



WSRA Safety Guidelines

Coastal rowing has a good safety record but it must be remembered that the marine environment is inherently changeable and potentially dangerous. It is not possible to eliminate risk entirely but it is the responsibility of the WSRA, clubs and individual members to take precautions to ensure that risk is reduced as far as is practical.

It is the responsibilities of individual clubs to risk assess their own activities and ensure safe practices are followed.

As a minimum the following rules should be followed:

Club Outings -

Juniors and coxes are to wear lifejackets at all times while on the water

1. A brief risk assessment should be carried out before each outing. Its result should be recorded and retained. An indication of the intended course to be taken should also be recorded before the outing.
2. A shore based person should be aware of the crews that are on the sea and their safe return (or not!) should be monitored.
3. The following safety equipment should be carried on all outings:
 - i. Hand held flares.
 - ii. A mobile phone in a waterproof case or a marine band VHF radio.
 - iii. Foil survival blankets.
 - iv. A baler in addition to a functioning pump.An equipment safety check should be carried out before each outing.
4. While it is not a general WSRA requirement that lifejackets should be carried for all the crew, it is worth considering doing so as insurance against unexpected changes in conditions. In any event the need for lifejackets should be considered as part of the risk assessment procedure.
5. Night Outings - Rowing at night is inherently more dangerous than in good visibility, and should be risk assessed separately and very carefully.

Boat and Crew Transport -

Clubs should risk assess boat and crew transport and be aware of insurance and towing regulations.

Race Organization -

All clubs hosting competitions should have sent a delegate to a WSRA event organization seminar. All race organizers are to carry out a risk assessment and submit it to the WSRA safety officer prior to the AGM. Safety boats are to be provided in a ratio of at least 1 safety boat per 6 competing crew with a minimum of 3 safety boats* safety boats drivers should preferably be qualified to RYA powerboat level 2 and hold a RYA safety boat Qualification.

New Rowers –

New rowers are limited to 2 taster session as per the conditions set out by Perkins Slade. Rowers must be on the club membership list on the 3rd and subsequent rows.