

Tees Regatta Safety Plan

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Scope

This document describes the safety arrangements for Tees Regatta and any other regattas held on the River Tees organised by Tees Rowing Club. These regattas are run in accordance with the British Rowing Rules of Racing and follow the guidance of British Rowing RowSafe.

Tees Regatta and any other regattas on the River Tees organised by Tees Rowing Club take place in the full knowledge of the British Rowing, Canal & River Trust, Stockton-on-Tees Safety Advisory Group and other organisations deemed appropriate as notified by the Tees Regatta Committee.

1.2 Content

This document identifies the risks apparent during the event through a hazard and risk assessment. In Section 3 it then expands on the identified control measures to explain how these are to be achieved in practice. This document then incorporates, in Section 4, the briefing notes that implement the control measures. Therefore this document contains the following:

Section 2 – Safety Plan

- Hazards and Risk Assessment

Section 3 – Control Arrangements

- Responsibilities
- Emergency Procedures

Section 4 – Issued to competitors

- Instructions for Competitors
- Instructions for Officials
- Course Maps

1.3 Amendment Register

Issue	Date	Author	Reason	Review due by
Draft D	Dec 2006	S.Vaslet	Final amendments, now ready for issue	
Issue 1	May 2007	S.Vaslet	Updated for 2007 regatta	April 2008
See previous versions for full amendment register				
Issue 12A	Feb 2018	A.Puddick	Updated for 2018 Regatta	April 2019
Issue 12B	Feb 2018	A.Puddick	Updated for 2018 Regatta	April 2019
Issue 12C	Apr 2018	A.Puddick	Updated for 2018 Regatta	April 2019
Issue 13A	Feb 2019	A.Puddick	Updated for 2019 Regatta	April 2020
Issue 13B	Mar 2019	A.Puddick	Updated for 2019 Regatta	April 2020

2.0 Safety Plan

The Safety Plan for the event is given in the following section.

2.1 Hazards and Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment					
Hazard	Initial Risk	Consequence	Prevention	Control Measure	Final Risk
Hazards on the Water					
Bad conditions (wind and water) or their deterioration	Med	Possible boat capsize or sinking Hypothermia	Some or all of races may be suspended or cancelled by the Race Committee Individual competitors at liberty to withdraw Crews and coxwains must wear appropriate clothing	Race Control to monitor the weather Competing club requirement	Low
Bad conditions (lightning)	Low	Possible injury Hypothermia	Some or all of races may be suspended or cancelled by the Race Committee Any crews on the water will be called back to the finish to allow them to leave the water Individual competitors at liberty to withdraw	Race Committee	Low
Equipment failure	Med	Possible injury Boat capsize, sinking or unrowable	All boats to comply with BR RowSafe Boats may be inspected before launching Marshals and Umpires can prevent unsafe boats being launched	Competing club requirement Pontoon Marshal / Control Commission	Low
Collision with other rowing boats	Med	Possible injury Boat capsize, sinking or unrowable	Landing Stage Marshals supervise launching, leaving and landing Circulation pattern Leave from Steps, land at Pontoon No warming up adjacent to the course Crews instructed to keep race finish area clear Race Umpires must keep racing crews apart Buoyed course. Race Umpires must warn of hazards Basic competence of coxswains and steersmen	Pontoon Marshal Club Officials deployed along course Via Safety Instructions	Low
Collision with bank, buoys, fixed obstructions or floating debris	Med	Possible injury Boat capsize, sinking or unrowable	Course Map shows known obstructions Safety Launch will clear debris if hazardous Race Umpires must warn of hazards Basic competence of coxswains and steersmen	Map available on club website and on display Course inspected the previous day Club Officials deployed along course	Low

Risk Assessment					
Hazard	Initial Risk	Consequence	Prevention	Control Measure	Final Risk
Collision with bridge pier	Med	Possible injury Boat capsize, sinking or unrowable	Course Map shows restriction and circulation pattern Basic competence of coxswains and steersmen	Launch placed downstream of bridge pier to warn and prevent racing crews from collision with bridge	Low
Congestion in the start area	Med	Possible injury Boat capsize, sinking or unrowable, swept onto barrage	Cancel regatta if river flow too high Limit number of boats in start area Boats in start area supervised and monitored	Race Committee decision Boats held at mid-course official Start area supervised by Start Marshal	Low
Congestion in landing area	Med	Possible injury, Collision, Boat capsize, Boat damage	Circulation pattern	Circulation pattern shown on map Launch in finish area to enforce circulation pattern	Low
Collision with other boat or problem with wash	Med	Injury, capsize, sinking, boat damage	River is closed to traffic during the regatta Right of navigation controlled by C&RT and monitored by Umpires	Race Officials deployed along course	Low
Boat capsize, sinking or unrowable	High	Crew unable to return to landing Competitors in the water	Shoe types allow quick escape from boat Scullers should have been instructed in Capsize Drill by their Club Safety Launch will attend incidents to pull people out of the water Racing will be stopped if necessary	Competing club requirement Each launch will have two crew Radio comms	Low
Sudden illness to competitor	Med	Possible capsize (especially single scull) Boat unable to proceed	Clubs request all competitors to check they have no medical condition prior to taking up rowing Safety Launch will attend incidents to pull people out of the water Racing will be stopped if necessary	Competing club requirement Pontoon Marshal can prevent underdressed or ill-looking competitors from boating Each launch will have two crew Radio comms	Low
Competitor in water	High	Shock Hypothermia Drowning	Coxswains required to wear lifejackets All Competitors required to be able to swim Boat will normally remain buoyant Rapid Safety Launch response Launch will carry throw line Thermal blankets available in launch and at Race Control	Competing club requirement Race Officials deployed along course 3 launches deployed Equipment in launches Equipment in boathouse	Low

Risk Assessment					
Hazard	Initial Risk	Consequence	Prevention	Control Measure	Final Risk
Competitor injury or illness	Med	Treatment required Possible emergency	First Aid Kit available in Safety Launch and at Regatta Control Procedure for calling Emergency Services in place and notified to Ambulance Service	Check equipment in launches Race Officials deployed along course Police/Ambulance Control notified during week prior to the race	Low
Medical Emergency	Med	Urgent and/or major treatment required	Procedure for calling Emergency Services in place and notified to Ambulance Service First Aid cover provided by professional organisation	Police/Ambulance Control notified during week prior to the race FA team (2 people) to be located at RTWC	Low
Water borne diseases: Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease), Gastro-intestinal illness and Hepatitis A	Med	Illness	Avoid contact with river water Cover cuts/abrasions Wash thoroughly after contact with river water	Do not splash face or boats fittings with river water Do not drink river water Do not throw coxwains in the water Wear suitable footwear when launching boats Use waterproof dressings Wash/shower after race/capsize If water is swallowed, contact First Aid Unit Wash hands before eating	Low
Competitors with disabilities	Med	Higher risk in event of capsize	Discuss appropriate measures with coach, school and umpires.		Low
Hazards on the Land					
Accident on road (as roads that used to be closed are now open to the public)	Med	Injury	Made aware of the hazard Attention to the hazard	Information added to the competitor's information Car parking Wardens	Low
Injury in trailer park	Med	Injury, damage to boats	Cars and trailers parked according to published parking plan	First aid cover present at event	Low
Injury to spectators / members of the public along public footpath in front of the boat house	Med	e.g. Struck by boat during carrying e.g. Trip hazard on equipment left unattended	Notices to be placed either end of public footpath warning footpath users of event. Site layout plan to be prepared before event as guide to competitors and race officials Athletes instructed to keep clear access to pathway in front of boathouse (e.g. no blades to be propped on railings opposite boathouse)	First aid cover present. Organising Club's responsibilities. Instructions to competing crews. Race marshals to monitor area during event.	Low
Slip from path, steps or pontoon	High	Injury. Spectator in	Safety boat moored adjacent to pontoon to effect rescue. Throw lines available in	First aid cover present	Low

Risk Assessment					
Hazard	Initial Risk	Consequence	Prevention	Control Measure	Final Risk
		water.	boathouse and on pontoon and boating steps.	Marshals instructed on location of heaving lines.	
Risk of gazebo collapsing or blowing away in strong winds	High	Injury to volunteer or spectator	Ensure that the gazebos are properly weighted or tied to an adjacent fixed structure. Only use if weather conditions are appropriate.	The Event Safety Officer or his nominated deputy to consult the weather conditions before the event. Wind readings to be taken regularly, and recorded, throughout the day. The sides are to be removed if the wind exceeds 16mph and the whole structure to be taken down if the wind exceeds 22mph..	Low
Dogs in water	Med	Boat capsize. Injury to crew.	Notice to public to keep dogs on lead in boathouse area and along gravel path towards barrage.	First aid cover present. Organising Club's responsibilities.	Low
Difficulty in communicating location to emergency services	Med	Delay to response by emergency services	Advise emergency services before the event of the meeting points marked on the event map.	Communicate event information beforehand.	Low
Anti-social behaviour (members of public) e.g. stone throwing, jumping in water etc.	Med	Boat capsize. Injury to crew.	Race Marshals instructed to report all incidents to Race Control and Safety Advisor. Possible decision to temporarily suspend regatta. If behaviour continues	Organising Club's responsibility Event Committee Call police or community liaison officers	Low
Use of a portable generator at the Start	High	Fire CO ₂ exposure Manual handling	Locate the generator and the fuel refill can in a well ventilated area away from any source of ignition. Keep the refill can away from the generator. Ensure that the generator is off when refilled and use a funnel / nozzle to minimise risk of a fuel spill. When moving the generator ensure that good manual handling procedures are utilised and, if necessary, use two people.	Start Team to monitor the operation of the generator	

Specific items are listed to provide mitigation against the consequences of the hazards at this regatta. These are included in the competitor's instructions. Any breaches or infringements of the BR Rules, BR Rules of Racing, the BR RowSafe or the specific local rules as identified in the competitor's instructions will be dealt with by the disciplinary procedures outlined in the BR Rules of Racing.

3.0 Control Arrangements

This section includes the responsibilities for both officials and competitors and the detail of the emergency procedures.

3.1 Responsibilities

3.1.1 Organising Club's Responsibilities

1. It may be necessary to make decisions about the safe running of the regatta. This is the duty of the Race Committee. This will include decisions about the prevailing and anticipated weather conditions, the river flow and lightning.
2. There will need to be a co-ordination point for all emergencies. This will be Regatta Control.
3. During the race, the river needs to be clear of all other river traffic. This is achieved by requesting a river restriction from Canal & River Trust. When obtained, this will be reinforced by making contact with each of the organisations that use the river on a regular basis. Any craft wishing to navigate the race area will be advised to contact the safety launches and proceed under their instruction when the course is clear. The Barrage Control will advise craft coming through the lock and the launch adjacent to the finish will manage craft coming downstream.
4. The race course has to be under observation over its full length with sufficient launches to affect a prompt rescue. It is judged that three launches are sufficient, each one covering approximately 300m. Launches should have a crew of two so that individuals can be pulled from the water. They should also have rudimentary first aid provisions and safety blankets. The launches are in contact with Race Control via radio.
5. The organisers need to secure sufficient volunteers to staff the launches and officials' positions. The volunteers must be trained and briefed and provided with written instructions.
6. Adequate car and trailer parking space must be provided and organised such that vehicles and pedestrians are separated as much as possible and that there is access for the emergency services. The car parking provision is detailed in a separate document and forms part of the event documentation (see Section 4.0)
7. A First Aid post must be established and the Club Room is used for this purpose. It is signposted from the entrance and lift lobbies.
8. In anticipation of the potential for requiring the emergency services the event map shows the River Tees Watersports Centre (RTWC) and access points to the river. These are lettered for ease of identification. The emergency services are informed directly of these arrangements prior to the event.
9. To ensure, as far as possible, that the river is free from floating and partially submerged debris, the full length of the course is checked on the day prior to the race and on the event morning.
10. The unique features of the course and the associated hazards must be communicated to the competitors. This is achieved via the Safety Instructions for All Competitors and the Tees Regatta Map.
11. To ensure safe boating from the pontoon and the steps, marshals are provided to assist competitors and to ensure it is safe to leave the steps with regard to any race that may be in progress.
12. The Regatta Safety Adviser must complete a BR Safety Audit Sheet for the regatta.
13. Ensure that any temporary structures such as gazebos are securely fixed to permanent structures (railings) and/or their legs are adequately weighted in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. Wind readings should be taken on a regular basis using a hand held wind meter by the Event Safety Officer, or his nominated Deputy. These readings should be recorded and checked for action against the trigger levels for removal of the sides or complete disassembly.
14. Provision must be made for the safeguarding and protection of children and vulnerable adults. A separate Welfare Statement and Plan is published in the event documentation (see Section 4.0)
15. Make this Safety Plan and supporting documentation (see Section 4.0) available to Officials, volunteers and competing clubs (via website).

3.1.2 Competing Clubs' Responsibilities

1. The BR Rules, BR RowSafe and the BR Rules of Racing establish effective arrangements for safe racing. Through the Safety Instructions for All Competitors competing clubs are reminded of their obligation to meet the requirements of the Rules of Racing and follow the guidance of RowSafe.
2. In particular, competing clubs are expected to ensure:
 - a) All boats provided to competitors are safe for use, have a bow ball, adequate heel restraints and functional buoyancy (when fitted).
 - b) That coxes are provided with suitable life jackets or buoyancy aids.
 - c) That crews and coxes are wearing suitable clothing for the prevailing and anticipated conditions.
 - d) That inexperienced crews have experienced coxes and that inexperienced coxes are only used with experienced crews.
 - e) All competing clubs should provide Race Control with a contact number for use during the event in case of an incident involving their club.

3.1.3 Competitor's Responsibilities

1. In addition to the specific requirements in section 3.1.2, individual competitors are required to have knowledge of the following:
 - a) The course has a number of features that could present a hazard to competitors. Crews must therefore make themselves familiar with the content of Safety Instructions for All Competitors and the Tees Regatta Map.
 - b) In particular with regard to boating, crews must depart from the Steps, they must check the racing lanes are clear and leave under the guidance of an official. Crews must land at the Pontoon.
 - c) If a competitor sees an incident, they should inform a launch or a race official. If necessary, they should stop and provide assistance. These actions may accelerate the provision of assistance to a crew in difficulty.
 - d) To minimise congestion at the finish and the consequential risk of collision, crews should row clear of the finish line before stopping.
 - e) For similar reasons, crews are not permitted to warm up adjacent to the course.
2. Competitors are notified of their instructions concerning safety and the rules of the race via the following documents:
 - Tees Regatta Safety Instructions,
 - Tees Regatta Map.
3. These documents are posted on the Tees RC website one week before the regatta. Copies are also displayed at RTWC and are made available for competitors at registration, should they require them.

3.1.4 Official's Responsibilities

1. Officials to be familiar with this Safety Plan and associated instructions and map.
2. Launches and Race Officials are to be in place before crews start boating.
3. Launches and Race Officials are responsible for ensuring that crews travelling downstream to the start do so in a safe and orderly fashion.
4. Launch crew are responsible for being in position and in contact during racing, attending incidents as observed by them or directed by other officials during the race, and rescuing capsized/ injured competitors to the first aid post at RTWC or another designated meeting point.
5. Launches and Race Officials are responsible for ensuring that competitors have safe passage during the race, warning competitors acting in an unsafe or dangerous manner and those not complying with the rules and co-ordinating the launches and first aid treatment at incidents.

3.2 Emergency Action Plan

3.2.1 Contact Procedures

1. In the event of an incident occurring it is likely that it will be observed by a launch, race official or a competitor.
2. Communication between Regatta Control and all officials is by radio.
3. RTWC address is: River Tees Watersports Centre, The Slipway, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 2NL.

3.2.2 Emergency procedure

1. On witnessing an incident, officials have been instructed to call for assistance, clearly stating their location.
2. If there is a danger to crews in need of assistance from those racing, then the nearest race official or launch will warn approaching crews.

3.2.3 Incidents on the Water

1. In general, all incidents on the water will be dealt with by the attendance of a launch and the launch driver will be deemed "in charge" of the incident.
2. If the competitor(s) is/are capable of continuing to race, they may be allowed to continue at the discretion of the launch driver.
3. If it is necessary, competitors will be taken by launch to RTWC or another designated meeting point.
4. The safety boats are for people recovery and NOT for recovery of equipment. Once all competitors are deemed safe, the launch may return for equipment recovery.
5. Regatta Control may call the Emergency Services to the incident. A copy of the attached map is sent to the Stockton Safety Group prior to the event. It shows Emergency Service access points.
6. In all cases, the launch in attendance shall inform Regatta Control of the outcome. Regatta Control will announce the re-commencement of racing.

3.2.4 Incidents on the Bank

1. The nearest race official or launch will call for assistance where necessary and remains "in charge" of the incident.
2. If an incident occurs out of sight of an official, contact with the nearest official should be made.
3. Race Control may call the Emergency Services to the incident. Alternatively the individual(s) may be brought back to RTWC.

3.2.5 Encroaching vessels

The river has restricted access during the event for other users between The Princess of Wales Bridge and the Barrage so there should not be any additional craft on the course. Should one appear, it should be requested by a launch driver to stop and wait until it is safe to proceed between races. If a craft approaches the course without authority crews should be warned and racing stopped if necessary.

3.2.6 Pre-race Provisions

The Tees Regatta Organising Committee will carry out an assessment of the conditions in the days preceding the regatta and on the day of the regatta to ensure that the regatta is safe to be run.

The Organising Committee including the safety adviser will review all relevant information and forecasts, including the current state of the stream and the water level and the Local Weather Centre forecast for the time of the regatta.

The Organising Committee will determine any variations to the regatta, such as cancellation of the regatta or limiting the regatta by experience of competitor or boat size. In the event of cancellation or serious curtailment of the entry, the Tees Regatta Secretary will communicate this information to competing clubs as soon as practicable.

At first light on the morning of the regatta, the Organising Committee will confirm that forecasts are accurate. In the event that they are not, the Tees Regatta Committee will determine if any restrictions are required and inform competitors of these.

3.2.7 On-going Assessment

The conditions will be continually assessed by the Race Committee throughout the regatta. It may be necessary to impose restrictions as detailed in section 3.2.6 above if conditions deteriorate throughout the regatta.

4.0 Instructions provided to Officials and Competitors

Documents provided to competing Clubs and available on the website

- This Safety Plan
- Safety Instructions for All Competitors
- Tees Regatta Map
- Welfare and Child Protection Plan
- Car parking arrangements

Documents provided to Officials and Volunteers additional to the above

- Volunteer Role Profiles