Worcester Head of The River
Risk Assessment

Description
Activities related to Worcester Head of The River

People at risk
Competitors, umpires, volunteers, spectators

Duration
14th February 2026

Hazard/Cause	Control Measure	Risk Score			Residual Risk
		L	C	R	
Weather	Event committee to meet to agree control measures. These will depend heavily on the extent of hazard. Suggested measures may be:	1	B	4	Low
Lightning	Suspend event until lightning storm passes.	2	C	6	Low
Flooding (fast current and debris in water)	Cancel event/ limit entries to senior rowers/ shorten course.	2	D	4	Tolerable
Heavy rain	Ensure appropriate clothing is worn at boat inspection point/ limit entries to senior rowers.	2	C	6	Low
Wind	Cancel event/ limit entries to senior rowers/ shorten course.	2	C	6	Low
Snow/ice	Ensure appropriate clothing is worn at boat inspection point/ limit entries to senior rowers.	2	D	4	Tolerable
High temperatures/sustained sunshine	Brief all crews and coaches on importance of covering up, use of sunscreen and hydration. Marshals and umpires to report any concerns of sunstroke/heat exhaustion to athletes, coaches and ultimately to Race Control.	3	D	6	Low
Hygiene					
Illness due to unavailability of toilets and washing facilities	Toilet and washing facilities to be made available at rowing club	2	D	4	Tolerable
Illness due to loss of services (water, electricity or sewer blockage)	WRC Safety Adviser to arrange for the appropriate utility or contractor to rectify problem. No food or drink will be available from WRC clubhouse if water supplies are lost.	1	D	2	Trivial
Illness from refuse	Litter bins to be provided. WRC to inspect site at end of event.	1	D	2	Trivial
Illness due to food and drink	Normal hygiene procedures apply. Washing facilities must be available to those serving food.	2	D	4	Tolerable
Illness due to leptospirosis and water quality	Assessment to be made before the event with any extra recommendations passed to athletes at the safety briefing.	1	B	4	Low

	Hands and wounds to be washed after any contact with river water.				

Failure of safety arrangements	The extent of any control measure will depend on the circumstances at the time of failure and will be decided by the event committee. Suggested measure may be:	2	C	6	Low
River users on the river	All local clubs and commercial operators advised of the event a few weeks in advance Marshals in place to advise river users of race in progress and ask to hold at the start or finish before moving through the course	2	C	6	Low
Signs and stewards in placed up and downstream advising river users	If not enough volunteers, start and finish marshals to advise boats, or cancel event if weather conditions are a concern	2	B	8	Medium
Safety launch(es)	Shorten course or cancel for multiple failures	2	D	4	Tolerable
Reduced number of marshals, umpires or monitors	Request aid of additional personnel (e.g. coaches), shorten course, or cancel depending on the extent of the shortage.	2	D	4	Tolerable
Radio equipment	Use of mobile phones. Cancel event if alternative not viable	2	D	4	Tolerable
First Aid provision	Cancel event if no on site personnel and equipment available, SARA first aid cover in place	2	D	4	Tolerable
Licensed rowing boats	All boats to be licensed by local club or private owner	2	D	4	Tolerable
Slips and trips on land					
Unused equipment (blades, shoes, etc.)	Keep walkways clear. Allocate grassed area and large steps for storing blades.	2	D	4	Tolerable
Ice/snow	Clear ice/snow and deploy salt	2	D	4	Tolerable
On steps to river	Keep steps clear of people and equipment and ensure marshals are aware.	2	D	4	Tolerable
On steps from racecourse	Keep steps clear and allocate marshal to direct crews moving boats up and down the steps. Trestles to be located in boatyard to reduce boat movements	2	D	4	Tolerable
Collision with cars					
Club car park	Club car park to be kept clear of vehicles other than First Aid and commercial vehicles which will be in place before event starts and remain in place until event finishes.	1	C	3	Tolerable
Road between racecourse and club	Marshal at entry to racecourse car park to direct boats. Trestles to be sited in club car park to store some boats which will be re-used, to minimise boat movements.	1	C	3	Tolerable
Incident on river					
Safety boat provision	SARA assessed event and recommended 4 safety launches, which will be in place	2	C	6	Low
Marshalling	Marshal locations and duties communicated in advance and briefing held at beginning of event.	2	C	6	Low

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Crew capsize	SARA within one minute of all crews on the water. First Aiders in attendance and dry clothes available.	2	C	6	Low

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Entanglement with angler's line	No anglers normally sited along race course. Marshals to monitor and ask anglers to move or beware if present.	3	D	6	Low
Crew over weir	Marshal located beyond finish to turn crews safely, all crews will be made aware of weir in safety briefing.	2	A	10	Medium
Crew collisions	Circulation pattern has no planned crossing points. Marshalling crews directed to keep out of racing lanes. Racing crews directed by umpires. Marshals placed at points in the course where returning crews and racing crews will be on course at the same time, to ensure that crews stay on correct side of river, this will also be covered in safety briefing.	2	B	8	Medium
Safeguarding					
Bullying or similar concerns	All concerns should be reported to the welfare officer at the event in Race Control or can be contacted on after the event	4	E	4	Low

Assessor:	Position:	Signed:	Date:
J Swann	Safety Adviser	*J Swann*	07-01-2026

Risk assessment details

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Consequence matrix

Likelihood matrix

Category	Consequence descriptor		Category	Likelihood descriptor
A	Death or serious injury (broken bones excluding fingers or toes)		1	Less than once every 100 years
B	Other reportable injury resulting in absence from work/school for >4 days		2	Between once every 10 years and once every 100 years
C	Injury resulting in absence from work/school for <4 days		3	Between once every year and once every 10 years
D	Injury but no absence from work/school		4	Between 10 times a year and once a year
E	Regular exposure to hazard leading to potential long-term illness		5	More than 10 times a year

Risk matrix

		Consequence					
		A	B	C	D	E	Risk Level
Likelihood	5	25	20	15	10	5	High
	4	20	16	12	8	4	Medium
	3	15	12	9	6	3	Low
	2	10	8	6	4	2	Tolerable
	1	5	4	3	2	1	Trivial