**St Paul’s School Risk Assessment – Rowing**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk** | **Who is at risk** | **Likelihood of Harm (VU/U/L/VL)** | **Severity (S/M/E)** | **Risk Level** | **Proposed Action to Control Risk to a Tolerable Level** |
| General navigation on the river, hazards associated with the Tideway’s fast flow and obstacles | Rowers | Likely | Medium / Extreme | Medium | All navigation to be in accordance with PLA rules of the river, SPS safety rules and guidance for specific areas all as included on SPS website section for Safety.  All members must read and learn safety information on SPS Boathouse website.  Lead coaches of each group must ensure their rowers read and learn this  Lead coaches must check the ability of the members of their groups and ensure they are competent steersmen.  Steering/Navigation test to be completed online once available |
| Young and inexperienced rowers are less aware of hazards and have less experience. | All rowers | Likely | Medium | Medium | Specific safety rules are in place as documented on the website. All rowers must read and understand. |
| Use of gym has hazards associated with lifting too much weight or lifting badly. | All rowers | Very Likely | Medium | High | All those lifting weights must be coached and instructed in the way to lift properly. Weights must be put away.  Notices in gym cover both aspects. Boys should be supervised when doing weights. |
| Injury or damage through lifting & moving boats  Injuring others whilst  carrying blades  Stumbling/slipping when  moving boats on ramp/foreshore  Slippery surface due to mud on ramp | Rowers and Helpers  Rowers and Helpers  Rowers and Helpers  Rowers and Helpers | Unlikely  Unlikely  Likely  Likely | Medium  Medium  Medium  Medium | Medium  Medium  Medium  Medium | Ensure safety instruction given as part of induction.  Ensure enough people for size and weight of boat.  Cox or coach to take charge of boat drill.  Carry spoon first & be aware of what’s behind you.  First person present to wash off mud – broom available to clear area.  All to wear wellies or wet shoes with good grip to protect feet. |
| Slipping off end of ramp into river when tide at bottom of slip. | Rowers and Helpers | Likely | Slight | Medium | All to be made aware of slope |
| Damage to boats in river at low tide due to wash from large motor boats | Rowers and Helpers | Likely | Medium | Medium | Boats must be taken out before wash hits the area. |
| Tripping over equipment left lying around | All | Likely | Medium | Medium | All equipment to be put away, if not being used immediately |
| Boats on trestles or trailer being blown off by wind | All | Likely | Medium | High in strong winds | Equipment to be promptly secured onto trailer  Put one end of boat on ground if high wind likely  Use lower trestles if possible |
| Capsizing in general | Rowers | Likely | Medium | Medium – Summer  High - Winter | 1) Induction talk to be attended by all  2) Stay with the boat  3) Swim boat to the side or wait for launch , get as much of your body out of the water as possible  4) Extract from water asap –return to club for shower and change of clothes  5) Swimming competency test for all boys |
| Junior 14 sculls capsizing | Rowers | Likely | Medium – Summer  High - Winter | Medium – Summer  High - Winter | All rowers to be in sight of launch at all times |
| Poor visibility | Rowers | Likely | Medium | Slight – Summer  Medium - Winter | Coach to asses before boating  Opposite bank must be clearly visible from SPS side  High visibility clothing to be worn by all |
| Rowing in low light conditions (i.e. before sunrise and after sunset) | Rowers and Coaches | Likely | Medium | High | Only J16 and senior crews are allowed to row in low light conditions.  If only one coach is going afloat, no small boats are to be taken out (i.e. fours and eights only).  J16Bs and less experienced oarsmen to be restricted to fours and eights only - no small boats.  Lights to be fixed to boats as per RowSafe requirements. |
| Yellow flag conditions (strong fluvial flows on ebb tide) | Less experienced athletes | Unlikely | Medium | Low | For J15 athletes in fast and cold conditions (i.e. yellow flag conditions on the ebb tide).  Take only coxed boats afloat and do not use novice steersmen.  Plan the outing to avoid rough water (especially any foreseeable wind against tide areas).  Take athletes afloat only if they are wearing suitable kit (in the case of very cold weather, this means long sleeves, leggings and layers). |
| Red flag conditions (rowing after low water, but possibly with strong ebb stream) | All athletes | Unlikely | High | Medium | Extra care to be taken in risk assessing the immediate prevailing conditions.   Specific factors to consider: If conditions are poor, be willing to cancel the outing.    Inexperienced crews on a strong ebb stream should not go further upriver than Chiswick Eyot.  The coaching team of inexperienced squads should discuss the conditions and the abilities of their crews before going afloat, planning to take care of their crews and to account for their own Tideway experience. |
| Hypothermia | Rowers | Likely | Medium | High | Appropriate clothing to be worn – hats in winter |
| Illness from ingestion of reservoir water | Rowers | Unlikely | Medium | Low | Inform rowers of risk and to not ingest water |
| Launch driver falling in water | Drivers and other boats  Risk of serious damage to engine if it keeps running underwater. | Unlikely | Medium | Medium | Buoyancy aid to be worn by all boat users  Kill cord to be attached to driver  Launches to be fully equipped as per safety code. Kill cord to be worn |
| Swamping other boats with wash | Rowers and other boats | Medium | Medium | Medium | Care to be taken when travelling at speed |
| Passenger falling off launch | Passengers | Unlikely | Medium | Medium | Warn passengers before suddenly increasing speed  Passenger to wear buoyancy aid |
| Injury or accident due to trailer | All | Unlikely | Medium | Low | Move trailer close to bush and clear of gate  Ensure enough people to position trailer safely and secure trailer  Top of ramp to be blocked when turning trailer |
| Insecure load on trailer | Other road users | Unlikely | Medium | Medium | All boats to be properly secured and also other items in well of trailer  Driver of towing vehicle to be responsible for this |
| Incorrect weight ratios leading to snaking | Tower and other road users | Likely | Medium | Medium | Driver of towing vehicle responsible for ensuring this conforms to the law and British Rowing guidelines |
| Lightning | All | Likely | Medium | Low | Take all boats off water, put away  Cancel session & go home  Proper shelter if needed will be Activity Centre building or car(s) |

MOTOR LAUNCHES POINTS TO NOTE :-

Only to be driven by trained drivers

Buoyancy aids to be worn at all times and rescue kitbag to be carried at all times

Kill cord to be operational at all times

Ensure paddles/oars are carried when out of the water

Key :- VU – very unlikely, no action required , U – unlikely, no additional control, think about improvement , L – likely, need to reduce , VR – very risky, urgent action required

S – Slight, M- medium, E – extreme

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk** | **Who is at risk** | **Likelihood of Harm (VU/U/L/VL)** | **Severity (S/M/E)** | **Risk Level** | **Proposed Action to Control Risk to a Tolerable Level** |
| Harm from external/volunteer  coaches | Rowers/Boys | Unlikely | Medium / Extreme | Medium | Any external coaches/volunteers can only enter the site by agreement with head of HR and the Director of Sport and subject to all relevant pre-employment checks and/or risk assessment checks having been completed in compliance with the schools safer recruitment and safeguarding and child policies  Visitors badge to be displayed at all times |
| Harm from visitors to the boathouse | Rowers/Boys | Unlikely | Medium/Extreme | Medium | · Head of Rowing aware of the visit  · Visitor to obtain visitor pass at reception and to display at all times  · Visitor to be accompanied by a member of the boathouse staff at all times  · Visiting coaches employed by other schools to wear their school credentials as ID when on site.  A list of names of such adults to be supplied to the Boat Club and Porters by visiting schools before the visit.  · Visiting athletes, e.g. at Schools' Head, to be assigned signposted changing facilities.  Junior men, junior women, adult men and adult women all to be assigned separate changing facilities and toilets. |