

Isle of Ely Rowing Club – Ely Small Boats Head 2017

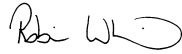
Event: Ely Small Boats Head 2017

Date of event: 5th November 2017

Estimated number of people: 250 competitors, 150 officials and spectators

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Signature:



Date: 20th September 2017

Approved by: Simon White, British Rowing Regional Safety Advisor

Overview

The Ely Small Boats Head is a Head Race over 3,000m (short course, first division) or 5,000m (Main head, divisions 2 and 3) upstream from the junction of the Great Ouse and the Lark (Short course) or Littleport (Main Course) to Queen Adelaide. Participants land at the Isle of Ely Rowing Club (IoERC), 1.5km upstream of the finish. The event will attract approximately 120 crews in all classes (including para/Rowability) from single scullers to coxed VIIIs. The event is held under the Rules of British Rowing and will be attended by several British Rowing umpires. First aid will be available at IoERC and along the course from a safety launch. The safety plan is approved by the IoERC and British Rowing safety advisors.

Please note that this risk assessment is not exhaustive and there may be risks/hazards not envisaged at the time of writing. Competitors and marshalls are asked to risk assess hazards (paying particular attention to current and forecast weather conditions) on the day and respond appropriately.

THE START

Hazard	Who/what at risk?	Risk limitation	Residual risk
Carrying boats	Competitors, helpers, spectators, officials	There is a strict boating plan controlled by marshalls	Low
Suitability of boats and other equipment	Competitors, boats	Umpires and/or marshalls will monitor boats for river worthiness and other equipment (eg buoyancy aids) by spot checks. Officials reserve the right to refuse boating if boats are not considered to be compatible with the RowSafe guidelines. All boats must be licenced.	Low
Slipping on wooden walkway while boating	Competitors, officials	Competitors will be advised about wooden walkway if wet and slippery. Boating will from level ground and be controlled and assisted by marshalls	Low
Falling/slipping from boating stage	Competitors, officials	Check condition of stage – repair and/or clean if necessary	Negligible
Capsize/collision in starting area	Competitors, crew of safety launch	Competitors are provided with written starting instructions, circulation pattern and map of course. Crews boat in only one direction in approximate start order. Circulation pattern and marshaling to start to be controlled by marshall (in launch). Throw lines available.	Low
Note	First aid and safety launch in attendance at start. Registration and safety advice present at IoERC. We strongly recommend that crews carry a mobile 'phone in their boat (race control number will be notified for emergencies)		

ALONG THE COURSE

Hazard	Who/what at risk?	Risk limitation	Residual risk
Mechanical failure of boat or associated equipment	Competitors, crew of safety launch	Competitors instructed to assist others, emergency contact numbers provided and crews strongly recommended to carry a mobile 'phone. Safety boats present at start and finish and at halfway point.	Negligible
Reeds/water lillies	Competitors	Competitors advised of location of reeds in instructions	Low
Bridges	Competitors, boats	Competitors advised of location of bridges in instructions. Marshalls present at bridges	Low
Debris on course	Competitors, boats	Course will be inspected on morning of event by launch	Low
Recovery of competitors/boats	Competitors, crew of safety launch	Competitors and marshalls have emergency contact numbers. Safety launches present at start and finish. Crews required to assist other crews if necessary.	Low
Collision/capsize	Competitors, boats	Crews travel in same direction on correct side of river. Crews to give way to overtaking crews. Overtake by keeping slower boat to starboard side. Marshalls and safety boat carry throw lines.	Low
Other river traffic	Competitors, boats, other craft	Local agencies informed of event. "Race in Progress" signs positioned on river.	Low
Note	First aid and safety launch present at start and finish. Competitors strongly advised to carry a mobile 'phone and are advised of emergency numbers. Crews advised to carry water, and warm clothing (including thermal blanket). Marshalls equipped with emergency contact details, thermal blanket, megaphone, throw line.		

THE FINISH

Hazard	Who/what at risk?	Risk limitation	Residual risk
Collision/capsize in finish area	Competitors, boats	Boat landing controlled by marshalls. Safety boat present to escort boats to landing area. Launch crew to advise of any injured competitors.	Low
Landing/de-boating	Competitors, boats	Area controlled by marshalls. Assistance available to rowers. First aid available.	Low
Exhaustion, dehydration, cramp, other injury or health problems	Competitors and possibly others, such as officials and spectators	First aid available and clearly indicated at IOERC. AED available locally. In emergency dial 999.	Low

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Hazard	Who/what at risk?	Risk limitation	Residual risk
Sudden unexpected bad weather	Competitors, boats	Conditions monitored prior to start. All marshals to report significant changes in weather or river conditions at any time to race control for assessment. Race control/safety advisor will issue warnings or suspend the race as necessary.	Minimal
Thunder and lightening	Competitors, boats	30:30 rule. Race will be suspended if lightening to thunder count is 30 seconds or less. Race will only resume 30 minutes after last lightening. Course marshals to advise race control of weather conditions. Competitors receive advice on action to be taken in instructions. Officials and spectators will be advised to move away from the river edge. Marshalls will direct competitors to safe location where possible.	Low
Rough water	Competitors	Marshalls to advise race control of rough water. Competitors will be warned by marshalls.	Low
Weil's disease	Competitors, officials, helpers	Competitors advised to cover cuts and abrasions with waterproof plasters.	Low

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GUIDANCE FOR COMPLETION OF RISK ASSESSMENT FORM – ELY SMALL BOATS HEAD	
Typical questions to be answered before race.	Minimum control measures that <u>must</u> be in place
<u>Weather Conditions</u> - Are the weather conditions too severe for some boat types? - Has poor weather been forecast? - Is there likely to be tree damage due to high winds?	<u>Weather Conditions</u> Weather conditions are adequate for rowing and are likely to remain so for the duration of the event.
<u>River Conditions</u> - Is the water level too high to boat? - Is the flow significantly faster than usual?	<u>River Conditions</u> River conditions are adequate for rowing and are likely to remain so for the duration of the event.
<u>Light Conditions</u> - Is mist or fog a possibility?	<u>Light Conditions</u> Light levels are adequate for rowing and likely to remain so
<u>Boat Fixings</u> - Are all fixings secure? - Are hatch covers secure? - Are heel restraints secure? - Is the steering mechanism working properly?	<u>Boat Fixings</u> All fixings checked and secure before boating. Special attention should be paid to bow ball, heel restraints, hatch covers, steering mechanism. Competitors' boats may be checked for safety compliance before boating.
<u>Coxes' PPE</u> - Does the cox have a suitable lifejacket/buoyancy aid? - Is the cox suitably clothed?	<u>Coxes' PPE</u> Cox wearing suitable and correctly fastened lifejacket/buoyancy aid, and windproof / waterproof / sunproof clothing as required.
<u>Club Access / Egress</u> - Is there easy access at start and finish?	<u>Club Access / Egress</u> Easy access to at start and finish.
<u>Slips / Trips / Falls</u> - Is the area tidy and all tripping objects moved?	<u>Slips / Trips / Falls</u> Boathouse and club area tidy, trip hazards cleared from route.
<u>Manual Handling</u> - Are crew members strong enough for the lifting task? - Are enough rowers available for lifting? - Is someone available to guide boat in / out?	<u>Manual Handling</u> Crew capable of lifting and moving boat safely. Marshals available to guide crews at for boating and at finish (de-boating).
<u>Traffic / Pedestrians</u> - Are pedestrian numbers high close to the boathouse? - Are pedestrians aware of boat movements?	<u>Traffic / Pedestrians</u> Route from boathouse / trailers to river not impeded by pedestrians. Control access to river for boating.

