

Hexham Explore League Safety Plan 2024

1. Introduction

The 4th event in the Sunday Explore League series is being organised by Hexham Rowing Club (HRC), contact names provided in section 2 of this document. The competition will be run from Tyne Green, Hexham, NE46 3HF and will be a sculling 'splash'n'dash' races event – where competitors will be race side by side (two crews per race) over a ~350m course (from the cottage to landing stage). There will be several rounds of races (exact numbers to be finalised after entries close on 3 July – but likely to be ~20- 25 races) with racing between 12 noon and 4pm

2. Event Organisation Structure

Organising Committee		
HRC Chair	Catherine Bowman	Hrcsecretary@gmail.com
HRC Safety Officer	Andrew Bainbridge	Hrcsecretary@gmail.com
HRC Explore League Coordinator	Rob Patterson	Hrcsecretary@gmail.com
HRC Explore League Coordinator	Kirsty Foster	Hrcsecretary@gmail.com
Regional Coordinator	Colin Percy	colinwpercy@gmail.com

3. Planning and preparation

Tyne Green is a Northumberland County Council (NCC) facility. Other users of Tyne Green and the river have been notified of the event, such as Hexham Canoe Club. Tyne Green is a public area.

The event will consist of 4 stable boats, with crews completing a splash and dash race as per the course map and as will be outlined on the day of the event. All crews in the same event will race each other at least once. Any penalties accrued during the race will be added to the crews overall time. The points will be recorded on a whiteboard which will be placed on the bankside for all crews to see.

All operations for the event will be conducted outdoors, with food available on the bankside for competitors. The only indoor provision is for emergency first aid room which will be exclusive use of the first aid providers in the event of an emergency and the use of toilet facilities within the clubhouse.

4. Weather and water conditions

In the week running up to the event weather forecasts will be monitored. River levels will be monitored by the environment agency website. The organising committee will review the need to cancel, amend or restructure the event in adverse conditions, this includes the risk of thunderstorms. If lightning occurs on the day then the 30/30 rule will apply. Any crews on the water will be instructed to return to the landing stage and come off the water. Competitors will be asked to seek shelter in cars or an emergency refuge point.

5. Event Day

Please see below the event times during the day:

Event Briefing: 11:15am

Crew draw: 11:30am

Racing Starts: 12pm

Racing Ends: 4pm

Before the draw is carried out, a member of Hexham Rowing Club will briefly speak to all competitors outlining the days event, course map and safety aspects for the day. A copy of the course map will be available to competitors and the points board will be on display, placed on the bankside to record times and points of participating crews.

Participating crews will be rowing in coxed-quad stable boats and will be sculling. Crews will be switching into boats on the landing stage, on a rotation basis – where they will row up to the start and wait before being set-off to race by the bankside official organising the race event. All competitors should be wearing appropriate rowing clothing and footwear (trainers), as stable boats have no shoes built in.

Two crews will race side by side from the cottage to landing stage; crews heading up to the start will stick close to the south bank before turning upstream of the cottage to start

Please consult the course map for further information.

A racing matrix will be drawn up by the regional coordinator (CP) and shared with all clubs in advance; crews will race in Open and Women's events – approx. 20-25 races will be held (exact number will depend on entries / timing of event).

6. Communication

Communication from event officials to competitors on the water will be through a megaphone.

Radio communication will be in use throughout the day between Hexham Rowing Club members. Radios will be cleaned and disinfected at any volunteer rotation.

All volunteers and officials will be requested to carry mobile phones and the numbers will be recorded for use if required by the event coordinator.

7. Emergency Procedures on the water

In the event of an incident occurring on the water, it will be insight of Hexham Rowing Club members and officials on the bankside. Coxes will raise their hand and shout to the bankside to alert the organisers - once acknowledged, crews will row back to the landing as quickly as possible for further assistance. The casualty will be assessed and provided first aid within the clubhouse and further medical action will be sort if necessary, such as contacting emergency services. A designated room for medical emergency will be located in the clubhouse for use on the day of the event.

8. Competitor and entering club responsibilities

Hexham Rowing Club (HRC) responsibilities and precautions are outlined above and in the risk assessment. Competitors must take responsibility for their own actions, as advised by their club. All documentation in conjunction with this event should be read before attending.

Event Date: 7 July 2024
Issue Date: 1 July 2024



Hexham Rowing Club (HRC) will stress the importance of reading the instructions prior to the event.

All boats will be checked for safety items before use however competitors will be asked to make sure they have checked themselves these items before heading out on the water. Any issues must be reported to Hexham Rowing Club members volunteering on the day which then will be passed to the organisers to resolve.

This document should be read along with the following:

- Course map
- Risk Assessment