



Completed by:	John Fass (Water Safety Officer)			Activity:	ARC Spring Head 2016
Location:	Rye Farm Meadow, Abingdon			Date:	9 th April 2017
Group at Risk: All Participants including coaches					
Hazard	Probability	Severity	Unmitigated Risk	Actions needed to mitigate risks to a tolerable level	
Environment					
Heat/sun stroke	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	Ensure competitors are advised to maintain adequate hydration in hot weather, to seek shade when resting and to wear a sun hat	
Sunburn	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	Ensure competitors are advised to wear sun screen and a sun hat when sun index is above 5 or lower in particularly fair skinned.	
Difficult weather conditions - strong winds and choppy water	Unlikely	Slight	Low	Local weather forecasts are consulted in the days leading up to the event to ascertain any need to advise competitors of potential difficulties. If very strong winds are forecast, particularly if wind direction is against the stream, the Head Committee will decide prior to the race to 1) Run the event in full. 2) Cancellation of specific categories, e.g. Juniors, Novices 3) Cancellation of a Division. 4) Cancellation of the whole event	
Lightning strike	Highly Unlikely	Extreme	Medium	See Event Safety Plan for actions involving weather warnings and using the 30/30 rule to delay or cancel.	
Water					
Collision floating debris; timber, ice etc.	Unlikely	Slight	Low	Marshals on launches, coxes and crews should look ahead for signs of debris and warn crews. Prior to the commencement of the event the course is inspected for debris or submerged hazards, it is then cleared or buoyed off. The Finish Marshals notify the nearest launch of any debris coming onto the course during the start marshalling procedures to have it cleared away.	
Collisions between competitors travelling in opposite directions	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	1. Crews informed of navigation rules. 2. Crews not allowed to row back up the course once proceeding to the start. 3. Crews monitored by marshals when returning to the landing stages after racing enforcing the circulation pattern. 4. Crews boating from Abingdon School must wait until the last racing crews has crossed the finish line before proceeding downstream to land	
Collisions with other craft	Highly Unlikely	Extreme	Medium	1. Crews informed of navigation rules 2. Sign informing others and notification at locks 3. Course monitored throughout its length 4. Safety launches placed along course – all in radio contact	
Collision with bridges	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	Marshalls positioned upstream and downstream near Abingdon Bridge vicinity next to Rye Farm Meadow boating area – note this is not part of the Race course.	
Collisions/contact between racing crews	Likely	Slight	Low	1. Marshall presence increased at difficult bends to give warnings. 2. Safety launch placed near difficult bends.	
Collision with the river bank, fallen trees etc. Grounding in shallow water	Likely	Moderate	Medium	1. Marshall presence increased ahead of difficult bends and fallen trees to give warnings in advance of hazards. 2. Safety launch placed near difficult bends and fallen trees 3: Coloured warning buoys around fallen tree on Culham reach and around shallow area from dredging at finish	
Flood conditions	Likely	Moderate	Medium	The organisers are in communication with the local Environment Agency who are able to advise and predict the height of the river along the course for the day and duration of the race. The Head Committee will decide by 6.00 p.m. on the Saturday prior to the race to: Run the event in full / Cancellation of specific categories, e.g. Juniors, Novices / Cancellation of a Division. / Cancellation of the whole event	



Capsize proceeding to the start and during the race	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Course monitored throughout its length. 2. Safety launches placed along the course. 3. Vehicle access points identified to transfer victim quickly. 4. All marshals/monitors/safety launches in radio contact
Capsize at the start marshalling area	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Start Marshals to direct crews and monitor safety. 2. Safety launch patrolling 3. Vehicle access points identified to transfer victim quickly. 4. All marshals/monitors/safety launches in radio contact
Capsize at the finish area	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finish Marshals in place. 2. First Aid post in the boating area beyond the finish. 3. Safety Launch in place. All safety boats equipped with foil blankets. 4. Vehicle access points identified to transfer victim quickly. 5. All marshals/monitors/safety launches in radio contact
Going over a weir	Highly Unlikely	Extreme	Medium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a safe distance upstream of the weir and place a flag warning boats not go downstream of this point under any circumstances. The flag should be moved further upstream as appropriate if there are strong stream conditions or when winds are strong and blowing towards the weir. 2. All launches are to carry anchors. 3. In the case of capsize in proximity to weirs, extract participants to launch or land without delay before attending to boats if safe to do so.
Competitors in the water	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	<p>Under BR rules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All competitors must be competent swimmers 2. Coxswains must wear a personal flotation device. 3. Marshals/monitors issued with throw bags. 4. Safety launches positioned along the course. All safety boats equipped with foil blankets.
Hypothermia through capsize	Unlikely	Extreme	Medium	If participants are immersed in cold water, marshals and launch drivers ensure they get out of the water as quickly as possible, remove wet kit and return to the club ASAP to shower and change into warm clothes.
Hypothermia (non-immersion) whilst racing or marshalling	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Competitors warned to be appropriately dressed for the conditions. 2. Marshals advise adults where there is concern. 3. Juniors removed by marshals if considered at risk. 4. All safety boats equipped with foil blankets.
Exposure to pollution, water borne diseases, algal blooms	Highly Unlikely	Moderate	Low	Ensure all participants wash their hands ASAP post racing and that blade handles are cleaned. Report suspicions of water pollution to the EA
Contracting Weill's disease from a wound exposed to infected river water	Highly Unlikely	Extreme	Medium	Caution participants to keep existing wounds covered, wash/disinfect new wounds & seek medical attention
Other River Users / Public				
Personal attack	Highly Unlikely	Moderate	Low	Avoid confrontation and encourage participants to do the same. If subject to unprovoked attack, move away quickly. Report any attacks to the Police
Unsupervised access to Junior competitors	Highly Unlikely	Moderate	Low	Ensure that there are no opportunities for Junior participants to find themselves isolated and unguarded and that they are supervised by at least two known volunteer adults. The location for the event does not provide access to changing facilities, and is open air on public land. Instructions will be passed to all volunteers, coaches and attending adults from all competing clubs to maintain watch, remain vigilant and report anything suspicious such as someone unknown to crews hanging around or tampering with equipment.
Missing participants	Highly Unlikely	Extreme	Low	Procedures for missing participants are detailed in the Event Safety Plan. Where-ever possible a list of emergency contact numbers of persons responsible for each competing crew will be compiled and held by the Event Secretary. If a young person is missing for more than 20 minutes the Police will be informed.



Individual				
Acute illness attack/seizure in boat	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	ARC assumes that all club coaches are aware of pre-diagnosed medical conditions which could affect performance or require immediate treatment in the boat such as asthma diabetes, or epilepsy, and that coaches have agreed action plans with individuals which would include ensuring participants carry medication in the boat in case of attack.
Incidents requiring first aid only	Likely	Slight	Medium	1. First Aid provided by St John's Ambulance at identified treatment area in the main boating areas at Rye Farm Meadow. 2. All Marshals/Monitors/Safety Launches in radio contact
Incidents requiring hospital treatment	Unlikely	Extreme	Medium	1. Ambulance Service notified of event and provided with Safety Plan including access points. 2. Fire Brigade (with rescue launches) similarly notified. 3. Accident and emergency hospital identified.
Other				
Trip through ice on landing stage	Unlikely	Slight	Low	Grit / salt landing stage before use if icy / frosty
Trip through equipment on landing stage	Unlikely	Slight	Low	Ensure that blades are kept away from the landing stage and that volunteers are constantly helping people in and out of boats as quickly as possible.
Launch Engine Failure	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	Check engine, petrol can and hose and attachments of all Safety launches before event. Engines to be serviced prior to the event. Ensure all launches carry anchors with sufficient lengths of rope and chain securely attached to boat. Also carry paddle, knife, first aid kit, whistle, foil blankets etc. All drivers to carry two-way radios.
Unsuitable equipment	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	Under BR rules all clubs must supply properly and regularly maintained equipment for their members which is safe and adequate for its intended purpose. Random detailed checks together with visual checks will be made by marshals.