a) Take out any or all from the following: Novice crews, Men's J13, Women's J13 and Men and Women's J14 b) Cancel Race
Collision in Start Zone	Low	Medium	Tolerable	Start Marshals "collect" crews for the race in start order and turn them in that order ready to start.
Going over the weir	Low	High	Tolerable	Crews instructed not to pass below the Howley Suspension Footbridge to allow a 'safety zone' before the weir. Crews to abandon any boat or equipment below this bridge.
Trip Hazards / collision with bollards around club house area	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Larger roadway stones to be cleared from pedestrian routes in front of club house. Bollards and posts to be painted / marked up with hazard tape.