

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

Scope of Risk Assessment		Covering water based rowing activities				
Prepared by		Colin Percy and Brad Rogers	Prepared	11 / 11 / 2021	Review date	N/A
LIKELIHOOD OF OCCURRENCE (L) 1 = Very unlikely 2 = Unlikely 3 = Likely 4 = Very Likely 5 = Certain or imminent						
SEVERITY (S) 1 = Minor disruption to crew or individual 2 = Minor Injury/damage to equipment 3 = Potential immersion/exposure to adverse condition 4 = Significant trauma or injury due to collision, exposure to conditions or external agent 5 = Potential fatality/incapacity						
		Severity				
		1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood of occurrence	1	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
	2	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
	3	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High
	4	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
	5	Low	Medium	High	High	High
RISK RATING (RR)						
Residual Risk = 1 - 6		Adequately Controlled Risk = 7 - 14		Unacceptable Risk = 15 - 25		
No further action required. Ensure controls are maintained		Look to improve at next review		Stop activity immediately and improve controls		

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

	Hazard & Risk	Who or what is at risk?	L x S - risk rating no controls	Control Measures/Mitigation	L x S - risk rating with controls	who	how often
1	General Procedures						
1.1.	Unfamiliarity with procedures Risk of injury, damage to boats, loss of equipment	People, boats	3 x 3 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction training • Regular reminders on key safety issues • Squad briefings at least on an annual basis • Crews to sign in and out 	2 x 2 4	Club Water Safety Advisor (CWSA)	Learn to row / new member / ongoing
1.2	Failure to learn from previous incidents on river Major injuries, loss of life, loss/serious damage to boats.	People, boats	4 x 4 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report details of all incidents, including near misses, to the Club Water Safety Adviser 	2 x 2 4	CWSA	Ongoing
1.3	Lack of confidence in water	People, boats	3 x 3 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swim test and capsize drill should be completed by all members and repeated at least every 5 years. Priority for drill completion is new starters 	2 x 3 6	CWSA / coaches / rower as individual	As/when new starters join club
1.4	Lack of experience in supervision	people, boats	3 x 4 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coaches should have achieved Level 2 coaching qualification (or equivalent) • Coaches must be members of British Rowing for water-based work with juniors and for 	2 x 2 4	CWSA / coaches	Adequate training provided

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

				leading courses on the water on behalf of the club, for adult beginners.			
2	Boathouse						
2.1	Repairs, adjustments and maintenance Minor injuries, damage to boats, loss of equipment	People, boats	3 x 1 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of correct tools for job • Correct safety equipment used when required • Appropriate personnel to undertake the work at hand 	3 x 1 3	Vice Captain (boats)	As needed
2.2	Unsafe boats and equipment Major injuries, loss of life, loss/serious damage to boats.	People, boats	3 x 5 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular audit • Reporting of problems • Proper repairs carried out ASAP • Notices on quarantined boat • Training on checking over boats before every outing 	2 x 3 6	CWSA / Vice Captain (boats)	Monthly audit / daily
2.3	Cleanliness Dust, fungal ingestion/inhalation, rats	People, pets	3 x 4 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection • Regular cleansing • Pest control if serious 	2 x 3 6	Club Manager / Club Assistant / Squads	Weekly
2.4	Mobile boat racks, shutters, gates. Muscular strain, bumps Damage to boats Collision	People, boats	3 x 3 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection and simple maintenance • Regular professional checks for shutters 	1 x 3 3	Club manager / Club Assistant	Monthly / annually

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

2.5	Riggers on moving boats Bumps, head/eye injury, damage to boats	People, boats	3 x 5 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close gates • Sufficient people to lift boats • Observers to warn • Boats stored neatly without access impeded. 	1 x 5 5	vice captain (boats)	Daily
2.6	Storage of equipment Trips, slips, falls, bumps to people, damage or loss of equipment	People	4 x 3 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular inspection of storage areas • Store equipment neatly. Put equipment in cupboards or receptacles when finished with • Keep floor/access areas clear 	2 x 3 6	vice captain (boats)	Weekly / daily
2.7	Petrol Fire, inhalation, spillage & contamination	People, visitors, wildlife	3 x 4 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store in approved containers • Containers in steel cupboard when not in use • Fill launch containers in open air • Approved personnel only allowed to handle the petrol/containers 	1 x 3 3	Launch drivers	Daily
2.8	Lighting Light failure leading to darkness and poor visibility	People	1 x 5 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular maintenance checks carried out • Repair fuse and/or replace tubes promptly 	1 x 3 3	club manager / club assistant	Checks weekly / repairs when needed
2.9	Hoses Slips, falls	People	3 x 3 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put the hose away after use. Check for tangles/kinks and remove. 	1 x 3 3	Users of hose	As needed
2.10	Boats & trailers, changing facilities, car park, club Theft/vandalism as outdoor areas cannot be closed off	Property within club premises	3 x 3 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warn in advance of risk. • Ensure vigilance during the races. • Offer secure storage if possible. 	2 x 2 4	Club Manager / members as individuals	Daily

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

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3	Access to/from the water	N.B. Rowing at night may have higher risk					
3.1	Steps, some damaged Slips, trips, falls	People, boats	3 x 4 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> External lighting Clear steps of debris, weed, mud and ice. Descend and ascend slowly, under control Footwear with good grip Get steps repaired 	2 x 3 6	CWSA / users as individual	Daily / repairs as needed
3.2	Low tide conditions at steps: Falls, muscular strains, inability to wade ashore or carry boats up to the first step. Cuts and grazes, likely to become infected.	People, boats	3 x 3 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warnings issued on upcoming low tides avoid boating during very low tides where possible. 	2 x 3 6	CWSA / users as individual	Daily
3.3	Strong tides and current on boating or landing Capsize, damage to boat, collision	People, boats	5 x 3 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance on the shore Training in landing techniques Arrive/leave heading into tide/wind/current whichever is stronger 	3 x 2 6	Squad lead coach	Daily
3.4	Hadrian's Way path Collision with walkers, horse-riders or cyclists. Bumps, falls, damage to boats	People, boats, visitors, passers by	3 x 2 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give way to path users Advise rowers not to hesitate to shout if necessary 	2 x 2 4	Users	Daily
3.5	Rowing equipment left lying	People, blades, other equipment	3 x 1 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good supervision Put all rowing equipment back as soon feasibly possible 	2 x 1 2	Rowers as individual	Daily

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

	Slips, trips, falls, damage to blades, equipment may be knocked into the water or float away as tide rises			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check steps after outings, especially after dark 			
4	River water quality, debris & other hazards	N.B. Rowing at night may have higher risk					
4.1	Quality Infections, poisoning, water-borne diseases	People, pets	3 x 5 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid ingestion, wash hands after rowing, cleanse and cover cuts, blisters and other areas of broken skin. Shower as soon as possible after rowing. Use a screw top water bottle. Wear strong shoes or boots on steps 	2 x 4 8	CWSA / rowers as individual	Daily
4.2	Floating debris Damage to boats, capsize, drowning	People, boats	1 x 5 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep watch for debris. Cancel rowing when large amounts of debris are present Warn novice and inexperienced crews and coxes 	1 x 4 5	squad coach / rowers as individual	Daily
4.3	Underwater obstructions Damage to boats, capsize, drowning	People, boats	3 x 3 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety map on display in clubhouse and on TARC website Warnings about temporary obstructions posted in clubhouse and on website Warn novice, visiting and inexperienced crews and coxes 	1 x 3 3	CWSA	Daily
4.4	Overhanging trees and posts	People, boats	1 x 2 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good lookout 	1 x 1	Rower as individual	Daily

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

4.5	Members of the public Stone throwing and verbal abuse	People, boats	1 x 2 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay clear of banks when vandals are sighted Report if serious 	1 x 1 1	Rower as individual	Daily
4.6	Wildlife Weil's disease, bird flu, attack by or harm to large birds, collision with seals	People, boats	3 x 2 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hygiene, vigilance when on the water If wildlife are becoming a limiting factor assess whether continuing to row is safe to do so Report interaction with wildlife 	1 x 3 3	CWSA/ rowers as individual	Daily
5	Water conditions N.B. Rowing at night may have higher risk						
5.1	Water skiers Water skiers may be present, risk of collision or swamping from wash.	People, boats	3 x 2 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep good lookout Stop rowing to sit through wash Avoid designated water skiing area if necessary 	3 x 1 3	CWSA / rowers as individual	Daily
5.2	Mid-tide Strong currents, particularly on bends Rapid exposure of mud banks-danger of grounding Temptation to proceed to Wylam	People, boats	4 x 3 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check on tide times and extent, on display in the clubhouse. Tide times link on website Warnings of exceptional tides If currents appear dangerous consider abandoning/canceling rowing and provide warnings to novice/inexperienced crews and coxes 	1 x 3 3	CWSA / vice captain coaching	Daily
5.3	Low tide Exposed mud/rocks/debris Slippery steps River very narrow – increased risk of collision and grounding	People, boats	4 x 4 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check on tide times and extent, on display in the clubhouse. Tide times link on website Warnings of exceptional tides. 	4 x 1 4	CWSA / vice captain coaching	Daily

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warnings to novice/visiting/inexperienced crews and coxes to keep good lookout 			
5.4	Rough water conditions Wind, especially when against tide can create large waves – danger of capsizing or swamping	People, boats	4 x 4 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All boats to have built-in buoyancy Cancel rowing when conditions are severe Sufficient launches including a rescue launch 	2 x 4 10	vice captain (boats) / CWSA	Daily

6	Weather & light			N.B. Rowing at night may have higher risk			
6.1	Overall risk Capsize/swamping Injury/chill/hypothermia	People, boats	2 x 5 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display a 5-day forecast in clubhouse and link on website Display and regularly publicize club rules Coaches and squads to plan ahead in light of likely conditions 	1 x 5 5	CWSA / coaches	Weekly
6.2	Cold/Frost Capsize/swamping Injury/chill/hypothermia	People, boats	2 X 5 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear appropriate clothing for conditions 	1 x 5 5	CWSA	Daily
6.3	Thunder storm Injury	People, boats	2 X 4 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancel rowing if there is danger of imminent thunderstorms Stop rowing and return to clubhouse if an unexpected thunderstorm occurs 	1 X 3 3	CWSA	Daily
6.4	Bright sun and high temperature Sun burn, sun stroke, dehydration	People, boats	3 X 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear sunglasses and sun screen Coaches to watch for signs of sun stroke 	2 X 3	Rower as individual	Daily

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

			12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rowers to take water on outings 	6		
6.5	Mist/fog Collision, grounding	People, boats	3 X 4 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rowing if far bank can not be seen Novices/visitors/inexperienced rowers to take extra care 	2 X 3 6	squad lead coach	Daily
6.6	Lack of light at night Collision, capsize, grounding, falls/trips/slips	People, boats	4 x 5 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only experienced coxes or steer persons Novices/visitors/inexperienced crews not to row Boats to comply with club safety rules lighting requirements and clothing No rowing upstream of White House All crews to be signed out and back in 	3 x 3 9	squad lead coach	Daily
7	Boat handling off the water						
7.1	Lifting, carrying, launching Falls, slips, trips, musculo-skeletal injury Damage to boat	People, boats	4 x 3 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have sufficient people assist in handling the boat Obey lifting instructions Training for novices 	2 x 3 6	Rower as individual	Daily / training when required
7.2	Trestles Trapped fingers Collapse	People, boats	3 x 3 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check and repair trestles Have sufficient trestles 	2 x 3 6	Rower as individual	Daily
7.3	Carrying blades Impact injury Loss/damage	People, boats, passers by	2 x 2 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> keep good lookout Check when carrying and fitting 	1 x 2 2	Rower as individual	Daily

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

8	Coxing	N.B. Rowing at night may have higher risk					
8.0	Inexperienced coxes and steer persons collision, capsizing, injury and damage to boats	People, boats	4 x 4 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and assessment for coxes and steer persons • Novice trainees to be supervised 	2 x 3 6	CWSA / Lead coach	Daily / training when required
8.1	Life jackets Failure to inflate Drowning	People	2 x 5 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular checks that lifejackets are fit for purpose • Prevent cox going in a boat without life jacket • Manual inflation life jacket in front loaders 	1 x 5 5	CWSA / squad lead coach / cox as individual	Monthly / Daily
8.2	Lack of appropriate clothing Chill/hypothermia, drowning	People	4 x 4 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra care on warm clothing in cold conditions • Shoes not welly boots 	2 x 2 4	Cox as individual	Daily
8.3	Equipment failure Cox box failure – crew unable to respond to directions – risk of collision, damage, grounding	People, boats	3 x 4 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check equipment and re-charge regularly • Cox to check working and charged before each outing 	2 x 3 6	Vice captain (boats) / cox as individual	Daily
9	Coaching from launches	N.B. Rowing at night may have higher risk					
9.0	Outboard engine checks	People, boats	3 x 4 12		2 x 3 6	Launch driver	Daily

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

	Risk of engine failure / damage to launch			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check launch/engine regularly - if checks not passed do not use the launch 			
9.1	Lack of experience & experience Risk of drowning/death/injury to those being coached and coach. Damage to boats	People, boats	3 x 5 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training and assessment for launch drivers Novice trainees to be supervised Risk assessment before every coached activity 	2 x 3 6	Launch driver	Daily
9.2	Lifting, launching heavy launch with engine Muscular strains, falls, damage to launch and engine	People, boats	3 x 3 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient people to carry launch Remove engine and carry separately if very few Do not drag on steps 	2 x 3 6	Rowers/ launch as individual	Daily
9.3	Missing lifejackets Increased risk of drowning	People	4 x 3 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear at all times on water. Carry spare in launch If lifejackets are missing inform appropriate personnel of need to replace the lifejacket 	2 x 3 6	CWSA / Launch driver	Daily
9.2	Missing throw rope Increased risk of drowning	People	3 x 5 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry in launch Practice use 	2 x 3 6	Launch driver	Daily
9.4	Juniors more vulnerable In event of an incident/accident requiring coach's full attention for one individual, others may be at risk	People	3 x 3 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure adequate coach/launch cover for number out 	2 x 3 6	CWSA	Daily
9.5	Outboard motor failure Failure to rescue rowers if an incident	People, boats	3 x 4 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure regular inspection and maintenance Check enough petrol before going out Take mobile phone 	2 x 3 6	Launch driver /	Weekly / Daily

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure paddle or oars before leaving 		vice captain (boats)	
9.6	Driver losing control of launch Injury to themselves or rowers Hypothermia if falling out of launch Damage to boats	People	3 x 4 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training including proper use of kill cord Driver to wear and use kill cord correctly drive the launch carefully at all times 	2 x 3 6	CWSA / launch driver	Training when required / Daily
9.7	Tying up Boat damage or loss if launch floats away	Boats	1 x 3 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check on tidal movement Tie securely and check regularly if left on steps for a period of time 	1 x 2 3	Launch driver	Daily
9.8	Bow wave/wash Capsize of other craft Damage to other craft	People, boats	3 x 3 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control of speed especially in the training area where beginners and inexperienced rowers are on the water, and near steps. Control of speed where there are vertical walls at the riverside. 	2 x 3 6	Launch driver	Daily
10	Rowing on the water	N.B. Rowing at night may have higher risk					
10.1	Not following rules of the river Risk of collision, capsize, injury, damage to boat, especially on bends	People, boats	2 x 4 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local safety rules and Tyne code on display in clubhouse and on website Training for new rowers Regular reminders to all rowers Keep good lookout 	1 x 4 4	CWSA / Rower as individual	Training when required / Daily

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

10.2	Interaction with water skiing Risk of collision, capsize, injury, damage to boat	People, boats	3 x 4 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect their right to use the river • Stop rowing to ride through wash • Consider not going past white house if water skiing is taking place 	2 x 4 8	Rower as individual	Daily
10.3	Interaction with non-powered river users (incl canoeists, paddle boarders, sailing boats) Risk of collision due to unexpected movements or speed	People, boats	3 x 4 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect their right to use the river • Slow down if necessary • Remain polite 	2 x 3 6	Rower as individual	Daily
10.4	Collision with bridges Collision, currents and eddies	People, boats	4 x 4 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid turning close to bridges • Take particular note of direction of tidal flow and wind • Special care at Newburn Bridge 	2 x 3 6	Rower as individual / CWSA	Daily
10.5	Collision with posts, buoys, jetties Collision, capsize, damage to boat/blades	People, boats	3 x 3 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw attention to safety map on display • Keep a good lookout • Watch tide and current close to obstacles and structures 	2 x 2 4	CWSA / rower as individual rower / cox as individual	Daily
10.6	Lack of liquid Dehydration, infection from river water	People	2 x 4 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take bottle • Screw top bottle or similar to prevent contamination with river water and mud. 	1 x 3 3	Rower as individual	Daily
10.7	Lack of buoyancy Swamping,	People, boats	2 x 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular inspection • Check hatch covers before every outing 	1 x 5	Squad lead /	Daily

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

	Damage to boat Injury, drowning of crew		10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check before outing if in a boat with Inflatable buoyancy bags that bags are inflated 	5	individual crews / vice captain (boats)	
10.8	Gates come undone Capsize, drowning, hypothermia	People, boats	2 x 5 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check securely tightened Check top nut 	1 x 5 5	Vice captain (boats)	Daily
10.9	Blades Loss, breakage, capsize	People, boats	2 x 4 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check novices have fixed blades correctly in boat Check collars are tight Check for damage 	1 x 4 4	Squad lead coach / rower as individual	Daily
10.10	Communication with land based personnel	People, boats	3 x 5 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required personnel have a mobile phone on them during water based activity Headphones only to be used for rowing related activities 	2 x 4 8	CWSA / coach / rower as individual	Daily
10.11	Rowing at night Personal injury, damage to boats	People, boats	3 x 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Night time rowers must be accompanied by a launch - maximum ratio of one launch per three boats. 	2 x 3 6	CWSA / launch driver / rower as individual	Daily
11	Extra care for beginners						
11.1	Cannot swim Risk of drowning	People	3 x 5 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone who has not completed a satisfactory swim test to wear life jacket 	1 x 5 5	Rower as individual / lead coach	Daily

Tyne Amateur Rowing Club - Risk Assessment - Rowing activities

11.2	Poor or inadequate instruction leading to unsafe behaviour, Risk of injury	People	2 x 3 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified coach present • Prepare clear training plan for the exercise • Brief thoroughly 	1 x 3 3	Squad lead coach / vice captain coaching	Daily
11.3	Novice rowers unfamiliar with river Risk of injury and damage to equipment	People, boats	3 x 5 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced rowers / coaches to be present on water with novices • Novice rowers advised not to row in adverse weather conditions 	2 x 3 6	CWSA / squad lead coach	Daily

END of whole club risk assessment

Appendix - Further Issues to be addressed

Competitions at TARC - see latest version in separate document for Rutherford Head 2021

Rowing camps at TARC

Rowing camps at other venues

Events organised by more than one club at TARC

learn to row

Attending competitions elsewhere, Truck driving / trailer towing

Indoor training