



**Boston Rowing Club**

## **Boston Marathon 2019**

# **Event Risk Assessment**

**Date:** Sunday 15 September 2019

**Event:** Boston Marathon (Lincoln to Boston 49.2km)

**Author:** Nigel Allen (Safety Advisor)

**Approved by:** Tim Walton, British Rowing Regional Safety Advisor

**Plan Version:** v2.0 1 July 2019

## OVERVIEW

The Boston Marathon is an endurance rowing time trial downstream from Lincoln to Boston (49.2km), taking place on Sunday 15 September 2019. The Event will attract up to 120 crews in all classes (inc Para / Rowability), from single scullers to coxed VIII. The Event is held under the Rules of British Rowing and the British Rowing Rules of Racing will apply. First Aid (Lincolnshire Integrated Voluntary Emergency Service) will be provided, and the course monitored at a maximum of 4km between Race Marshalls. The Marathon Safety Plan is approved by the British Rowing RSA, and a Safety Advisor is appointed for the Event.

It must be noted that this risk assessment is not exhaustive, situations and circumstances can change, and there may be risks / hazards not foreseeable at the current time.

**There is a need for competitors and Race Monitors to dynamically risk assess hazards and risks on the day of competition, and react accordingly to prevent harm to themselves and others. Thank you - Marathon Safety Advisor**

### *THE START – Lincoln Rowing Centre*

Hazard	Who / What at risk	Minimize risk by:	Residual risk
Carrying boats across public road.	Crew, boats Officials	Marshals in area to control boating.	Low
Fitness of boats for water	Crew & boats	Control Commission will be monitoring the safety of boats through spot checks. It is the responsibility of competitors to check the worthiness of their boat and equipment (inc life jackets/buoyancy aids). Only crews using equipment prepared in accordance with RowSAfe shall be allowed to race, and Control Commission reserve the right to refuse crews taking to the water for non-compliance. All boats must be licensed.	Low
Slipping down the bank while boating	Crew, boats, Officials	Marshals assistance / direction and Control Commission regulating the flow of competitors. Cut the grass & inspect the steps for safety	Negligible
Falling through / off stagings	Crew, boats Officials	Check the stagings are fit and accessible before the race	Low

Start procedure & order of starting	Crews	Insuring at embarkation that the crews have understood the written instructions and that the Officials are aware at the briefing of the start procedure. Crews follow Start Circulation Pattern in the Safety Plan	Low
Capsizing & collisions in the marshalling area.	Crews, boats	Boating in one direction only. Crews are to boat in race order. Warm up of crews on dry land only. First aid (LIVES) in attendance.	Low
Confusion of starters orders	Crews	Individual standing start. Clear instruction given. Umpire to start crews	Low
Reeds just under the bridge at the start and along the first part of the course.	Crews, boats	Written warning of reeds throughout the course. Crews responsibility to look at the plan.	Low
NOTES:	First aid (LIVES) in attendance at Lincoln. Police & river authorities aware of race. Marshals and Control Commission in place. Registration and information area in Lincoln Rowing Centre Boathouse. Safety information for each crew. Strongly suggested all crews to carry mobile phones.		

### ***ALONG THE COURSE***

Boat rendered unusable on course	Crews, boats, Safety Launch crew	Competitor Instructions detail actions in helping others. Contact numbers circulated to competitors. Monitors checking crews progress along course & aware of who to contact for help. Crews to be strongly advised to carry mobile phone in every boat. Safety boats in attendance at Start and finish. Boston Motor Yacht Club boats & Monitors also in attendance along the course. Safety boats & BMYC to assist and retrieve boats and people as necessary.	Minimal
Reeds under bridge at start and along first part of the course	Crews	Aware of reeds throughout the course. Brief Race Monitors at Safety Briefing. Competitors have responsibility to look at the Plan, and keep lookout during Event.	Low
Debris along the course	Crews, boats	Full length of course will be inspected by Safety Advisor and Launch driver 3-5 days prior to this Event	Low
Weed along course – updates via	Crews	Warning to crews via Competitor Instructions. Monitors made aware of amount	Medium

		of weed and warn crews approaching if able. If weed a particular issue, warning to be given at Race Registration. Updates will be displayed on BRC website, including photographs, in the lead-up to the Event.	
Getting people out of water if injured	Crews, Safety Launch crews	Monitors briefed with list of contact numbers. Crews briefed not to leave any member of crew alone via Competitor Instructions. Crews informed of the position of monitors throughout the course via Competitor Instructions. Safety boats & BMYC in attendance.	Low
Collision between boats	Crews, boats	All crews travelling in same direction on the correct side of the river. Crews instructed to give way to overtaking crews & keep to starboard (the Cox's right). River is (for the majority) very wide. Boats not going at excessive speed so reaction times longer. Ensure adequate time gap at start. Traffic on river minimal.	Low
Boats capsizing	Crews	Monitors placed at positions where congestion or obstruction is likely to cause distraction or interference. See Safety Plan	Low
Other river traffic along the course	Crews, boats Other marine craft	All River Agencies informed of the Event, including Brayford (Lincoln) and Boston Marina's. Race Monitors communicating with each other (up /downstream) along the course to warn competitors if required.	
Bends in river from Bardney to Kirkstead	Crews, boats	All crews are given a course map prior to the event. Crews are responsible for steering their own boat.	Minimal
Southery - boat slip on the Cox's left just up from bend. Floating pontoon on Cox's left.	Crews, boats	Race Monitor in attendance	Minimal
Tattershall bridge - two bridges with buttresses in water	Crews, boats	Race Monitor between bridges. Crews advised to be aware of other crews in this area.	Minimal
Chapel Hill to Langrick bridge - limited access, a long / tedious	Crews	Race Monitors stationed in the middle and at both ends. BMYC providing backup.	Minimal

straight.			
Langrick bridge - single span, floating pontoons on the Cox left.	Crews & boats	Monitored area, 6.7km from finish.	Minimal
Antons Gowt -wide shallow bend with boat moorings on the Cox's left.	Crews & boats	Monitored area, 3k from finish	Minimal
Fish Shelters positioned along the course, completely submerged and marked by metal poles with notices attached.	Crews & boats	Environment Agency (Fisheries and Biodiversity) have supplied maps with positions of shelters/metal poles...see Safety Plan. Competitors must note positions and keep to centre of the river in the vicinity of a shelter marker.	Medium
NOTES:	First Aid (LIVES) in attendance at the start & finish. First aid kits at Bardney, in the safety launches and BMYC boats. Crews advised to carry a mobile phone, blister kits, sun block, water, suitable clothing / head gear for adverse weather conditions & are advised to arrange their own support crews. Emergency numbers provided at the start, finish, with Race Monitors, and in the Competitors Instructions. All Race Monitors aware of their responsibilities and have water, thermal blankets, mobile phones, race instructions, start order, and emergency contact numbers. Throw lines & megaphones given to key monitors. Emergency services & police are advised the event is scheduled. The maximum distance from a marshal is 4000m.		

### **BARDNEY LOCK**

Reeds prior to docking	Crews & boats	Reeds occur throughout the course and crews must be vigilant.	Low
Collision when docking	Crews & boats	Marshals in attendance. Crews should be aware of course map and safety instructions issued.	Low
Carrying boats around the lock	Crews & boats	Stagings checked and grass cut prior to the race. Crews should be aware of the situation at Bardney as it is their responsibility to carry their own boats and make their own arrangements for support prior to the race. This is highlighted in the Competitor Instructions.	Low

**THE FINISH – Boston Rowing Club**

Collision in the finish area	Crews, boats	Marshalled area, a return lane is buoyed off on the side of the river from the finish line to the disembarkation area. Circulation pattern for the finish in the Competitor Instructions.	Minimal
Disembarkation	Crews, boats spectators	Marshalled area with assistance for the weary	Low
Collapse of athlete (exhaustion, dehydration, hypothermia etc)	Crews	Call medical help. First Aid (LIVES) in attendance - telephone 999 or Pilgrim Hospital 01205 364801. Safety Advisor available. Race Monitors have water at Marshalling points in case of crew dehydration, exhaustion.	Low
Steps at the stagings – steep when competitors tired / fatigued	Crews, Monitors Spectators	Staging / steps to have new yellow lines painted prior to race day. Monitors to keep watchful eye out for fatigued crews. Monitors to assist crews where necessary.	Low

**WEATHER CONDITIONS**

Sudden bad weather causing un-rowable or dangerous conditions	Crews and boats	Safety Advisor to monitor weather and instruct safety boats and Race Monitors accordingly.	Minimal
Severe storm accompanied by thunder and lightening	Crews, boats spectators	30 - 30 rule. Race to stop when flash to bang count is 30 seconds or less and not resume until 30 minutes after last lightening. Race Monitors to advise Safety Advisor.	Low
Rough water on certain parts of the course	Crews	Race Monitors to warn Monitors upstream who will advise approaching crews to take care	Low

**WATER-BORNE DISEASES / RIVER CONDITION**

Weil's Disease	Crews	Competitors advised to cover abrasions and cuts with a waterproof plaster	Low
Weed along Marathon Course	Crews, Safety launch	Crews advised in Competitor Instructions. Warning / Update at Registration if weed a particular problem. Reported to EA and cutting in progress.	Medium – to be re-assessed before Event
Full Course Assessment	Crews, Safety launch	Full course risk assessment conducted 3 to 5 days before the event for obstacles & weeds, communicated to all crews at the race start. Also Safety briefing to all Race Monitors, Officials and British Rowing Umpires 3 days prior to this Event.	Low
River Flow	Crews, Safety launch	River flow determined by rainfall in the preceding week. All crews advised if required at the race start / registration	Low

**Nigel Allen**

**Event Safety Advisor**

**Boston Rowing Club**

**1 July 2019**