

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; police vetting for coaches; supervision ratios; parental consent records				

Assessor signature _____ Club safety adviser signature _____ Next review date _____

This template is a starting point, not a completed assessment. Your club is responsible for assessing its own water, activities and people. New Zealand clubs should check the finished document against Rowing New Zealand's safety guidance.