



Risk Assessment for Rowing Activities on the River Tay

This Risk Assessment is provided to guidance as to the standards and precautions to be expected when taking part in water-based activities. It is designed to ensure that everyone can have fun on the water in the knowledge that they are protected from harm to a reasonable degree. It does not guarantee safety but it gives sensible advice to minimise risk. Leaders and/ or Coaches will need to carry out dynamic risk assessments throughout the activity and act appropriately when circumstances are not covered by this document.

General risk control measures:

Leaders/ Coaches of the planned activities must, at a minimum, have experience over several seasons for the proposed activity. Preferably coaches should be qualified (or working towards) to UKCC level 2 standard. Local boating/ navigation rules must be understood by all persons involved in the activities. They must also have experience of and be comfortable on more challenging grades of water and conditions than they find on the day. Leaders/ Coaches must be able to rescue others (or raise the alarm), control the group and administer first aid, they must plan for emergency situations and know the procedure to be followed for different types of incident. All activities must commence with a briefing covering hazards, safety, any illnesses, water confidence and roles within the session. Leaders/ Coaches should ensure that they and the participants are fit to undertake the activity. Participants exhibiting signs of exhaustion, illness, or the influence of drugs or alcohol must not be allowed to participate. No activity is acceptable if it includes the consumption of alcohol before or during paddling.

Supporting documents:

Safety & Emergency plan
Emergency action plan
Navigation of the Tay

Club		Tay Rowing Club				Date Created :	Jan-20	
Author		H McKenzie				Date Reviewed:	Jan-22	
ID	Hazard	Initial Risk		Initial Risk Rating	Control Measures	Residual Risk		Residual Risk Rating
		Severity	Likelihood			Severity	Likelihood	
1	Injury through lifting & moving boats and engines	3	3	9	Ensure all users are briefed in good lifting technique. Only lift boats and engines when an appropriate number of able-bodied people are available.	3	1	3
2	Tripping over equipment left on the ground	2	3	6	All equipment, when not in use, should be put away immediately. Oars should be placed in the same location (next-to slipway) for every session. All users should be made aware of this position when joining the club.	3	1	3
3	Stumbling/ slipping when moving boats on land/ slipway	2	3	6	Path from boathouse to river to be checked for hazards before moving boats or oars. Appropriate footwear to be worn at all times. Rock salt made available to defrost path in cold weather.	1	2	2

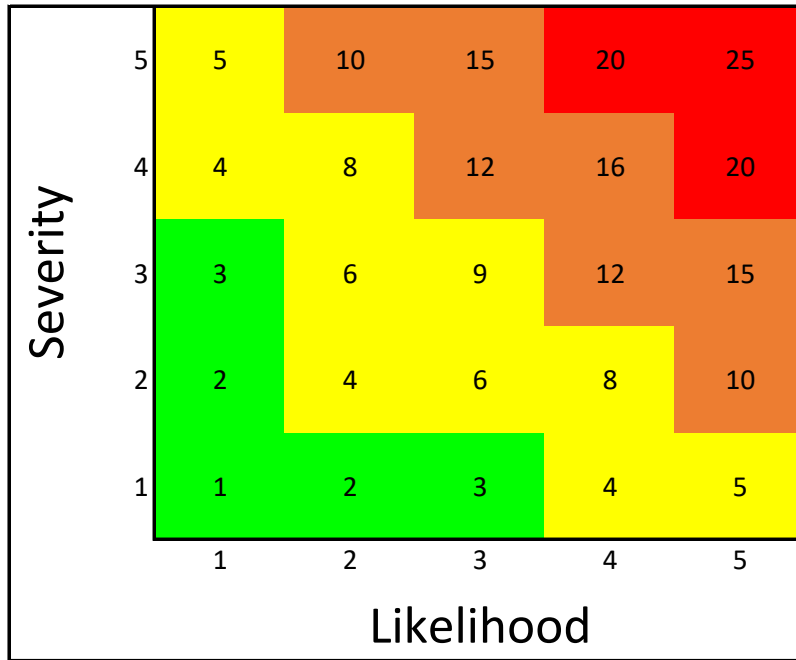
4	Incident due to extreme water conditions (fast stream/ waves)	5	3	15	Weather & water conditions to be assessed by coach and crew. Only experienced & competent rowers are allowed on the water in poor conditions.If in doubt crews should not go on the water or should opt to use a stable boat.	5	1	5
5	Poor visibility (i.e. fog)	3	2	6	Visibility must be $\geq 100\text{m}$ (opposite bank must be visible). Judgement to be made by attending coach & crew. In cases of low visibility (judged to be row-able) all members must wear high visibility clothing.	3	1	3
6	Lightning	5	2	10	If lightning occurs whist a crew All boats to leave the water immediately. Shelter to be taken in buildings/ cars.	5	1	5
7	Hypothermia	4	2	8	Rowers are responsible for providing their own clothing.Coaches are to remind & assess athletes before a session to ensure they are wearing weather-appropriate clothing. It is recommended that all athletes carry spare clothes to each session. Recommended kit list issued via club Facebook members page	3	1	3

8	Inability of coxes/ coaches to swim after capsize due to inappropriate footwear	5	2	10	Coxes and launch members should not wear wellington boots whilst afloat. Wellingtons may be used during launching but should be removed/ changed to a shoe which cannot fill with large volumes of water when afloat. Sailing boots are appropriate to wear throughout a session.	3	1	3
9	Fire due to Petrol	3	2	6	Carry in approved container indicating contents. Store in locked container. Ensure engines turned off when not in use	2	1	2
10	Injury/ damage caused by collision with passing vehicles whilst moving boats across the road.	5	2	10	Coxes/ Coaches to keep look out prior to and whilst manoeuvring boats across the road.	5	1	5
11	Launch driver or passenger falling in water	3	2	6	Buoyancy aid to be worn by all launch users. Kill cord to be attached to driver at all times. Only trained drivers to use launches. Driver to warn passenger before increasing speed. Launches must be fully equipped as per safety code including orange rescue bag.	1	2	2

12	Illness from water borne disease	2	2	4	Inform rowers of the risks. Cover cuts & scrapes with waterproof plasters. Wash all equipment after use (with clean water). Wash hands before eating. Rowers to be advised to consult GP if after few days flu like symptoms emerge	1	1	1
13	Capsizing in general	3	4	12	Rowers to be briefed upon capsize drill upon induction. As part of membership requirements all new members must complete (or confirm previous completion of) a swimming competency test. Rowers are reminded that after a capsize- it is best to stay with the boat and to get as much of your body out the water as possible. After being extracted from the water or getting back into the boat rowers must return immediately to the land, change clothes and shower.	2	3	6
14	Capsizing in Winter	4	4	20	See hypothermia risk. Additional measures such as having plenty warm dry clothes on land. Launch has foil blankets (blizzard blankets) or individual rowers carry one if no launch present.	3	3	9

15	Collisions with other rowers	3	3	9	Circulation pattern must be observed. Bow person/ cox must call to other crews when close. It is recommended that single scullers/ bow persons wear brightly coloured tops to improve visibility.	3	1	3
16	Falling over whilst boating	3	3	9	Cox/ Boat leader to organise crew to ensure riggers are held firmly whilst boarding, if possible a helper/ coach should help hold the boat steady. Boating should only occur in shallow (less than knee deep) water. To assist with control of the boat, bows should be pointed into the stream.	3	2	6
17	Boats falling off stands/ trailer in high wind	2	2	4	When windy equipment should be tied down and kept as low to the ground as possible.	2	1	2
18	Collisions with a coaching launch	4	2	8	Awareness of others & keep close watch. Listen for warning shouts, especially when turning.	4	1	4

19	Collision with other river users	4	3	12	Observe circulation pattern. Coaching launches, if present, should assist with safe navigation. Bow in coxless boats should look over each shoulder every 3-5 strokes.	2	1	2
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Severity	
1	Negligible
2	Minor
3	Moderate
4	Major
5	Catastrophic

Likelihood	
1	Rare
2	Unlikely
3	Occasionally
4	Probable
5	Frequent

Covid-19 Additional Risk Assessment- These control measures are supplementary to the overall club Risk Assessment

Date: Jan 2022 Rev:2

Club specific Guidance and Procedures for phased re-opening of Tay RC are in addition to this Risk Assessment.

Additional guidance from the Scottish Government and Scottish Rowing can be found:

No:	Hazard	Initial Risk		Initial Risk Rating	Control Measures	Residual Risk		Residual Risk Rating
		Severity	Likelihood			Severity	Likelihood	
1	Transmission of COVID-19 via interaction between club users	4	3	12	Club users shall maintain 2m social distancing at all times. Scheduling of access to be provided by Club management to limit interaction. Arrival times shall be staggered to prevent casual interaction.	4	2	8
2	Transmission of COVID-19 via infected surfaces in the club	4	2	8	Club users to disinfect common surfaces after use. Ensure members bring their own disinfectants. Restricted use of site portaloo.	3	1	3
3	Transmission of COVID-19 via infected equipment in the club	4	2	8	Club users to disinfect club equipment after use. Blades will be issued to each individual club member and no sharing of equipment . Double sculls will be assigned to family groups wishing to scull. No shared handling of blades for carrying, and boats must be cleaned after being carried by two people	3	1	3

4	Club member contracting COVID-19 after being at club	4	1	4	A log will be kept of all rowers attending sessions in order to contact members in the event of a club member contracting COVID-19.	3	1	3
5	Club member experiencing suspected/confirmed case	4	2	8	Temporary closure of club. Deep clean of potentially affected areas. Contact tracing.	3	1	3
6	Capsizing and needing intervention	4	2	8	In the event of a club member capsizing, standard procedures will be followed. If the individual cannot perform a 'self rescue' or is in difficulty then safety launch driver will intervene to provide aid.	4	2	8

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