

Staines Amateur Regatta Risk Assessment.

2026



Instructions for Competitors & Coaches, including a Safety Plan and a Map of the Course are available on the Regatta Website - www.stainesregatta.com

Visiting officials will be sent electronic copies and hard copies will be supplied on the day of arrival at Staines Amateur Regatta.

All movements of boats in connection with the regatta are covered by the British Rowing Row Safe Guide (a guide to safe practice in rowing). This applies to all participants, whether competitors, officials or others involved in the regatta, who are responsible for self-policing against the guide. No participation will be allowed without affiliation to British Rowing. A British Rowing membership card will be required.

Risk Assessment Matrix

Risk Assessment follows the pattern set out in British Rowing's model in their Row Safe Guide.

<u>Likelihood of Harm</u>	<u>Severity of Harm</u>		
	Slight Harm	Moderate Harm	Extreme Harm
Very Unlikely	Very Low Risk	Low Risk	Low Risk
Unlikely	Low Risk	Medium Risk	Medium Risk
Likely	Medium Risk	Medium Risk	High risk
Very Likely	Medium Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk

Risks and Actions

Category of Risk

Action and Timescale

<i>Very Low</i>	No action required.
<i>Low</i>	No additional controls are required. Consideration may be given to a more effective solution or improvement.
<i>Medium</i>	Efforts should be made to reduce the risk. Risk reduction measures should be implemented within a defined time period. Where the medium risk is associated with harmful/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.
<i>High</i>	The activity should not be started until the risk has been reduced. Considerable resources may have to be allocated to reduce the risk. Where the risk involves activity already in progress, urgent action should be taken.
<i>Very High</i>	Activity should not be started or continued until the risk has been reduced. If it is not possible to reduce risk even with unlimited resources, activity has to remain prohibited.

Hazard	Potential Outcome	Likelihood	Severity of Harm	Measures to Reduce Risk	Overall Risk
Vehicles & Cycle Movements and Use:					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fall hazard while unloading boats. 	Injury to rowers. Damage to boats.	Unlikely	Slight	Reliance on competency of crews. British Rowing provides guidelines on trailers and towing.	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minor injuries during rigging. 	Cuts and bruises.	Unlikely	Slight	First Aid Service (2 medical professionals) on site next to boating area.	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collision hazard due to trailers, boats and cars. 	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats.	Unlikely	Moderate	Car park marshals to ensure trailers and cars are parked to allow adequate space to manoeuvre boats & people. No spectator cars are allowed into the boating area car parks. Parking on Silvery Sands under marshal supervision on arrival.	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collision hazard on roads and paths due to cars and cycles. 	Injury to rowers, spectators and/or damage to boats.	Unlikely	Moderate	Car movements marshalled on arrival on Silvery Sands. Bicycles are restricted to the paths, recommended that cyclists observing the regatta dismount along the course. Tow path is a public right of way so all involved in the regatta to be aware some cyclists may continue to cycle. Recommend all cyclists dismount in the boating area.	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical Equipment, Radio PA, Computers, Cabling. 	Potential for Fire.	Very Unlikely	Slight	All wiring will be checked the morning of the regatta.	Very Low

All Boat Movements on the Water are covered by the British Rowing Row Safe Guide

This applies to all participants, who are responsible for following the guide. Furthermore, coaches, marshals, umpires and all regatta officials endeavour to apply the practice based on random inspections and observation.

Failure to comply with any part of the guide in relation to equipment or behaviour will lead to the crew or participants not being able to go afloat and / or race.

General Water Safety:

Two rescue boats will patrol the main course, one based at the start of the race with the second near the end. All rescue boats are equipped for water rescue and are in radio contact with the on-shore first aiders, launch umpires and relevant regatta officials.

Swans will be herded to and penned at Truss island and cared for by a specialist animal welfare organisation.

Races are followed by umpires in launches with a driver. Each umpire launch will be equipped with a radio and launch safety kit and can provide immediate assistance in the event of an on-water incident. Umpire launches are expected to stabilise and manage the incident, not to attempt a rescue, and will request assistance, via Race Control, from one of the course rescue boats if necessary.

Hazard	Potential Outcome	Likelihood	Severity of Harm	Measures to Reduce Risk	Overall Risk
Landing stages / Getting Afloat					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trip hazard due to items being left on the landing stages & in the boating area. 	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats. Trips & falls.	Unlikely	Slight	<p>Raft marshals instructed to minimise time crew equipment is left on staging or in boating area.</p> <p>An area for blades is provided to the side of the temporary landing platforms.</p> <p>Friends/families of adaptive athletes present to assist during boating.</p>	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dropping Boat. 	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats.	Unlikely	Slight	<p>Damage to boat - to be checked for river worthiness and rechecked by marshals prior to going on the water.</p> <p>Friends/families of adaptive athletes present to assist during boating.</p>	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blocked access routes. 	Delay for emergency services or first aid reaching athletes.	Unlikely	Moderate	<p>Car Park Marshals to ensure corridor kept clear at all times to enable access to regatta site and river.</p> <p>Trained medics (LMS) already present at regatta site.</p> <p>First aider to be present for adaptive athletes during boating and on safety boat once on water.</p>	Low

Proceeding to the Start, Returning after Racing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collision with other boats (including non-regatta traffic) on way to start, in marshalling area, returning to land after racing. 	<p>Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats.</p>	<p>Unlikely</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>On water safety cover provided from 30 min prior to start.</p> <p>Reliance on competency of crews & coaches, and compliance with the Rules of Racing and Row Safe. A map of the course detailing circulation patterns, warm up and warm down areas, navigation, safety launch patrol areas and emergency aid positions is supplied with the draw. This is to be adhered to with the instructions to competitors.</p> <p>Navigation Channel is buoyed, competitors may row for 150m below the finish line for warm down purposes.</p> <p>Circulation patterns circulated to athletes prior to the event. Maps of the circulation pattern will be displayed at the registration tent.</p> <p>Start Marshals have full view up to Staines Railway bridge and are equipped with loud hailers.</p> <p>Marshal stationed around regatta boating area. Good visibility. Regatta Zone and Navigation channel clearly marked for non-regatta river traffic.</p> <p>Adaptive boats followed by safety boat once boated, during warm-up and to start of regatta course. Followed by umpire's launch during race. Safety boat to follow to bank to disembark.</p> <p>Adaptive racing will be held either at the end of morning racing or the start of afternoon racing, i.e. when there will be fewer other boats on the water.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long wait in marshalling area prior to start. 	<p>Potential for hypothermia / heat exhaustion.</p>	<p>Hypothermia – Very Unlikely.</p> <p>Heat exhaustion - Unlikely, (varies according to July weather)</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Reliance on competency of crews and coaches supported by British Rowing Coach Education Programme.</p> <p>Boating marshals to advise crews thought to have inadequate protection for the current conditions.</p> <p>Start umpires adjust race order if observed all participants present and earlier race awaiting crew.</p> <p>Crews to be reminded at registration that they may need to take extra water due to temperature on the day.</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>During Race</p>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incidents involving other racing crews. 	<p>Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats.</p>	<p>Very Unlikely</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>All racing is carried out under British Rowing Rules of Racing and in compliance with the British Rowing Row Safe Guide.</p> <p>Umpire following race will advise boats to move or stop as necessary if there is a safety issue.</p> <p>No warmup on the course, warm down restricted to 150m below the finish line. All competitors are advised.</p> <p>Warm up between Staines Town Bridge and start line, Circulation pattern reversed and as shown on circulation diagram.</p> <p>Umpires to aid adaptive athletes with steering to avoid collisions with each other. Adaptive racing will be held either at the end of morning racing or the start of afternoon racing, i.e. when there will be fewer other boats on the water.</p>	<p>Low</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collision with non-regatta river traffic. 	Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats. Damage to non-regatta boats.	Unlikely	Moderate	<p>Racing course buoyed off from navigation channel. Regatta Zone demarked by entry and exit yellow signs to all river traffic.</p> <p>No firm pressure or starts allowed by rowing crews in navigation channel in 'Regatta Zone'.</p> <p>Two Safety Boats patrolling Regatta Zone. Three Umpires Launches vigilant.</p> <p>Safety boat following adaptive athletes at all times when on water, aiding steering and navigation.</p>	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swans. 	Injury to rowers. Injury to swans. Damage to boats.	Unlikely	Slight	Swans will be herded into a netted area prior to racing for the day. We have consulted the relevant authorities and wildlife specialists on our approach to swan herding, and it fully complies with all relevant legislation. We do this purely to protect the swans' welfare for the day. We actively discourage spectators from feeding wildfowl on the Middlesex bank during the event to reduce risk of swans entering the regatta course.	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capsize. 	Potential hypothermia. Drowning.	Unlikely	Moderate	<p>Umpires can summon safety boats. See also Row Safe and Coach Education Programme.</p> <p>Safety boat to follow adaptive boats at all times once on water. Driver to be made familiar with high seats and strapping of torso/thighs. Two people to be on safety boat at all times.</p>	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure of engine on powered vessel. 	Vessel moving off course or out of navigation channel.	Very Unlikely	Slight	Radio and verbal warnings given to all crews and motor boats in the vicinity. Any boat on course, racing will be suspended until cleared.	Very Low

Environmental

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thunder storms & Lightning. 	<p>Severe injury, death or damage to equipment and structures.</p>	<p>Very Unlikely</p>	<p>Extreme</p>	<p>Race Committee to apply 30 second / 30 minute rule. When gap between visible lightning and thunder is 30 seconds or less, racing to be stopped, water to be cleared. All tents are to be evacuated, and all spectators to be advised to get into vehicles, to close doors and windows. Then to await all clear.</p> <p>All clear when lightning gap / thunder exceeds 30 seconds for 30 minutes. Weather forecast to be checked night before Regatta.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Conditions. 	<p>Stream excessive and/or unfair.</p>	<p>Very Unlikely</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Ref. Rules of Racing 6-1-1, Event Safety Adviser and Chairman of Race Committee to monitor water conditions throughout the period of the Regatta with reference to Rules of Racing 7-1-1 and act accordingly.</p>	<p>Low</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire. 	<p>Harmful.</p>	<p>Very Unlikely</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>None needed, BBQ is in open area, gazebo for finish has open sides. We have a fire extinguisher available close to the BBQ.</p>	<p>Low</p>

Welfare and Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rescue issues for individual athletes 	<p>Injury to rowers and/or damage to boats.</p>	<p>Very Unlikely</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Umpires to be informed of adaptive athlete specific issues which need to be taken into consideration. Safety boat personnel to be aware of issues, and be familiar with adaptive boats and strapping prior to boating.</p> <p>Assistance available for adaptive athletes during boating and disembarking.</p>	<p>Low</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welfare 	Bullying of children and other vulnerable adults	Unlikely	Slight	Independent welfare officer will be available and contactable via race control.	Low
Food Hygiene					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food 	Food poisoning	Very Unlikely	Moderate	Following precautions will be taken to minimise risk; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key personnel will have a valid level 2 food safety and hygiene certificate. Clean water and soap available for hand washing. Periodic temperature monitoring of cooked food to ensure properly cooked. Will hire a portable refrigeration unit for the weekend to store food at a safe temperature prior to sale. 	Low