

MARLOW SPRING REGATTA

Saturday 11th June, 2022

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Marlow Town Regatta is to be held on Saturday 11th June, 2022 on the river Thames between Temple and Marlow in the downstream direction. The regatta will be conducted under British Rowing rules of racing and adhering to the BR *ROW SAFE: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing*. A Safety plan provided to all competitors. There is provision in the BR rules for the cancellation of the event if the weather or river conditions are such that safety would be compromised. Documents are provided to all competitors, including a safety plan, course instructions and a map of the course in compliance with racing rule 2.2.3.

Hazard	Potential Outcome	Likelihood	Measure to reduce risk	Overall Risk
Water				
1. The risk of collision between competitors while racing	Injury to rowers. Damage to boats.	Moderate	Each race is supervised by an umpire who will be responsible for the safety of the race and also for warning the crews if there is an imminent risk of collision. In the event of a collision the umpires and safety boats will be on hand and in radio communication to rescue the crew if necessary and transport any injured competitors to designated points for medical treatment.	Low
2. The risk of collision between competitors and other river users	Injury to rowers. Damage to boats.	Low	This section of river is not closed to other river users during racing but a channel separate from the main navigation channel is provided for competitors proceeding to the start. Floating warning notices are placed upstream and downstream of the race to warn other river users of the regatta and to stay in the buoyed navigation channel. If any craft enters the racing course, warnings will be given and the race stopped as necessary. Neither Salters Steamers nor Little Green Boat Company will be operating during the Regatta.	Low
3. The risk of collision of competitors racing with competitors proceeding to the start, and other river traffic	Injury to rowers. Damage to boats.	Moderate	This risk is minimised by ensuring that all crews stay out of the racing channel while proceeding to the start. The navigation channel is on the opposite side of the river to the boating area and the competitor's channel. Umpires, marshals and safety boat teams will be on hand to warn of river traffic straying into the racing lane.	Low
4. The risk of capsize of any competitor	Injury to rowers.	Moderate	This risk is minimised by ensuring that there are an adequate number of safety boats / umpires launches on the course to provide assistance and to clear the capsized boat from the course and warn other competitors. There will be at least two safety boats on the course and umpires launches. Risks are minimised by ensuring that all coxes wear lifejackets and that heel restraints are fitted and effective.	Low
5. The risk of incompetence by young or inexperienced competitors	Injury to rowers. Damage to boats.	Moderate	Umpires and safety boat crews are on hand to supervise athletes on the water. Umpires at the start will direct athletes by explaining how to manoeuvre the boat. An umpire can stop the race at any time to render assistance and can call on support from safety boats crews.	Med
6. The risk of failure of radio network	Failure to communicate adequately.	Moderate	There are two independent radio networks. A schematic diagram of the networks along with spare batteries and a back-up list of mobile phone numbers is supplied to all radio equipped officials in case of radio failure.	Low
7. Squalls, heavy rain, sleet, snow, fog, severe crosswinds, etc	Severe injury, death or damage to equipment and structures.	Low	Race Committee to assess conditions and agree time delay(s), postponement of racing, cancellation of all racing, or cancellation of classes of crews felt to be at particular risk in the conditions. Participants will be advised of situation over the public address system or by marshals with loudhailers.	Low

8. Lightning	Severe injury, death or damage to equipment and structures.	Low	Race Committee to apply 30 second / 10 minute rule. When gap between visible lightning and thunder is 30 seconds or less, racing to be stopped, water to be cleared. All tents are to be evacuated, and all spectators to be advised to get into vehicles, to close doors and windows or enter main building. Then to await all clear. All clear when lightning gap / thunder exceeds 30 seconds for 10 minutes.	Very Low
9. The risk of drowning of any competitor	Death	Low	The whole approx. 1000m course is in plain view at all times by the Race Committee Representative at the Finish and the commentary team. There are two safety boats on the course at all times, as well as an umpires launch following each race and those returning to start. There are umpires at both the start and finish. In the event of a competitor or anyone else getting into difficulties in the water the emergency plan will be deployed. The priority being to rescue the individual, and if the subject is unconscious, immediately to administer CPR and transport to the paramedic point at the finish. (See map)	Low
LAND				
10. Risk to pedestrians	Injury to rowers/ spectators	Moderate	This risk is minimised by establishing designated parking areas for cars and boat trailers away from the main boating and spectator areas. The course is bordered by a public footpath which is used by race spectators. The race organisers have no control over this but marshals are in place where crews carrying boats cross it for access to the boating rafts.	Low
11. Fall hazard while unloading boats	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats	Low	Reliance on competency of crews and adequate supervision by adults. BR provides guidelines on boat handling, trailers and towing.	Low/ Med
12. The risk of injury as boats are moved in and out of the water.	Injury to rowers and/or public.	Moderate	This risk is minimised by the use of pontoon marshals with loudhailers, to supervise crews on the pontoons. The marshals will also ensure the free and safe passage of members of the public using the towpath which is not closed.	Low/ med
13. Pastoral Care of junior athletes.	Emotional upset and distress	Low	A Regatta welfare officer has been appointed. Junior athletes are expected to be under the care of coaches or parents until afloat. The Regatta Welfare Officer and Paramedic technicians are on hand to provide assistance if required. Contact details posted at "crew registration"	Low
14. Contaminated boating meadow	Risk of illness owing to ingesting contaminants	Low	In the event of recent severe flooding of the boating meadow and surrounding areas there is a risk that the land has been contaminated with sewage. All crews and visitors should be aware of the risk and should wash their hands in the normal way before handling or eating food and drink. These contaminants will disperse naturally and are rendered harmless by UV radiation. Provided the sun shines!	Low
15. Presence of ticks in long grass	Risk of infection following tick bite	Low	The boating meadow will be mowed prior to the Regatta. Competitors are advised to wear boots and / or leggings to minimise the risk of being affected. If a tick attaches itself support can be found from the paramedics / first aiders.	Low