

Berwick Amateur Rowing Club

Risk Assessment (with action points) for Berwick LDS

Last reviewed and updated on 10th September 2023

Location: River Tweed, West Ord to Tweed Green

Date: 14th October 2023

Risk Code	Potential source of risk	Risk Identified	Who/what at risk	Seriousness	Probability	Acceptable risk ?	Planned actions to address the risk	By whom?	By when?	Notes
						Very low or low risk - no action needed; medium risk - reduce if practicable; high/very high risk - needs action to reduce				
				Extreme, high, moderate or slight	Very likely, likely, unlikely, very unlikely					
1 Prior to race day										
1.1	Outdoor weather and river conditions	Unsuitable / deteriorating weather	All participants and spectators especially competitors, marshals, launch crews; also trailer drivers and trailers	Moderate	Unlikely to likely	Medium	Regularly check weather forecasts and inspect water conditions. Cancel event the day before if severe weather is forecast, so rowers and trailers do not travel abortively.	Organising committee, race committee chairman, safety adviser	During week before	Check daily from 7 days before
1.2	Entries	Too many entries accepted and thus boats on water	Competitors	Moderate	Unlikely	Medium	Agree maximum entry per category in advance. Ensure sufficient assistance available to boat. Include warnings about competence in race information. Marshals to refuse to let incompetent rowers boat if they consider they will be a danger to others.	Organising committee	Month in advance onwards	Write guidance for marshals
1.3	River conditions	Unsuitable river/current/tidal conditions	Competitors	High	Unlikely	Medium	Check tide tables before event. Check wind direction and recent rainfall levels. Inspect water conditions regularly.	Safety adviser	During week before	
1.4		Excessive amounts of debris in river, of a size likely to damage boats	Boats, blades	High	Very unlikely	Medium	Monitor river conditions and cancel event if necessary.	Organising committee, race cttee chairman, safety adviser	Day before and on day	
1.5	Clubhouse/s and facilities	Clubhouse facilities or steps not fit for use	All participants and spectators	High to extreme	Very unlikely	Medium	Ensure clubhouse/s are secure and clean, kitchen and toilets, heating and lighting in working order in advance of event. Fire extinguishers, alarms and fire blankets in place and in working order.	Host club	Day before	
1.6	Personnel	Too few volunteers to help on the day	Competitors, marshals	Moderate	Likely	Medium	Ensure sufficient assistance is signed up and confirmed at least 2 days in advance.	Organising committee with club committee and squads	Month in advance onwards	Helpers rota agreed in advance
1.7	Equipment	Critical equipment not working on day leading to inability to respond to, in particular, calls for rescue.	Competitors	Moderate	Likely	Medium	Check all crucial equipment in week preceding, including radios, loudhailers, lifejackets, launches and engines.	Organising committee with safety adviser	During week before	
1.8	Lack of knowledge of course etc	Crews not being aware of the river and potential risks and of event arrangements, leading to possible collision, capsize or other accident.	Competitors	Moderate	Likely	Medium	Instructions for clubs, crews and coxes to be prepared along with a course map and marshalling plans for start and finish and published in good time for clubs to acquaint their coaches and rowers with the information.	Organising committee with safety adviser	Month in advance onwards	
2 Pre-race - on land										
2.1	Portaloos	Blocked and/or insufficient for numbers attending	All participants	Slight to moderate	Unlikely	Medium	Ensure sufficient provision, in place day before event; order from reputable supplier.	Organising committee	In place day before	Order month in

2.2	Club house/s, including entrances, stairs and storage areas, boat houses.	Bumps / slips / falls / trips	All participants, members	Slight	Likely	Medium	First aid provider in attendance all day. Tidy up premises in advance. Put up warning signs if necessary, if dangers etc are present.	Organising committee	Week in advance	advance Book 3 months in advance
2.3	Club grounds Car park Trailer parking area, Boat trailers Boats	Bumps / slips / falls / trips	All participants, members of public	Slight	Likely	Medium	Higher usage by walkers and cyclists to be anticipated in good weather. Marshals to instruct rowers and helpers to keep Public Rights of Way clear of trailers and boats and blades etc. Equipment and blades to be stored in safe locations clear of steps and access ways.	Organising committee	On day.	Check notices are ready one day in advance
2.4	Slow/inexperienced crews on steps	Bumps / slips / falls / trips	Competitors, race timetabling	Slight	Likely	Medium	Set boating and starting times with agreed tolerances and time penalties. Marshals to ensure prompt boating. Time limits to be enforced for getting on to stake boats or lining up for starts at start official's discretion. Advise rowers of delays at regular intervals (no less than hourly). All rowers to wear boots or other suitable footwear and adjust feet on the water. Warnings / instructions to be included in race information.	Organising committee, race committee, safety adviser	On day	
2.5	BARC steps and grounds	Bumps / slips / falls / trips	Competitors, helpers, marshalls	Slight to Moderate	Likely	Medium	Sufficient marshalls present to assist at boating times. Steps to be kept clear of blades and other items. and marshalls to advise caution & extreme care on slippery steps (including central 'ramp').	Organising committee	On day	
2.6	BARC steps if used	Bumps / slips / falls / trips	Competitors, helpers, marshalls	Ditto	Likely	Medium	Sufficient marshalls present to assist at boating times. Steps to be kept clear of blades and other items.	Organising committee	On day	
2.7	Unsafe boats	Drowning, capsized, collision, loss of blades, loss damage to boat or boat parts	competitors	Slight to Moderate	Likely	Medium	Race information to underline need for clubs to check boats before event; race official may check basic boat safety (bowball, shoe restraints, hatches, buoyancy). Boats known to be unsafe will not be allowed to go on water.	Competitors and their clubs, organising	Before boating	
2.8	Unaccompanied and inexperienced juniors	Collisions and other mishaps if permitted in boats. Race management delays / difficulties, harm to participants. Inability to carry out allotted task because of having to ensure care of junior.	Competitors, Berwick ARC, race officials, juniors	Moderate; high at low tide.	Likely	High	Guidance to be issued in advance to all parents of juniors. Coaches to ensure event day sessions are advertised as cancelled by written notices in club and verbal /email/text warnings. Each club is responsible for the supervision for their athletes. Unaccompanied juniors to be asked to return to their supervising group. Welfare officer or agreed deputy to be present during the event.	Organising committee, welfare officer, junior coaches	Week in advance	
2.10	Launches and other craft	Going adrift. Capsize. Engine failure, damage to steps, muscular injury	Launch crews, boats	Slight to moderate	Unlikely	Medium	Tie up launches securely especially in windy conditions or on rising tide. Check equipment before event. Ensure sufficient assistance to carry launches without dragging over steps.	Organising committee	On day	
3	During race - on land									
3.1	As per pre-race items (2.1 to 2.10)	All same as pre-race except less people are located at the Club so risk is less								
3.2	Boats & trailers, changing facilities, car park, club	Theft / vandalism	All participants, vehicles, belongings	Slight	Unlikely	Low	Warn in advance of risk. Ensure vigilance during the event. Offer secure storage if possible.	Organising committee	On day	Regular patrols if
4	After race - on land									
4.1	As per pre-race items (2.1 to 2.10)									
4.2	Effects of racing/attending the race	Tiredness	Competitors	Slight	Weather dependant	Medium	Seating with warm food and drinks.	Organising	On day	
4.3		Coldness / hypothermia	Competitors / marshalls / launch crews / spectators	Slight	Unlikely to likely, depending on temperature	High	Ensure participants have warm clothing and/or sunscreen. Include warnings in race instructions. Clubhouse to be kept warm. Warm showers, warm food and drinks, spare clothing available. Keep waiting times before and after race to a minimum, especially for juniors. Adjust start times as necessary well before event.	Organising committee, club committee	On day	
4.4		Race injury	Competitors	Moderate	Likely	Low	As 4.3, plus ensure first aid kit, stretcher, fleece and space blankets available. First aid provider to hand if needed. Call emergency services if serious.	Organising committee	On day	
4.5	Overcrowding in clubhouse	Slips, falls, burns, scalds	All participants within club house	Moderate	Likely	Low	Monitor numbers and place marshalls on doors if necessary to direct people to other sheltered spaces.	Organising committee	On day	

4.6	Race impacts	Damage to boats	Boats	Slight to moderate	Likely	Medium	Ensure assistance to place damaged craft on trailers or safe location.	Organising committee	On day	
5 Before race - on water										
5.1	Rowers adjusting feet etc	Collisions with other craft, bridges, banks, obstacles. Damage to boats, blades, rowers.	Competitors	Moderate to high, depending on water conditions	Likely	Medium	Ensure vigilant marshalling and sufficient launches.	Organising committee	On day	
5.2	Rowers warming up	As 5.1	Boats and equipment	Slight	Likely	Medium	Monitor rowers warming up on water and ensure in place in good time for start.	Organising committee	On day	
5.3	Boats drifting	As 5.1	Boats and equipment	Moderate to high, depending on water conditions	Likely	Medium	Marshals to give clear instructions, direct to rowers. Keep waiting time to minimum.	Organising committee	On day	
5.4	Inexperienced rowers	See 2.4	Ditto plus delays to race start.	Moderate	Likely	High	Marshals to give clear instructions, direct to rowers if necessary. Time limits for attaching to stake boats/positioning on start line (regattas only). Clear guidance given to start umpire before race.	Organising committee	On day	
5.5	Obstacles in / near edges of river.	Shallow areas and /or navigational markers	Competitors, boats, launch crews	High	Likely	Medium	Competitors and launch drivers to be advised of any navigation issues during safety brief / in safety instructions. Course map to show these where known in advance.	Organising committee	Map in advance, briefing on day	
5.6	Work being carried out on Railway Bridge	Falling masonry while repair work is being carried out on 5no arches on south side of river	Competitors, boats, launch crews	High	Very unlikely	Low	Masonry contractor has been contacted and there are no works being carried out on the day of the event	Organising Committee	Before event	
6 On river - boathouse to race start area										
6.1	Waiting for race start	Capsize, swamping of boat, damage / collisions to boats, loss of race number.	Competitors	Moderate to extreme	Low but weather dependent - more probable in very poor conditions	Medium	Clear instructions to rowers lining up for start. Rescue launches (Red Seal, Sea Cadets or other provider) and marshalling launches (club) deployed and in position before start of boating. Regular checks on weather and water conditions; launch crews to report back to race control on water conditions. Launches to have emergency kit: throw lines, first aid, space blankets, life jackets in launch safety bag.	Organising committee	On day	
6.2	Deterioration in weather, tidal flow and top water current	Ditto plus panic	Competitors, other participants	Moderate	likely	Medium	Instructions issued to launch crews to postpone starts and or return competitors to club house. Have an emergency action plan ready for marshalls / officials / launch crews in event of cancellation or postponement with competitors returning to steps.	Organising committee, safety adviser to do action plan	On day, plan in advance	
6.3	Boat not watertight	Swamping or sinking	Competitors	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	See 2.7 re safety checks. Rescue launch available.	Organising committee	On day	
6.4	Jetskiers/other motor craft, including rescue/race launches	Wash causing swamping. Collisions	Competitors, boats, blades	Moderate	Unlikely	Medium	Pre race instructions to notify of this. Race launches to control wash and deflected wash at all times, even in emergency.	Organising committee	On day	
6.5	Cold weather	Chill or hypothermia	Competitors	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	Race instructions to insist competitors are equipped for chilly/unseasonal conditions.	Organising committee	On day	
6.6	Weather / fitness / race impacts	Injury to competitor	Competitors	Slight	Unlikely	Low	Safety and club launches deployed backed up by first aid provider.	Organising committee	On day	
6.7		5 Illness of competitor	Ditto	Slight	Unlikely	Low	Ditto	Organising committee	On day	
6.8	Inexperienced rowers	Collision with another boat or obstruction in the river	Competitors	Moderate	Unlikely	Low	Rowers to be made aware of hazards in pre-race information, also local navigation rules. Launches to check for river debris and warn race control if necessary, remove debris if possible. Use temporary marker buoys for obstructions and advise all crews.	Organising committee	On day	
6.9	Equipment	Breakdown of launch	Launch crew, other participants	Moderate	Unlikely to likely	Low	Ensure that all launches, fuel and engines are checked before event day to ensure they work/are sufficient. Provide for back-up launch / engine.	Organising committee	Day before	
6.10	Obstacles in / near edges of river.	Shallow areas and /or navigational markers	Competitors, boats, launch crews	Moderate; high at low tide	Likely	Medium	Competitors and launch drivers to be advised of any navigation issues during safety brief / safety instructions.	Organising committee	Day before	
7 On water during race (same as above with following additions)										
7.1	Mud/shingle banks						Pre-race briefings and include in race information (course map, etc). Launches and marshalls to warn crews.	Organising committee	Week before and on day	
7.2	Obstacles in / near edges of river.	Shallow areas and /or navigational markers					Competitors, boats, launch crews	Moderate / high at low tide	Likely	Medium Ditto

7.3	Boats in trouble (swamping or capsizing etc)	Collision between racing boats, through bad overtaking, bad steering, not allowing opponent sufficient water etc	Competitors	Moderate	Likely	Medium	Pre race instructions issued to rowers. Rescue launches at regular points on course. Radio contact with marshals/launches/race control. Call emergency services if large numbers of competitors involved, serious injuries, very cold conditions, far from boathouse.	Organising committee	On day	
7.4	Failure of radio communications	Launch / marshals losing means of communication	All participants	Slight	Unlikely	Low	Check equipment before hand; have spares. Mobile phones to be available as alternative, preset with necessary numbers if possible. Numbers to be issued to all key personnel.	Organising committee	Day before and on day	
7.5	Other collisions, causing obstruction forcing rowers to halt.	Bad coxing	Competitors, boats	High	Unlikely	Medium	Launches available. Race instructions. Have an agreed warm-up area and instructions /marshalling.	Organising committee	On day	
7.6	Competitors	Stopping on finish line	Competitors, boats	Moderate	Likely	Medium	Safety launch at finish to push rowers through and well beyond the finish line. Clear race instructions on this.	Organising committee	On day; instructions issued in advance	
7.7		Turning and crossing path of racing craft	Competitors, boats	High	Likely	High	Sufficient launches and marshals to prevent unauthorised movement and crossings. Instructions about crossing points in race information.		On day; instructions issued in advance	
8	On water - after race									
8.1	Queue for landing at steps	Chill, hypothermia, tiredness, lack of concentration	Competitors, boats	Moderate	Likely	High	Launch and marshals on the bank to monitor and instruct progress. Advise rowers to put on warm clothes and feet out of shoes in readiness. Helpers ready to assist landing.	Organising committee	On day	
9	After the event									
9.1	Launches	Left on steps, going adrift, trespass by members of public, theft	Boats, engines, equipment	Slight	Unlikely	Low	Ensure launches not left unattended and safely put away after use.	Organising committee	On day	Helpers rota agreed in advance
9.2	Boat loading	Slips, trips, bumps scrapes, poorly secured boats.	People, passers by, boats, blades	Slight	Unlikely	Low	Ensure no blades, clothes or other equipment left on steps, grounds. Warnings to public path users.	Organising committee	On day	Helpers rota agreed in advance
9.3	Trailers leaving	Mud, rutted surface, trailers bogged down.	Visiting rowers and helpers, boats	Moderate	Likely	Medium	Have helpers to push trailers in very wet conditions.	Organising committee	On day	Helpers rota agreed in advance