

Aberdeen Regattas

Risk Assessment by Committee of the Dee (CofD)

In this document – ‘rower’ encompasses scullers and coxes; ‘he’ encompasses ‘she’ as appropriate.

Hazard	Likelihood	Control Measure
Slipping or falling into water whilst launching boats	unlikely	Try to keep steps clear of boots and other obstructions which could cause tripping. Boat marshal to monitor for dangerous obstructions.
Umpire or other official slipping into water whilst performing their allocated duty	unlikely	Any official who is at risk of immersion must be provided with a lifejacket and must wear it.
Damage to boats or injury to persons in boat handling area (grass play-park)	possible	Area to be kept as tidy as possible. Regatta control overlooks this area and will ask any club to move dangerously-situated equipment
Capsizing of a boat	possible	Primary responsibility rests with the rowers – they must know to stay with the boat and perform a head count to ensure that the entire crew is accounted for. Secondary responsibility will be for the nearest umpire to call for help on the radio and effect any rescue possible using launch, throw line etc. Safety of capsized rowers takes precedence over fair racing for other competitors. Minimum of one launch on water during racing (two desirable).
Sudden illness in a competitor, official or spectator.	unlikely	Any umpire can call regatta control for help or advice. In the case of serious acute illness, dialling 999 is also appropriate.
Adverse weather or water conditions threatening cancellation of the entire event.	possible	Regatta committee will monitor situation in the days leading up to the event and, if appropriate, post daily updates on CofD website. Aim to give crews as much notice as possible.
Adverse wind or water conditions causing problems during racing.	possible	Consider cancelling events featuring younger or less-experienced competitors. Consider following them with a safety launch (but this creates its own problems with increased wake for other competitors).
Bob Newton not winning a tankard	extremely unlikely	Organising committee will ensure that a suitable event is offered to allow Bob to add to his substantial haul of pewter.

In summary, safety depends on:

- Good communication, using radios (with mobile phones as a backup).
- Assessment of weather and water conditions by officials with local experience.
- Willingness to be flexible (eg cancel junior events).
- Adequate number of officials.
- Common sense.
- Good communication (so important that we named it twice)

Ron Wallace – Committee of the Dee 30/01/06