

RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

It is the responsibility of anyone boating unsupervised or anyone supervising crews to perform a **RISK ASSESSMENT**. This must be based on: river state (particularly the state of the weir stream – if not too sure then go and look), experience and strength of those boating, type of boat, strength and direction of the wind, temperature of the air and water, weather (including likelihood of lightning) and visibility. If there is any doubt about the wisdom of boating - DON'T.

Guidelines on boating are to be used by everyone boating from Weybridge Rowing Club. The Club uses the EA River State coloured boards to help determine its own Rowing State Warning Boards. At times of strong stream the Club Captain, a Vice Captain, a Club Coach, or CWSA should obtain EA advice on the River State or use the indicative river heights below and change the Rowing State Warning Boards appropriately.

RIVER STATE (EA Boards)	ROWING STATE With indicative river height	GUIDELINES
WHITE	WHITE Top of the pontoon level with or below the height of the bottom step.	Seniors with a 'Certificate of Watermanship' can scull/row unsupervised. Seniors without a 'Certificate of Watermanship' must be supervised by a member who has, who could be in the boat, in an accompanying boat or on the bank, or be supervised by a Club Coach. Juniors (under 18 years old) must be supervised by a Club Coach in the boat, or by a Club Coach or Authorised Adult on the bank or in a coaching launch and <i>carrying a throw bag</i> . Exceptionally, J16s-J18s with a 'Certificate of Watermanship' can boat supervised by an adult with a 'Certificate of Watermanship' in the boat or in an accompanying boat.
YELLOW	YELLOW Top of the pontoon above the height of the bottom step, but water level below the bottom step.	ALL those boating to have passed their ' Certificate of Competency '. Seniors & Juniors: as for WHITE, but only experienced members should be considered strong enough to boat safely. Single scullers to carefully Risk Assess the weir pool; a minimum response should be to 'buddy' with another sculler or crew.
RED	RED/YELLOW Water level over the bottom step.	NO singles or doubles to boat. ALL those boating to have passed their ' Certificate of Competency '. Seniors: only experienced crews (i.e. the majority to have passed their 'Certificate of Watermanship') should be considered strong enough to boat safely. NO J15s and younger to boat. Experienced J16s-J18s with a 'Certificate of Watermanship' can boat supervised by an adult with a 'Certificate of Watermanship' in the boat, or by a Club Coach on the bank or in a coaching launch and <i>carrying a throw bag</i> .
RED	RED Water level over the banking downstream of the steps; lightning; fog (very limited visibility).	NO BOATING

SAFETY CHECKS – **EVERYONE TO DO THIS AT THE START OF EVERY OUTING:** (from the ARA's 'Row Safe' guidebook)

Before *any* outing is undertaken, equipment should be checked to ensure that it is in a safe condition and in working order, including:

- hull damage; buoyancy compartments are sealed
- the bow ball is securely fixed
- heel restraints are secure and effective, i.e. heels are restrained not to rise above the lowest fixed point of the shoe.