

Oxford University Rowing Clubs Risk Assessment

Isis Winter League 2009-10

Location: Isis

Dates: 15/11/09, 29/11/09, 24/01/10, 07/02/10, 21/02/10

Hazard	Risk	Control measures in place	Person(s) responsible	Risk factor
River based				
Collision	Skeletal and soft tissue injury	OUCS registered coxes only. Adherence to OURCs circulation pattern during river closure.	OURCs Captain, Coach, Cox	low-med
	Knocked Unconscious	Rescue launch and mobile phone available. Emergency vehicle access secured.	OURCs , Coach	low
	Immersion, with consequent risk of infection, drowning, hypothermia	Blankets and first aid kit available on rescue launch and at boathouses; rowers educated about Weil's disease.	OURCs Captain, Coach	low-med
	Penetrating injury by bows	Bow balls fitted.	Boatman , participants	low
Capsize	Immersion (as above)	Launch present, as above. All competitors able to swim and understand capsize drill. First Aid present with 'airways' capacity.	Captain , Coach	low
	Becoming trapped in boat	Crew: Heel restraints fitted; Coxes: Stern-coxed boats only.	Boatman , Crew	low
Swamping	Immersion (as above)	Modified Isis Flag system to be used (below) – only coxes and crews of appropriate experience to be allowed on the water in adverse conditions. Weather and stream to be monitored and consultation taken with EA. Cancellation if appropriate.	Coach , Captain	low

Hazard	Risk	Control measures in place	Person(s) responsible	Risk factor
Catching “Crabs”	Skeletal and Soft tissue injury (including to head) Being thrown from the boat, with risks from immersion (as above).	Controls as above	OURCs , Captain, Crew	low
Over-exertion	Hyperventilation, pulled muscles, cramp, hypothermia, back injury.	Rowers to warm up on land before outing, and warm down and stretch as appropriate. Suitable clothing to be worn, and training program to be followed, taking into account medical history.	Coach , Crew Coach , captain	low-med
High stream and/or high wind	Being swept onto obstacles, including bridges, bank, debris, or weirs. Swamping or capsize when spinning, manoeuvring, boating and landing	Modified flag system to be followed (below), with restrictions on coxes and crews as appropriate.	Coach , Cox, Captain, Crew	low-high, (depending on combination of conditions)
Lightning	Craft struck by lightning on river Race officials caught in the open during racing.	Race officials will monitor weather conditions. Distance of storm to be assessed using “30-30” rule as discussed in event plan	Senior Umpire , OURCs Committee	low

Hazard	Risk	Control measures in place	Person(s) responsible	Risk factor
Use of Safety launches	Capsize	Stable launch to be used, launch driver to be qualified to RYA level 2 or equivalent.	Captain , Coach	low
	Falling Out	Proper seating to be fitted, and not overloaded. Kill cords to be fitted. Lifejackets to be worn by all crew.	Captain , Boat Owners, Launch Crew	low-med
	Failure of engine due to fouling of propeller.	Assess state of river for debris. Carry ARA recommended safety equipment, including a knife and paddle.	Captain , Launch Crew	low-med
	Mechanical failure	Ensure regular servicing	Boat Owner	low-med
Land based				
Collision with accompanying cyclists	Injury to pedestrians, including immersion (no spectator presence expected).	Marshals to wear yellow bibs and warn pedestrians of oncoming races. Radio checks to be carried out before division starts Cyclists limited to one per crew Bike Marshal to precede each division if needed at discretion of race secretary and SU Suitable signs warning pedestrians of cyclists First aid presence	OURCs Captain, Coach	med
Collision with boats or blades when boating or landing	Injury to bystanders, immersion.	Captains to be made aware of responsibilities for any supporters. Marshals available at boathouses with radios.	Captain , crew, cox	low

In the event of the Environment Agency (EA) displaying Amber or Red Boards at the local locks which indicates a Strong Stream, the OURCs have developed a range of contingency plans to allow the Regattas to continue in some form. (In italics is the Flag state relating to the number of bucks drawn, which dictates what rowing takes place during training)

Hazards (RIVER BASED)	Adverse Weather/River Conditions: Strong Stream Flowing and/or High winds against stream causing potentially choppy water conditions
Resulting Risks	Difficulty in manoeuvring boats when spinning and rowing, with consequent increase in risk of collision, tangling and being swept onto obstacles/hazards
Persons Affected	All crews

Controls in place to reduce risks	Persons responsible for ensuring controls in place
<p><i>Blue Flag</i> (2)</p> <p>Good conditions (high water, but low stream and wind): Full Programme</p> <p>Poor conditions (high stream or winds) As above. No novice coxes.</p>	<p>OURCs Committee Senior Umpires</p>
<p><i>Amber flag</i> (3)</p> <p>Senior and experienced coxes only – allowed to double up between crews. Associate coxes permitted. Divisions reduced to maximum of eight boats. 2 safety boats employed. RYA level 2 qualified drivers for both launches.</p>	
<p><i>Red Flag</i> (4+) No Racing</p>	