

Risk Assessment

Competition	Boston Rowing Club Head	Date:	Dec-22
Author	Event Rowing Safety Advisor	Rev:	1



No:	Hazard	Reduce probability of a Hazard causing a Hazardous Event		Hazardous Event	Reduce the Severity of Harm		Harm	Severity (1-5)	Probability (A-E)	Level of Risk (L/M/S/I)	Action Owners				
		Barriers	Action to maintain barriers		Controls	Action to maintain controls					Event Committee	Event RSA	Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
Water															
1	Reeds/Tree branches or other static objects on the course.	Event organisers to carry out a recon of the route a few days before event. Crews to be responsible for looking ahead and identifying hazards as they travel down the course.	Safety Plan to include known static hazards. RA available to all competitors. Race Marshalls to be informed of any new hazards on the river.	Becoming stuck or making contact with Reeds/Weed or static objects on course.	Race Marshalls stationed along course with throwlines. Safety boats positioned along course. Race Marshalls reporting crew condition after incident. First aid or emergency services called as the situation dictates. Event Safety Advisor informed of all incidents to identify trends.	Race Marshall equipment available Race Marshalls to check equipment prior to taking up position. Safety boats fully fit and crewed appropriately. Race Marshalls to have mobile phones. Instructions for Race marshalls to inform Safety advisor of all incidents.	Injury to rower, damage to boats and equipment.	1	C	Low	X	X	X		X
2	Rough water	Crews to inform Race Marshall immediately after experiencing rough water so message can be communicated out. Race Marshalls to warn Marshalls upstream who will advise approaching crews. Safety Advisor informed so bigger picture can be formed.	Race Marshall to ensure comms prior to first crews coming by. Race Marshalls to report on conditions as they change.	Due to the course size and orientation it is possible to have rough water in sections that may pose an increased risk to some crews of capsized.			Injury to rower, damage to boats and equipment.	2	C	Low	X	X	X		X
3	Fast flowing water	Conditions on day to be monitored. Organisers to assess flow and risk with Safety advisor. If gates are open may postpone the event till closed or cancel if conditions dictate.	Safety advisor and Race chair to check conditions and sluice gate timings - adjust start times as required.	Fast flowing water causes crews to become stuck, capsized or unable to row effectively	Safety boats positioned along the course to assist. Race marshalls to have throwlines and communicate and incidents to the Safety Advisor. First aid or emergency services called as the situation dictates.	Race Marshall equipment available Race Marshalls to check equipment prior to taking up position. Safety boats fully fit and crewed appropriately. Race Marshalls to have mobile phones. Instructions for Race marshalls to inform Safety advisor of all incidents.	Injury to rower, damage to boats and equipment.	2	C	Low	X	X	X		X
										#N/A					
Weather															

1	Severe storm accompanied by thunder and lightning	Event committee to check weather and assess risk prior to event and first boat heading off. Crews to be aware of the 30/30 rule and apply. Race Marshalls to be aware of the 30/30 rule and assist with carrying out. Ensure all seek shelter once off the water. Race Marshalls to inform Safety Advisor of storm and action taken. If enduring event to be called off.	Event documentation to highlight requirement to know 30/30 rule. Race Marshalls to have comms and a plan for their own position.	Severe storm with thunder and lightning during event.	Crews to have mobile phone to call for assistance. Race Marshalls to coordinate a response if in their immediate area. Safety boats to assist where required.	Race Marshalls to be familiar with procedures. Race Marshalls to have comms with relevant safety in their area and the Safety Advisor. Safety boats to be fit and equipped for situation.	person or equipment struck by lightning.	3	B	Low	X	X	X	X	
2	Sudden bad weather	Event committee to check weather and assess risk prior to event and first boat heading off. Race Marshalls to inform Safety Advisor of local conditions and any changes. If enduring event to be called off.	Race Marshalls to have comms and a plan for their own position. Event Plan in event of call off prior to start and once under way included in documentation	Sudden bad weather (rain, wind etc) that causes unrowable or dangerous conditions.			Crew unable to row in conditions and become stranded or capsized	2	B	Low	X	X	X		
3	Hot sunny weather (highly unlikely in January)	Areas of shade available if required along the course, Race Marshalls to identify area near to their location. Adjust activity levels to suit conditions. Rest in shade where possible. Wear appropriate clothing (thin, breathable) Stay hydrated.	Race Marshalls to remind crews to hydrate if appropriate. Crews conditions are to be monitored and reported to next marshal station and safety advisor if any concerns. Control Commission to check for water and means of replenishment.	Hyperthermia (sun stroke)	Ensure rowers carry drinking water. Cool slowly (move into shade, fan, use cool not cold shower/river water). Do not submerge in river. Seek medical treatment if severe or in doubt.	Race Marshalls to have extra water if weather is expected to be very hot. First aid available via Safety Advisor (on call or in location if nearby)	Participants or event staff become dehydrated.	2	B	Low			X	X	X
4		Use sun screen. Rest in shade where possible. Wear appropriate clothing (hat and covered arms) Stay hydrated.	Race Marshalls to monitor and remind crews to top up sun screen.	Sun burn	Cool off areas of sunburn. If severe seek medical treatment.	Clean water available to cool off severe burns. Report to safety advisor	Participants or event staff get burns and/or dehydrated	2	B	Low			X	X	X
5		Carry drinking water and drink regularly Crews to carry enough water or have a plan to replenish on the route (support crew)	Control Commission to check for water and means of replenishment	Dehydration	Stop activity. Continue to drink water. Seek medical treatment if severe	Race Marshalls to intervene if feel it is required. Event Safety Advisor to be notified or called in if required.	Participants or event staff become dehydrated	2	B	Low			X	X	X
6	Cold shock/Hypothermia	Wear appropriate clothing. Monitor crew comfort.	Race Instructions to remind of need for appropriate clothing. Race Marshal to raise alarm if they have any concerns. Event Safety Advisor to be informed.	After an incident which means a crew member gets submerged or soaked through they start to display symptoms of exposure leading to hypothermia	move into warmer area and slowly warm up: - Cars to be placed at Langrick Bridge and Antons Gowt with sleeping bags and facilities to warm up casualties. - The Malcolm Arms at Antons Gowt is available to take shelter if required.	First aid trained event staff available. Awareness for rowers on symptoms and treatment. Facilities available for making a hot drink (Kitchen). Vehicles to be placed at Langrick and Antons Gowt for emergency warming. The Malcolm Arms to be confirmed as open and available to assist.	Rowers become too cold to safely complete the race.	3	C	Moderate	X	X	X	X	
7		Crews to have appropriate clothing for the weather conditions. BR members have access to online training and awareness is raised via BR communications. Events ran smoothly to minimise time on the water and exposure to the conditions.	Competition staff to challenge if any participants look to be ill equipped/clothed for conditions. Remind all participants to review the cold shock and hypothermia training on BR website via Race Instruction	After a capsized a crew member or members get into difficulty due to the cold shock effect	Throwlines with Race marshalls. Launches at strategic points on course.	Race marshalls to be comfortable with throwlines and their use. Throwlines to be available to all stations and Launches. Power boat handling training/qualification (RYA Powerboat level 2 or similar that covers rescue in syllabus)	Anyone entering the water may lose ability to swim, risk of drowning.	3	C	Moderate	X	X	X	X	X
8	Icy conditions	All pathways and stagings to be treated with salt and sand prior to events with additional grit made available to visiting competitors when conditions dictate.	Ensure a stock of grit and road salt is available.	Slip, trip or fall whilst handling boats and equipment	First aid kits and first aider available in vicinity of boathouse.	First aid kits checked prior to events.	Injury to person, damage to boats and	3	C	Moderate	X				

9	Sludge on steps and stagings	Clean steps and stagings appropriately to remove the slippery deposits.	Hose, bucket and brushes available for club members to facilitate cleaning.	Slip, trip or fall whilst handling boats and equipment	Call for emergency services if required.	Qualified first aiders identified.	equipment.	3	C	Moderate	X				
10	Low water levels restrict width of river	Race committee to review entry numbers and reduce as necessary.	Race committee and Competition Safety Advisor to review prior to event.	Waterway too congested to safely run event	Competition to stop boating and a review of event safety by the safety advisor. Race Marshals and safety boats to direct boats and safely decongest the route.	Communications checked and working.	Equipment damage, risk of collision and/or capsize	2	B	Low	X	X	X		
11	Fog	Race committee in conjunction with the Competition Safety Advisor to assess conditions. Division start and boating times may be delayed or cancelled.	Visibility standard to be agreed. Racing can only continue with full agreement between committee and safety advisor.	Low visibility leading to dangerous boating conditions.	Race Marshals to advise on deteriorating conditions at their station. Launches to assist escorting anyone on the water back safely. Good communication with competitors to halt boating and readjust times.	Radios and phones with Marshals. Launches in fully working condition, checked prior to events.	Equipment damage, risk of collision and/or capsize	2	B	Low	X	X	X		
										#N/A					
Other water users															
1	Other water users	Crews to give way to overtaking crews. Crews to keep to the starboard side on the river. River (for the majority) is wide enough to accommodate 2 way traffic and overtaking. Crews set off in an order and time gap to aid with risk of congestion. The river is normally very quite with not much traffic.	Competitor instructions to give direction on the navigation rules of the river. Race Marshals to give warning as necessary and communicate to upstream and downstream Race Marshals. Well planned start order.	Collision between race boats on the course	Administer first aid as required. Call for emergency services if required. Race Marshall to be informed and pass on details to the Safety Advisor. Crew to be checked, boat and equipment to be checked and cleared by Race Marshall before being allowed to continue if the situation allows. Safety boats to be mobilised if required.	Race Marshals to be familiar with procedures. Race Marshals to establish comms. Safety boats to be well maintained and fit for purpose	Injury to rower, damage to boats and equipment.	2	C	Low	X	X	X		X
2				Collision between race boat and Stand Up Paddle boarder (note Tattershall Bridge and Antons Gowt popular with SUP)			Injury to rower and/or SUP user	2	C	Low	X	X	X		X
3				Collision between race boat and swimmer (note Antons Gowt popular with swimmers)			Injury to swimmer	2	C	Low	X	X	X		X
4				Collision between race boat and powered or sail boat			Injury to rower, damage to equipment	3	B	Low	X	X	X		X
										#N/A					
Local Environment															

1	Langrick Bridge, single span with floating pontoons	Race Marshall in attendance to provide warning. Crews responsible for steering own boat	Ensure race Marshall is aware and assessed the hazard whilst in position. Race Marshall equipment to include a megaphone.	Boat collision (or oars) with the hazard	Race Marshall to call for assistance as required. Throwlines to be used to recover rowers and boat. Equipment and Boats to be checked and confirmed by Race Marshall before being allowed to continue. First aid and emergency services as the situation dictates.		Injury to crew or damage to boat and equipment	1	C	Low		X	X		X
2	Antons Gowt, wide shallow bend with boat moorings on the eastern bank							1	C	Low		X	X		X
										#N/A					
Going afloat and landing															
1	Slippery slope to the stagings	Marshalls to assist where able or required. Marshalls and Control Commission to regulate flow to allow sufficient time to get to boats on the water. Area to be checked and maintained prior to event start.	Marshalls and Control Commission to be aware of need to manage the risk. Marshalls to carry out a check on the morning of the event to ensure the access is safe.	Slipping down the bank while going afloat		Ensure first aider is in area. All event team to have mobile phones. Marshalls, Helpers, and Control Commission to ensure reinspection of equipment before going afloat.	Injury to competitor, or others in area, or damage to equipment	2	C	Low		X	X	X	
2	Other water users	Marshalls to control area. Competitor instructions available with details of the layouts. Safety boats in the vicinity to aid in control and communication with competitors.	Marshalls to be aware of need to manage the risk.	Collisions in the marshalling areas at the start and finish	First aid to be administered. Emergency services called if required. Equipment reinspected for worthiness if competitor wishes to carry on with event.		Injury to competitor, and/or damage to boats and equipment	2	B	Low	X		X	X	X
3	Narrow sections of the course (contra flow in particular)	Ensure crews have understood the written instructions and order of start. Crews to be respectful and patient. Marshalls to intervene and control movement where required. Start order and times to take into account ability and expected speed on the course	Commission Control spot check to include confirmation that written instructions have been read. Well planned start order and times required.	To many boats trying to pass through narrow sections of the river		Marshalls to have mobile phones. Marshalls to follow Safety Plan or discuss with Safety Advisor if unsure on action to take.	Capsize, injury to crew or damage to boats	2	B	Low	X		X	X	
4	Fatigue	Race Marshalls on course to assist and report on crew condition. Race Marshalls, Officials and volunteers at finish to assist with getting off the water.	Ensure that enough cover is provided on the course and in the finish area to be able to assist when needed.	Rower is too weary to get self out of boat along the course or at finish	First aid or Emergency services called as required. Assign a volunteer to look after and check on the competitor. Inform Safety Advisor.	Event volunteers to have mobile phones. First aider and first aid kit at finish.	Injury from falling over, exhaustion and extreme tiredness.	2	C	Low	X	X	X		
5	Steep steps at finish	Event helpers in area to assist if required and point out need to take care regularly.	Event volunteers in area aware of hazard and able to assist where required.	Crew struggles or trips whilst carry boats and equipment up steps.	First aid or Emergency services called as required. Safety Advisor notified of any	Event volunteers to have mobile phones.	Minor injury or damage to boat and	1	C	Low	X		X		

6	Fatigue - sluice gates	Safety boat at the finish to assist. Throwlines available at the finish. Warn when gates are going to be open and that flows may be fast.	Equipment checked and maintained. Launch operator and crew member available at finish to assist boats in need.	Fatigue at end leading to crews having difficulty turning to get back to the landing stage	Capacity monitor notified of any significant injury or equipment damage	First aider and first aid kit at finish.	equipment	2	B	Low	X		X		X	
Race crews proceeding to the start and during races																
1	Unfamiliar boating conditions	Coaches and participants to assist each other. Safety Launch and marshals in area to assist.	Launch and throw lines checked and available. Safety in place before boating begins.	Capsize in vicinity of the stagings				2	C	Low	X	X	X		X	
2	Capsize	Competitors responsible for servicability and condition of own equipment. Course monitors in place. Safety launches on course.	Course monitors and safety in place before boating begins	Capsize whilst heading upstream to the start (competence or equipment failure)	Race Marshall to call for assistance as required. Throwlines to be used to recover rowers and boat. Equipment, Boats and risk of Hypothermia to be checked and confirmed by Race Marshall before being allowed to continue. First aid and emergency services as the situation dictates.	Race Marshals to have communications established and tested. Throwlines available and inspected prior to event. First aid kits and qualified first aiders available.	Injury to rower, damage to boats and equipment. Hypothermia	2	C	Low	X	X	X		X	
3	Collision	Crews informed of navigation rules. Monitors and safety boats in place to control. Buoys in place for clear demarkation.	Buoys to be placed and secure. Buoys to be monitored during event. Safety boat to patrol contraflow section. Race Monitors on bank to give clear instructions. Race instruction to inform competitors.	Collision between competitors in the contraflow section (Div.1 event only)				2	C	Low	X	X	X		X	
										#N/A						
Handling boats on land																
1	Slippy ground conditions	Crews to be competent with boat and equipment, coaches to supervise where required. Crews to be aware and take care when moving around and handling boats and equipment	Event staff to warn where appropriate. RA available to all.	Fall or slip whilst handling boats and equipment.	First aid or Emergency services called as required. Safety Advisor notified of any significant injury or equipment damage	Event volunteers to have mobile phones. First aider and first aid kit at finish.	Damage to equipment and boats	3	b	Low			X		X	
2	Wet and slippy equipment						Damage to equipment and boats	3	b	Low			X		X	
										#N/A						
Faulty, incorrectly set and poorly maintained equipment																

1	Unservicable or unsafe boats and equipment	Control Commission will be Marshalling the safety of boats through spot checks. The competitors are responsible for the worthiness of their boat and equipment (inc lifejackets/buoyancy aids)	Ensure only competent individuals make up the Control Commission team. Ensure the documentation communicated out to competitors highlights the responsibility sits with them to have fully fit equipment and boats.	Capsize or premature end to participation through equipment failure	Race Marshalls stationed along course with throwlines. Race Marshalls reporting crew condition after incident. Other competitors are instructed help another boat or crew in distress. First aid or emergency services called as the situation dictates. Event Safety Advisor informed of all incidents to identify trends.	Race Marshall equipment available Race Marshalls to check equipment prior to taking up position. Documentation for competitors to state the requirement to assist other crews when safe. Race Marshalls to have mobile phones. Instructions for Race marshalls to inform Safety advisor of all incidents.	Injury to individual or crews requiring treatment	2	C	Low	X	X	X	X
2										#N/A				
Pre-existing health conditions and low levels of fitness														
1	Pre-existing health conditions	Participants expected to take responsibility and carry any medication or not enter if they had any doubt. Race Officials to raise concerns if anything is seen that could indicate a problem. Race marshalls to be vigilant and look out for any potential issues. Any concerns to be raised with the Safety Advisor	Race officials to ensure they have established comms once in position.	Collapse of athlete on landing stages (e.g., asthma attack or serious fall)	First aid to be administered. Emergency services called if required. Message cascaded out to event team and Safety Advisor	Marshalls instructed to ensure they have established comms once in position	Serious health implications for competitor	3	B	Low		X	X	X
2				Collapse of athlete during a race (e.g., asthma attack)			Serious health implications for competitor	3	B	Low		X	X	X
Other														
1	reduced number of safety boats	Launches and engines checked prior to event. Race marshalls are positioned to cover most at risk areas of course. Other safety boat to cover area.	Race Marshalls to ensure they maintain comms with Safety Advisor. Any change in boat status to be communicated out to all marshalls on the course.	Mechanical failure of boat or loss of safety crew for any foreseen reason rendering the boats no longer available to cover and carry out tasks.	Loss of any boat will have to be dynamically assessed factoring in the time, and stage of the event. Safety Advisor to coordinate and redistribute Race Marshalls to cover if required. Assistance to clear the course may be required and will be coordinated by the Safety Advisor.	Safety advisor to have transport. Safety Advisor to have comms with all safety boats and Marshalls. Other Event Volunteers to be available to assist if called upon.	Crews at risk of being left on course after event has finished.	2	C	Low	X	X		X
2	Handling of launches and motors	Sufficient personnel using appropriate lifting techniques to move launches and install motors. Ensure route is clear to the river before starting lift. Use anchor points once on the water. Check fuel levels and inspect fuel storage.	BRC members to control. Experienced and competent launch users only to be in control. Adults, physically capable for task to be available.	Strain or sprain from incorrect handling or lifting.	First aid to be administered. Emergency services called if required.	First aid kits available. First aider to assess.	Physical injury to anyone that is involved in the tasks	3	C	Moderate	X	X		X
3	Waterborne diseases	Standard risk in rowing, all should be aware. No known increased risk along course. Any cuts or abrasions seen will be advised to be cleaned and covered. Boats and equipment washed down after event. Showers available in Boston Rowing Club.	Ensure washdown facilities are functioning. Ensure shower facilities are functioning.	Crews exposed to waterborne diseases (Weil's for example).	Event Marshalls to remind crews to washdown boats at finish if required. Normally takes time for symptoms to appear, any known cases should be reported back to the Event Organisers for trend analysis	Event documentation to include contact details.	Individuals getting ill during or after the event.	3	B	Low	X		X	X

4	Safeguarding	British Rowing Safeguarding Policy/Strategy (Handbook 3 covers events). Club Welfare Officer appointed. Event Welfare Plan in place. British Rowing Qualified Coaches have undergone nationally recognised Safeguarding training. DBS checks on appointed members of the event/club. List of contacts held at Race Control for any junior crews.	Event Safety Plan to detail actions on any suspicions, concerns or allegations of harm raised. Ensure Club Welfare Officer is present at event. Ensure all event helpers and officials are aware of who to report any concerns to.	Concern raised on the welfare and/or wellbeing of a child or vulnerable adult.	Event helpers and Officials to signpost to Race Control or Welfare Officer. Event Committee informed of any reports. Relevant authority contacted if required	Welfare Officer to be upto date with current guidance and happy with British Rowing strategy.	Individual, particularly children or vulnerable adults, could feel unsafe or endure physical or psychological harm during the event.	3	B	Low	X	X	X		
										#N/A					

		People	Assets
Severity	1	Slight injury or health effect <i>(Requires little or no treatment; no need to take time off rowing or training)</i>	Minor damage to equipment <i>(<£100)</i>
	2	Minor injury or health effect <i>(Requires First Aid or rest; potentially a few days off rowing or training)</i>	Damage repair costs low <i>(£500)</i>
	3	Moderate injury or health effect <i>(Requires treatment beyond simple First Aid; potentially a week or so off rowing or training)</i>	High damage repair costs <i>(>£1000)</i>
	4	Major injury or health effect <i>(Requires hospital treatment for more than one day; potentially a few weeks off rowing or training)</i>	Very high damage repair costs <i>(loss of boat, 3rd party damage)</i>
	5	Fatality or Life Threatening Injury or Health Effect <i>(could end a rowing career or cause hospitalisation for a few months)</i>	Major damage & major costs <i>(loss of several boats, high 3rd party damage)</i>

Low	An acceptable level of risk. No additional barriers/controls Start or continue the activity bu
Moderate	An acceptable level of risk that : Implement additional barriers/cc Start or continue the activity wi
Substantial	An unacceptable level of risk. Improve the barriers/controls a Do not start or continue the ac
Intolerable	An unacceptable level of risk. Improve the barriers/controls a Do not start or continue the ac

Probability			
A	B	C	D
Highly improbable <i>(has not been known to happen in rowing)</i>	Improbable <i>(has been known to happen in rowing)</i>	Possible <i>(could happen to about 1% of the club's active members per decade)</i>	Probable <i>(could happen to about 1% of the club's active members per year)</i>
Low	Low	Low	Low
Low	Low	Low	Moderate
Low	Low	Moderate	Substantial
Low	Moderate	Substantial	Intolerable
Moderate	Substantial	Intolerable	Intolerable

are required.

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ontrols to reduce the risk if the opportunity arises.

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ROWING

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Highly probable <i>(could happen to about 10% of the club's active members per year)</i>
Moderate
Substantial
Intolerable
Intolerable
Intolerable

Event Committee	Event RSA	Umpires & Marshalls	Control Commissions	other
Ensure High Visibility clothing is available for Marshalls/Monitors	Ensure adequate RA is in place and agreed with Regional Safety Advisor	Ensure they understand what equipment is needed for role	Competent to carry out duties	Competitors to ensure equipment and boats are fit for the event
Ensure Event RA is included in documentation for participants and Event team	Ensure an approved Safety Plan is produced.	Ensure they have the correct equipment for role		Ensure they have read and understood the Event documentation
Ensure the Safety Plan and associated documentation is available to all	Circulation plans in place	Ensure they understand the procedures in the Safety Plan		Crews to be vigilant and responsible for own steering
Ensure access points and boating areas are well maintained and safe to use	Check safety equipment prior to use.	To check and maintain comms whilst at post		Crews to report any incidents or concerns to the Race Monitors on the course
Well planned and communicated start order and times.	Ensure that launch drivers are appropriately briefed.	Race Monitors to raise concerns if conditions change.		Competitors to know the 30/30 rule
Ensure roles are matched with individuals competency and experience	Ensure race monitors are happy with duties	Race Monitors to know the 30/30 rule.		Competitors to refresh on cold shock/hypothermia and capsize prior to event (use BR website resources)
Race course to be inspected over the days leading to the event. Any trends from previous years used to assess and communicate river conditions to participants.		Communicate any moving hazards as they learn of them to the boat crews, other marshalls and the safety advisor		
Ensure that first aiders are competent	Safeguarding strategy to be included in Event Safety Plan	Understand where to signpost in a safeguarding scenario		
Ensure there is sufficient safety cover	Include reminders on appropriate clothing in Event Instructions			
Any variation from 30/30 rule to be agreed unanimously by Event Chairman, Safety Adviser, Starter, Race Committee Chairman and all members of Race Committee				
Ensure that Umpires are properly equipped and briefed	Include reminders to refresh on the cold water shock/Hypothermia and capsize on BR website in Event Instructions			
Ensure that Marshalls/Monitors, Umpires, Coaches and crews are adequately briefed on response to lightning	Vehicles placed as hotspots for emergency situations			
Ensure that Umpires and Race Control are properly equipped and briefed	The Malcolm Arms confirmed as open and available to assist with event staff breaks and as a hot spot			
Ensure that Marshalls/Monitors are properly equipped (throw lines, etc.) and adequately briefed.				
Ensure that communications are effective.				
Ensure launches are checked and fit for the event				
Ensure first aider and first aid kits at the start and the finish.				
Ensure a Safeguarding policy is in place and deceminated to all officials and helpers				
Steps and stagings to be cleaned and treated based on the weather conditions				

