

Risk Assessment for the Head to Head race

The Organisation has a Duty of Care for the competitors, officials, and the general public at large, whilst the event is being held. This risk assessment was carried out by John Leighton (CCRC Events Secretary) and Jenny Rankin (Safety Officer)

| Probability of accidents | Highly unlikely Unlikely Likely | Severity of outcome | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | | Slightly harmful | Harmful | Extremely harmful |
| | | Trivial risk | Tolerable risk | Moderate risk |
| | | Tolerable risk | Moderate risk | Substantial risk |
| | | Moderate risk | Substantial risk | Intolerable risk |

Those events that remain classed as "moderate risk" are those that involve the possible immersion of more than one person, which, following the British Rowing guidelines, should be classed as potentially "extremely harmful". The likelihood of all of such events has been assessed, in light of our risk reduction measures, as extremely unlikely so further reduction to "Tolerable Risk" is impossible under this scheme.

| Hazard | Potential outcome | Likelihood | Severity of outcome | Measure to reduce risk | Likelihood after measures | Severity of outcome |
|---|---|-----------------|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------|
| On land | | | | | | |
| Fall hazard while moving boats | Injury to rowers and/or damage to equipment | Highly unlikely | Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliance on competency of crews. British Rowing provides guidelines on the use of trailers/towing. All competitors will be boating from their own boathouses. | Highly unlikely | Tolerable |
| Collision hazard on towpath between cycling coaches / bank parties and members of the public. | Injury to coaches/bank party/members of the public. Possibility of falling into the river | Unlikely | Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Race control at the start and end of the race will show the public an event is underway. Marshals to intervene if they observe unsafe use of the towpath | Highly unlikely | Tolerable |
| Prior to race start | | | | | | |
| Collision with other boats on the way to the start or in marshalling area | Injury to rowers and/or damage to equipment, possibility of capsizes. | Highly unlikely | Extremely Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marshals in position 1/2 hour before event starts. Reliance on competency of crews and compliance with Row Safe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing Spot checks on boat safety will be carried out prior to crews boating. Requests from non-competing crews for row-throughs not granted. | Highly unlikely | Moderate |

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|--|--|-----------------|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Long wait in marshalling area prior to start | Potential for hypothermia. | Unlikely | Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitors advised in advance of likelihood of inclement weather and the need to wear adequate clothing. Marshals to advise crews thought to have inadequate protection for conditions on the day. Marshals will carry thermal blankets and be extra vigilant if weather is cold. Marshals to ensure prompt marshalling of boats at the start. Reliance on competence of crews and coaches to be properly equipped. Spot checks on boat safety will be carried out prior to crews boating. | Unlikely | Moderate |
| Capsize whilst waiting at the start | Potential for hypothermia | Unlikely | Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start crew and marshals will carry throw-lines and thermal blankets Car at finish to act as shelter for wet competitors, also for speedy return to boating area. Will be equipped with hot drink and extra blankets/clothing. | Highly unlikely | Tolerable |
| During race | | | | | | |
| Collision between racing crews | Injury to rowers and/or damage to equipment, possibility of capsize. | Highly unlikely | Extremely Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crews to be started at sensible intervals to avoid the need for overtaking where possible. Boat classes to be started in correct order. All coxes know the course prior to racing. Marshals can observe the entire course and will intervene if necessary. Racing carried out under guidance of BR water safety code. Spot checks on boat safety will be carried out prior to crews boating by participating clubs. | Highly unlikely | Moderate |
| Collision between racing crew and static object, i.e. bank or moored powerboat | Injury to rowers and/or damage to equipment, possibility of capsize. | Highly unlikely | Extremely Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most coxes are familiar with the course. Marshal on the one bends warned of potential dangers. Spot checks on boat safety will be carried out prior to crews boating by participating clubs. | Highly unlikely | Moderate |

| Hazard | Potential outcome | Likelihood | Severity of outcome | Measure to reduce risk | Likelihood after measures | Severity of outcome |
|--|--|-----------------|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Collision at finish area | Injury to rowers and/or damage to equipment, possibility of capsize. | Highly unlikely | Extremely Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marshal at finish will keep boats moving away from the finish line. Additional marshal will be in place at finish of 1st leg to manage spinning. Spot checks on boat safety will be carried out prior to crews boating by participating clubs. | Highly unlikely | Moderate |
| Inclement weather | | | | | | |
| Thunderstorms | Severe injury, death or damage to equipment. | Highly unlikely | Extremely Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Race committee/ safety advisor to apply 30 second/ 10 minute rule. When gap between visible lightning and thunder is 30 seconds or less racing to be stopped and water to be cleared as fast as is safely possible. | Highly unlikely | Moderate |
| Squalls, heavy rain, sleet, snow, fog, severe crosswind etc. | Severe injury, death or damage to equipment. | unlikely | Extremely Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Race committee checks forecast via Met. Office website, and inspects river 24 hours prior to the race. Race committee to assess conditions and agree time delay(s), cancellation of all racing or cancellation of crew classes felt to be at particular risk in the conditions. Participants to be advised by marshals and at race control. | Highly unlikely | Moderate |
| Floods | Strong stream making coxing difficult and increasing the chances of a collision. Possibility of swamping/ capsize. | Highly unlikely | Extremely Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Race committee to cancel all racing if they consider conditions dangerous or if the Conservators of the River Cam so advise. River levels to be monitored via the Environment Agency website. | Highly unlikely | Moderate |
| General events | | | | | | |
| Worsening of existing condition in competitor or spectator: e.g. asthma attack | Severe illness or death of patient. | Highly unlikely | Extremely Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reliance on crews to know of existing conditions and required treatment. Marshall to summon emergency services by mobile phone. Marshals hold GPS/Postcode lists for all access points to the river to guide emergency services. | Highly unlikely | Moderate |

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|--|--|-----------------|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Transgression of powered craft onto course | Collision leading to Injury to rowers and/or damage to equipment, possibility of capsize. | Highly unlikely | Extremely Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event advertised in advance to local boating community and with the conservators of the river Cam. Marshal at lock will warn boats arriving at the lock that the river is closed for racing. Marshal at Green Dragon will warn boats moving downstream well before the finish. If boats should fail to stop marshals will be informed by radio and the racing will be stopped. | Highly unlikely | Moderate |
| Infection contracted from contact with river water | Weils Disease (Leptospirosis), or unspecified gastro enteric infections causing diarrhoea and/or vomiting. | Unlikely | Harmful | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructions issued in advance to competitors highlight these risks. Competitors are advised to cover open cuts prior to boating, wash any cuts sustained during the race immediately afterwards, and to keep water bottles in waterproof plastic bags. | Highly unlikely | Tolerable |