

Burway Small Boats Head Risk Assessment October 2026

This document should be read in conjunction with the Safety Plan

This risk assessment follows the pattern set out in the British Rowing document RowSafe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing.

All coaches, marshals, umpires and officials act in accordance with **RowSafe: A Guide to Good Practice in Rowing**. All participants should be familiar with the guide and abide by it.

Risk Assessment Matrix:						
				Severity		
			Probability of accident/incident	Slight harm (low)	Moderate harm (Medium)	Extreme harm (high)
			Highly unlikely (low)	Very low risk	Low risk	Medium risk
			Unlikely (medium)	Low risk	Medium risk	High risk
			Likely (high)	Medium risk	High risk	Very high risk

Risks and Actions:						
			RISK LEVEL	ACTION AND TIMESCALE		
			Very low	No action required		
			Low	No additional controls are required. Consideration may be given to a more effective solution or improvement		
			Medium	Efforts should be made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time. Where the moderate risk is associated with moderate harm/serious consequences, further assessment may be necessary to establish more precisely the likelihood of harm as a basis for determining the need for improved control measures.		
			High	The activity should not be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may have to be allocated to reduce the risk. Where risk involves activity already in progress, urgent action should be taken		
			Very high	Activity should not be started or continued until the risk has been reduced. If it is not possible to reduce the risk, even with unlimited resources, activity must remain prohibited.		

Land based incidents:						
			Probability	Severity of Outcome	Risk	ACTION
INCIDENT						
Collision with Vehicle/pedestrian/trailer/other road user			Unlikely	Moderate harm	Medium	Controlled parking in public car parks. Marshals or coaches assist crews crossing road with boats. Marshals to supervise crews boating. Details of boating procedures sent to crews.
Minor injury or illness to competitor, official, spectator, public			Likely	Slight harm	Medium	Provide first aid cover
General trips and falls			Unlikely	Slight harm	High	Site check, incl landing stages in case slippery. Provide first aid cover
Trip and fall while assisting with wet boating.			Likely	Moderate harm	Medium	Check site. Wear waders and life jacket
Missing junior competitor			Highly unlikely	Extreme harm	High	Competing clubs required to supervise juniors throughout the day. Welfare Officer aware.
Confrontation			Unlikely	Moderate harm	Medium	In the event of physical assault or confrontation, Event Safety Adviser, Event Chairman or Chief Umpire to call police. Event Welfare Officer to be aware. Don't REACT REMOVE yourself from the situation REPORT to the Navigation Authority, Police etc.
Equipment: Electrical			Unlikely	Slight harm	Low	Radio equipment is supplied by a reputable contractor.
Equipment: Temporary structures			Unlikely	Moderate harm	Medium	Temporary toilets to be installed by operator. Tents are to be properly secured and checked by Event Safety Adviser.
Participant or volunteer becoming infected with Covid-19			Unlikely	Slight harm	Low	Advice to all participants and volunteers not to attend the event if showing symptoms of Covid -19.

Incidents on the water:						
			Probability	Severity of Outcome	Risk	ACTION
INCIDENT						
Damage or injury resulting from collision between crews before racing starts			Unlikely	Moderate harm	Medium	Crews observe navigation rules for the event, starts and high-speed rowing not permitted in the marshalling areas
Damage / injury resulting from collision between racing and returning crews.			Likely	Moderate harm	High	Course to be buoyed. Officials to supervise and enforce navigation rules. Returning crews advised to keep to navigation channel. Race competitors are always in sight of marshal/race officials. Rescue boats positioned at strategic points to assist as required.
Damage / injury resulting from collision with other river traffic.			Likely	Moderate harm	High	Warning boards placed at start and finish of course. Marshals and umpires to liaise with other river traffic
Competitor illness			Likely	Moderate harm	High	Umpire to liaise with safety boat and ambulance to treat casualty.
Crew capsize			Likely	Moderate harm	High	Umpire to liaise with rescue boat/water marshal to recover casualty/casualties and equipment. Umpires to check boat safety.
Crew over Chertsey weir			Unlikely	Extreme harm	High	Crews are forbidden from passing downstream of the M3 bridge. Waterborne marshals will stop any crews from drifting under the bridge. Rescue boat positioned under bridge.
Person overboard from boats used for course preparation, marshalling and transportation of umpires and marshals.			Unlikely	Slight harm	Low	All crew members and passengers have life jackets. Radios will also be provided.
Debris			Unlikely	Low harm	Low	Event Safety Adviser to check the course before the race starts, initially by boat and then by radio via waterborne marshals.

Weather:						
			Probability	Severity of Outcome	Risk	ACTION
INCIDENT						
Sudden bad weather causing unrowable or dangerous conditions, including lightning or fog etc.			Unlikely	Moderate harm	Medium	Race Committee Chairman and Event Safety Adviser may suspend or abandon racing if conditions become dangerous. 30:30 rule to be applied in case of lightning. Use Safety Plan
Fast stream			Likely	Moderate harm	High	River conditions to be monitored by Event Safety Adviser, Chief Umpire and Event Chairman 7 days prior to race. Environment Agency to be consulted. The event will be cancelled if red or yellow stream increasing boards predicted. Risk Assessment to be done 72 hours and 24 hours ahead. Decisions may include reducing boat numbers, e.g. smaller boat categories and/or less experienced competitors. In addition, we will move the start upriver away from the weir at Chertsey. Assessment to be carried out prior to each division.
Strong wind			Likely	Moderate harm	High	If winds predicted at 20mph+ may result in cancellation or delay to start times If wind predicted at 10 to 20mph then only large boats (8+, 8x, 4+, and 4x's) will be allowed to race. Assessment to be carried out prior to each division.
Extreme cold / Hypothermia			Likely	Moderate harm	High	Competitor instructions to advise competitors to wear appropriate clothing and have a complete change of clothing. Rescue launches to have thermal blankets. Hot showers are available at BRC. First Aid

				suppliers to be prepared and have a treatment plan.
Extreme freezing conditions	Unlikely	Extreme harm	Medium	Event Safety Adviser, Chief Umpire and Event Chairman to consider if event should be cancelled if temperature predicted to be several points below freezing, (also considering wind and stream conditions). Assessment of conditions to be undertaken before each Division, if appropriate.

The Race Committee and Safety Adviser will hold a Risk Assessment meeting three days before the Race. Measures will be agreed to reduce any risks identified to an acceptable level.