

Rowing Club Risk Assessment

CLUB	WATER / LOCATION ASSESSED	ASSESSOR
DATE OF ASSESSMENT	REVIEW DUE (MAX 12 MONTHS)	ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE ON

Scoring: Likelihood (L) 1-5 × Severity (S) 1-5 = Risk (R) out of 25. **1-6** low - manage by routine procedure. **8-12** medium - named control required. **15-25** high - additional controls before the activity happens. Re-score after controls (residual risk).

HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	L	S	R	CONTROLS IN PLACE / REQUIRED	L	S	R	OWNER
Cold water immersion	All rowers, especially Oct-Apr				Cold-water briefing each autumn; capsize drill for new members; layered kit guidance; buddy boating in winter months				
Capsize / swim failure	Scullers, novices, juniors				Swim declaration at joining; capsize drill before single sculling; coach cover for novice outings				
Collision with craft or obstruction	All crews				Navigation pattern taught at induction; circulation map displayed; lookout rules; lights when required				
Weirs, locks, downstream hazards	All crews				Hard limits on club water map; stream/tide condition boards; no-go zones briefed to every new member				
Darkness / poor visibility	Early morning and winter crews				Bow and stern lights required; high-vis kit; outings restricted in fog				
Weather: wind, lightning, heat	All rowers and coaches				Named decision-maker for cancellation; lightning 30-30 rule; heat guidance for juniors				
Medical emergency afloat	All rowers				Medical declarations on file; emergency contacts accessible to coaches; launch carries throw line and phone				
Manual handling: boats, trestles, trailers	All members, land side				Lifting technique at induction; minimum numbers per boat class; trailer loading procedure				
Juniors and vulnerable adults	Junior squads				Safeguarding policy; Working with Children Checks; supervision ratios; parental consent records				

Assessor signature	Club safety adviser signature	Next review date
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This template is a starting point, not a completed assessment. Your club is responsible for assessing its own water, activities and people. Australian clubs should check the finished document against Rowing Australia's safety guidance and their state association's requirements.