

# CHESTERTON R.C. Risk Assessment for the CRA Head of the Cam Race 2011

The Organisation has a Duty of Care for the competitors, officials, and the general public at large, whilst the event is being held. This risk assessment was carried out by Paul Holland (water safety advisor) in conjunction with James Howard (former water safety advisor) using the guidelines published by British Rowing (BR) and the BS8800 1996 risk level estimator:

		Severity of outcome		
Probability of accidents	Slightly harmful	Harmful	Extremely harmful	
Highly unlikely	Trivial risk	Tolerable risk	Moderate risk	
Unlikely	Tolerable risk	Moderate risk	Substantial risk	
Likely	Moderate risk	Substantial risk	Intolerable risk	

Those events that remain classed as "moderate risk" are those that involve the possible immersion of more than one person, which, following the BR guidelines, should be classed as potentially "extremely harmful". The likelihood of all of such events has been assessed, in light of our risk reduction measures, as "highly unlikely" resulting in a "Moderate" severity of outcome. Further reduction to "Tolerable Risk" is impossible under this scheme.

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Hazard	Potential outcome	Likelihood	Severity of outcome	Measure to reduce risk	Likelihood after measures	Severity of outcome
<b>On land</b>						
Fall hazard while unloading/moving boats	Injury to rowers and/or damage to equipment	Highly unlikely	Harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reliance on competency of crews. BR provides guidelines on the use of trailers/towing.</li> <li>Most competitors will be boating from their own boathouses.</li> </ul>	Highly unlikely	Tolerable
Collision hazard on Hailingway between cycling spectators/coaches and members of the public.	Injury to coaches/spectators/members of the public. Possibility of falling into the river	Unlikely	Harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signs placed at along the hailingway and at either end warning the public an event is in progress.</li> <li>Marshals to intervene if they observe unsafe use of the hailingway</li> </ul>	Highly unlikely	Tolerable

<b>Prior to race start</b>						
Collision with other boats on the way to the start or in marshalling area	Injury to rowers and/or damage to equipment, possibility of capsize.	Highly unlikely	Extremely Harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marshals in position 1/2 hour before event starts.</li> <li>1st aid cover in place 45 minutes before event starts.</li> <li>Reliance on competency of crews and compliance with Row Safe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing</li> </ul>	Highly unlikely	Moderate
Long wait in marshalling area prior to start	Potential for hypothermia.	Highly unlikely, varies according to May weather	Harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marshals to advise crews thought to have inadequate protection for conditions on the day.</li> <li>Marshals will carry thermal blankets and be extra vigilant if weather is cold.</li> <li>Marshals to ensure prompt marshalling of boats at the start.</li> <li>Reliance on competence of crews and coaches to be properly equipped.</li> </ul>	Highly unlikely	Tolerable
<b>During race</b>						
Collision between racing crews	Injury to rowers and/or damage to equipment, possibility of capsize.	Highly unlikely	Extremely Harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crews to be started at sensible intervals to avoid the need for overtaking where possible.</li> <li>Boat classes to be started in correct order.</li> <li>Coxes advised of narrow stretches of river.</li> <li>Marshals can observe the entire course and will intervene if necessary.</li> <li>Racing carried out under guidance of BR water safety code.</li> </ul>	Highly unlikely	Moderate

Collision between racing crew and static object, i.e. bank or moored powerboat	Injury to rowers and/or damage to equipment, possibility of capsizing.	Highly unlikely	Extremely Harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most coxes are familiar with the course.</li> <li>• A briefing will be available to visiting coxes at race control, all coxes row the course prior to racing.</li> <li>• Coxes warned of tight bends.</li> <li>• Marshal on tight bends warned of potential dangers.</li> </ul>	Highly unlikely	Moderate
Collision at finish area	Injury to rowers and/or damage to equipment, possibility of capsizing.	Highly unlikely	Extremely Harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marshal at finish will keep boats moving away from the finish line.</li> </ul>	Highly unlikely	Moderate
<b>Inclement weather</b>						
Thunderstorms	Severe injury, death or damage to equipment.	Highly unlikely	Extremely Harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Race committee/ safety advisor to apply 30 second/ 10 minute rule. When gap between visible lightning and thunder is 30 seconds or less racing to be stopped and water to be cleared as fast as is safely possible.</li> </ul>	Highly unlikely	Moderate
Squalls, heavy rain, sleet, snow, fog, severe crosswind etc.	Severe injury, death or damage to equipment.	unlikely	Extremely Harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Race committee to assess conditions and agree time delay(s), cancellation of all racing or cancellation of crew classes felt to be at particular risk in the conditions. Participants to be advised by marshals and at race control.</li> </ul>	Highly unlikely	Moderate
Floods	Strong stream making coxing difficult and increasing the chances of a collision. Possibility of swamping/ capsizing.	Highly unlikely	Extremely Harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Race committee to cancel all racing if they consider conditions dangerous or if the Conservators of the River Cam so advise.</li> </ul>	Highly unlikely	Moderate

<b>General events</b>						
Worsening of existing condition in competitor or spectator: e.g. asthma attack	Severe illness or death of patient.	Highly unlikely	Extremely Harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reliance on crews to know of existing conditions and required treatment. Marshall to summon first aiders on radio.</li> </ul>	Highly unlikely	Moderate
Transgression of powered craft onto course	Collision leading to Injury to rowers and/or damage to equipment, possibility of capsize.	Highly unlikely	Extremely Harmful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event advertised in advance to local boating community and with the conservators of the river Cam.</li> <li>• Marshal at lock will warn boats arriving at the lock that the river is closed for racing.</li> <li>• Marshal at Riverside will warn boats moving downstream well before the finish. If boats should fail to stop marshals will be informed by radio and the racing will be stopped.</li> </ul>	Highly unlikely	Moderate