** Scottish Rowing – Risk Assessment**

**Event:** Scottish Rowing Beach Sprint and Offshore Championships 2025

**Event date:** 16th and 17th August 2025

**Venue:** Ayr Beach

**Date Risk Assessment Completed:** 08/08/2025

**Completed by:** Helen Wells (reviewed by Martin Claxton)

Risk Assessment: A hazard is something that has the potential to cause hard. A risk is the likelihood of a hazard causing harm. All risks identified as moderate or substantial have already had the prescribed actions implemented such that they have been reduced to acceptable risks. These activities will be closely monitored.





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| **Activity: Beach Sprints On water activity –time trials and racing**  |
| What is the hazard? | Who might be harmed? | How might the person be harmed? | Existing risk control measure | Risk Rating | Additional Controls | New Risk Rating | Action/Monitored by who? |
|  |  |  |  | L | S | C |  | L | R | C |  |
| Poor rowing conditions due to weather – wind, fog, thunder and lightning  | Competitors, on water safety teams | Injury resulting from collisions, missed casualty by safety crews.  | * Wind speed to be checked regularly on venue and if wind speed is deemed to high racing may be stopped.
* In case of visibility, this will be monitored throughout the day, if the buoys are not visible then racing to be delayed or cancelled.
* Lightening – 30/30 rule – see safety plan for details.
 | 3 | 5 | 15 | * Wind direction, swell height and energy will also be monitored throughout the day. This will be taken from a selected point on the beach for consistency.
* Top force of 3/bottom of force 4
 | 2 | 3 | 6 | Safety Committee with input from the Water Safety Lead and Technical Director  |
| Capsizing | Competitors, on water safety teams | Falling into the water drowning or getting hypothermia | * First aiders on site during time of event.
* Safety crews on water competent in recovering people from the water.
* Safety boats to be briefed on when rescue procedure per boat size (i.e. quads will not have a chance to attempt to get back into their boat).
 | 3 | 5 | 15 | * Buoyancy aid will be offered to crew, so participant may wear one if they wish.
* If they capsize in the surf zone or sallower water, the medical cover includes First Responders to deal with casualties appropriately.
 | 3 | 2 | 6 | Race Director  |
| Surf zone braking waves | Competitors and boat handlers | Head or personal injury by hitting head on beach floor or by equipment hitting them as the boat tips. | * First aiders on site during time of event.
* Boat handlers to be briefed on how to move the boats and equipment.
 | 2 | 3 | 6 |  |  |  |  | Safety Committee with input from the Water Safety Lead and Technical Director  |
| Boat collision | Competitors and equipment | Injury – cuts bruises, broken bones. | * Circulation plan to be shared with participants in the pre-event information and this information to be displayed on venue.
* Competitors are competent rowers able to steer and mauver boats.
 | 2 | 3 | 6 |  |  |  |  | Safety Boat Team – Safety Advisor  |
| Boat collision between courses and lanes  |  |  | * When the course is set up the correct distance between lanes and the 2 courses. i.e. 30m between lanes and 40m between courses.
* The shore team and boat handlers to communicate the stopping/looking.
 | 2 | 3 | 6 |  |  |  |  | Safety Boat Team – Safety Advisor |
| Boat collision with motor boat | Competitors, safety crews and equipment |  | * All launch drivers to have appropriate level of qualifications.
* Launches manned by 2 people, one to act at look out.
 | 1 | 4 | 4 |  |  |  |  | Safety Boat Team – Safety Advisor |
| Boat collisions with other beach users | Members of the public (e.g. swimmers, paddle boarders), competitors  | Personal injury buy being hit by boat or oars.  | * Safety boat crews too keep look out and alert to other water users.
* Competitors briefed to look out for other beach users.
 | 2 | 4 | 8 |  |  |  |  | Safety Committee  |
| Boats or equipment colliding with boat handlers  | Boat Handler Volunteers  | Injury  | * Boat handler to be briefed on event site but also given information about the role prior to the event.
 | 2 | 3 | 6 |  |  |  |  | Race Director  |
| Boat handlers exposed to weather conditions  | Boat handler volunteers  | Hypothermia | * Boat handlers advised to come dressed in weather appropriate clothing including wetsuit leggings.
* Volunteers asked to bring spare warm dry clothing and given access to hot showers in the leisure centre.
* Regular rotation on volunteers where possible.
 | 2 | 3 | 6 |  |  |  |  | Volunteer Manager  |
| Heat exhaustion  | * Boat handlers advised to come dressed in weather appropriate clothing.
* Regular rotation on volunteers where possible.
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| **Activity: Offshore On water activity – In addition to the above**  |
| What is the hazard? | Who might be harmed? | How might the person be harmed? | Existing risk control measure | Risk Rating | Additional Controls | New Risk Rating | Action/Monitored by who? |
|  |  |  |  | L | S | C |  | L | R | C |  |
| Crew or boat being unaccounted for  | Athletes  | Crew could be swept out or disorientated on water. Risk of injury or drowning or exhaustion.  | * Race sizes are relatively small, and they are all following the same course.
* Sufficient water safety crews in place to monitor crews.
* Route briefing to be given prior to racing.
 | 3 | 4 | 12 | Crews to be counted in and out of the water. | 2 | 4 | 8 | Safety Advisor  |
| Loss of communication between water safety boats and land crew  | Athletes, water safety crew, other beach/water users  | Any injured crew or athletes may not be able to get any required help and may suffer worse injury as results.  | * Radios to be used in the first instance.
* Key phone numbers to be shared with safety crews and key volunteers to use in case radios not working or busy with other radio comms.
 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Rave Director  |
| Crews getting lost on the course and getting into difficulty  | Athletes  | Crew could be swept out or disorientated on water. Risk of injury or drowning or exhaustion. | * Athletes to be briefed ahead of the race on the course.
* Course to be marked with buoys.
* Safety boats on water to redirect any crews who stary too far off course.
 | 2 | 4 | 8 |  |  |  |  | Safety Committee |

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| **Activity: Beach activity and general event site** |
| What is the hazard? | Who might be harmed? | How might the person be harmed? | Existing risk control measure | Risk Rating | Additional Controls | New Risk Rating | Action/Monitored by who? |
|  |  |  |  | L | R | C |  | L | R | C |  |
| Debris on beach | Competitors, boat handler volunteers | Cuts to competitors as they run to and from their boat | * Field of play to be checked regularly and raked to make sure it is free of any debris or rubbish.
* Local Council to sweep the beach prior to the event.
 | 2 | 3 | 6 |  |  |  |  | Event Director |
| Collision of runner and public  | Competitor, member of the public, volunteer  | Injury – cuts, bruises, broken bone  | * Area between start to be demarcated with stakes and rope.
* Marshals to be in place along the run area to keep public clear from crossing the space when racing is happening.
* Marshals to be briefed on site at start of their shift.
 | 2 | 3 | 6 |  |  |  |  | Event Director |
| Injury while carrying boats to/from the beach  | Colliding with other boats  | Injury – cuts, bruises, broken bone | * Small number of boats on site.
* Boat handlers in place to manage boat movement between time trials and races.
 | 2 | 3 | 6  |  |  |  |  | Race Director |
| Trip and slip hazards  | Injury – cuts, bruises, broken bone | * Route down to the beach checked for trip or slip hazards. Area to be cleared if required.
 | 2 | 3  | 6  |  |  |  |  | Event Director  |
| Colliding with non- event member of the public  | Injury – cuts, bruises, broken bone | * Marshals in place to keep area clear while boats are being moved.
 | 1 | 3 | 3 |  |  |  |  | Safety Committee  |
| Hot weather | Competitors, spectators, staff and volunteers  | DehydrationHeat exhaustionBurns | * Competitors asked to bring refreshments with them.
* Access to drinking water for competitors, staff and volunteers.
* Access to indoor space at leisure centre to have shelter.
 | 2 | 3 | 6 |  |  |  |  | Safety Advisor  |
| Cold and/or wet weather | Competitors, spectators, staff and volunteers | Hyperthermia | * Access to indoor space at leisure centre to have shelter.
* Competitors and volunteers asked to bring spare warm, dry clothing.
* Hot drinks available.
 | 2 | 3 | 6 |  |  |  |  | Safety Advisor  |
| Gazebos set up on the beach  | Competitors, spectators, staff and volunteers | Injury to people by gazebo lifting and getting hit  | * All gazebos to be 3x3 size and weighted appropriately.
* Ground stakes to be used and lines to be identified with hazard tape.
* Sides to be removed if wind picks up, with whole gazebo taken down if required.
 | 1 | 4 | 5 |  |  |  |  | Event Director  |
| Unchaperoned Juniors | Competitors, spectators, staff and volunteers | Child safeguarding and welfare issue | * Juniors to have a designated adult chaperone on the beach at all times.
* No more than 10 Juniors per 1 adult chaperone
* Chaperones to be contactable by event staff at all times during the event, therefore chaperones cannot be volunteers in areas where they are unable to answer calls
 | 3 | 2 | 6 |  |  |  |  | Welfare Officer and Event Director  |
| Junior Volunteers | Competitors, spectators, staff and volunteers | Injury to any persons due to lack of experience/ability from younger volunteers | * Junior volunteers to be assigned to appropriate jobs that do not require specific skills.
* Junior volunteers to work for no more than 4hrs throughout the day with at least 30mins worth of break within the 4hr period.
 | 2 | 2 | 4 |  |  |  |  | Welfare Officer and Event Director  |
| Photographic Consent | Competitors, spectators, staff and volunteers | Safeguarding/GDPR breach | * All competitors are required to opt out of photographic consent, this is stated clearly in the Event Information document.
* Any persons who have not given photographic consent/opted out will be provided with a coloured band which must be worn at all times to clearly identify them.
 | 2 | 3 | 6 |  |  |  |  | Welfare Officer and Event Director  |
| Antisocial behaviour from other beach users |  |  | * Volunteers briefed to report and antisocial behaviour to the Event Director. Volunteers briefed that they are not expected to manage the situation.
* Member of public would be politely asked to leave area if causing a problem.
* Situation to be escalated to emergency services if required.
 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Event Director |