

Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment for: Norwich Model Yacht Club

Assessment Carried out by: Ian Self

Date of Assessment: 02/03/2022

Date of next review: 31/08/2022

This risk assessment was carried out primarily to understand and document the hazards, risks and mitigation actions required to allow club members of NMYC to participate in radio sailing racing at Whitlingham Park. Since, at the time of writing, risks associated with COVID-19 are not addressed by legal restrictions, COVID-19 associated risks have been included within this risk assessment.

The risk assessment is intended to cover both normal sailing activities within the club, plus events where non-members visit and participate in the sailing.

The club has around 30 members, varying in age from 40+ to over 80, who sail model yachts in races at Whitlingham Park regularly on Thursdays and Saturdays. Occasionally, the club hosts regional and national events, where sailors from across the UK come to race.

All sailors are also MYA members, carrying appropriate public liability insurance. A first aid kit is available at every sailing session, as is access to a mobile phone for emergencies.

Racing is carried out on Whitlingham Broad, in an area assigned to the club, for which it pays a rent.

Update Record

V2

- a) removed "boots" from having to be worn in rescue boat.
- b) added wearing of buoyancy aid plus fixing safety line when using rescue boat.
- c) amended wording relating to use of "western" area concrete raised ramp
- d) amended wording relating to launching ramp in "western" area – to slipway
- e) added need for sailors not to attend if having recorded positive covid test within 10 days
- f) made table heading repeat for each page
- g) stop text splitting in row onto next page

Hazard	What are the risks	Prob.	What is already being done	What further action is necessary to control the risks	When is the action needed	Action and Date
Drowning or injury in the water	By falling out of rescue boat while retrieving a "lost" boat or moving buoys.	Low	1 person normally in the rescue boat. Wear buoyancy aids. Only those qualified are to operate rescue boat. Ensure observer onshore in line-of-sight of rescue boat. Observer to be equipped with mobile phone in case of emergency.	2 people in rescue boat if feasible. No waders to be worn in the boat. Buoyancy aid with attachment ring to be worn, plus safety line fastened to aid and rescue boat, to enable potential climbing back into rescue boat after falling into water.	Every sailing session.	
	By falling into the water from launching jetty while launching or retrieving boat	Very Low	Water very shallow near jetty. Anti-slip netting covering jetty boards. Volunteer to assist less-able members.	Inspect jetty area regularly to ensure anti-slip netting secure.	Annually	
	By falling into the water from concrete ramp while launching, sailing or retrieving boat (western sailing area)	Medium	Members are discouraged from standing on the concrete ramp while sailing.	1. Sweep ramp before any sailing activity. 2. Cover holes in the ramp with bollards/traffic cones 3. Discourage visitors, especially at events, from using the ramp.	Every sailing session	
	By falling over while launching from the concrete boat-launching slipway (western sailing area)	Medium		1. Ensure boat-launching slipway underwater area clear of obstructions. 2. Advise boat launcher of potential slippery conditions.	Every sailing session	

Hazard	What are the risks	Prob.	What is already being done	What further action is necessary to control the risks	When is the action needed	Action and Date
	By falling into water from beach area while launching or retrieving boat (western and eastern sailing areas)	Very Low	Able volunteer launching boats for less-able members.	Inspect launching area regularly to ensure no underwater obstructions	Quarterly	
	By being pushed over by large dogs coming into water while launching or retrieving	Very Low	Encourage pet owners to keep clear while sailing, plus keep pets under control		At each event	
Blue-Green algae poisoning	Transfer of Algae to mouth by touching after having hands in the water, launching or retrieving boat	Low. Zero outside Blue-Green algae season	Ensure observance of Blue-Green Algae notices when erected on occurrence of algae.	Brief visitors if Algae risk present at any event.	At each event, when Blue-Green Algae present.	
	Transfer of algae to member of public by them touching boats after being in the water	Very Low. Zero outside Blue-Green algae season	Inform members of the public whenever Blue-Green algae present, that they should take care.		At each event as appropriate, when Blue-Green Algae present.	

Hazard	What are the risks	Prob.	What is already being done	What further action is necessary to control the risks	When is the action needed	Action and Date
Slips and Trips	Falling over while carrying boat from car to sailing area	Very Low	Inspect pathway and advise less-able members if muddy or slippery. Volunteer to carry equipment.		Each sailing event	
	Slipping on wet grass in the sailing area	Low	Inspect sailing area to ensure no slip hazards present		Each sailing event	
	Tripping over boats, chairs or other sailing equipment while sailing	Low	Ensure boats, chairs and other sailing equipment are placed in designated area out of the way of control area.		Each sailing event	
Dangerous Equipment	Causing injury through not being able to handle rescue boat properly	Low	Only qualified people allowed to operate rescue boat.			
	Injury through misuse of outboard IC engine	Low	Only qualified people allowed to operate rescue boat. No starting of engine while rescue boat or engine out of the water or with people standing around boat	Ensure engine is serviced.	Annually	

Hazard	What are the risks	Prob.	What is already being done	What further action is necessary to control the risks	When is the action needed	Action and Date
	Injury through misuse of outboard electric motor	Very Low	Only qualified people allowed to operate rescue boat. No operation of motor while out of the water or with people standing around boat. Ensure propeller is made from deformable material.	Ensure motor is serviced	Annually	
	Injury to member of public while carrying boats from car to sailing area	Very Low	Advise sailors of risks to members of public and to carry boats appropriately		As appropriate. On entry to the site for new members and visitors	
	Injury to member of public while assembling boat in the car park	Very Low	Advise sailors where is safe to assemble boats		As appropriate. On entry to the site for new members and visitors	
Minor Injury	Cuts and bruises	Low	Ensure First Aid kit on site. Provide and maintain accident record log.		Each event	
Heavy Weights	Injury through manhandling rescue boat from and to boat storage hut		Ensure at least 2 people handle rescue boat when manhandling between storage and sailing area.		Each event	

Hazard	What are the risks	Prob.	What is already being done	What further action is necessary to control the risks	When is the action needed	Action and Date
	Carrying large 12v batteries or other heavy weights causing back strain		Advise use of trolley provided if needing to carry heavy weights		As appropriate	
COVID-19 Infection	Cross-infection through spread from sufferers	Low	As per the current COVID-19 risk assessment	Ask any member or visitor to avoid attendance if: suffering from covid-like symptoms; having been in contact with someone suffering from covid in the recent past; or having tested positive within the last 10 days.	Each event	
	Cross-infection by someone later discovering they are infected	Low	A list of racing members is maintained for each sailing event. This is available for warning members afterwards, if someone is later diagnosed.	Continue to ask sailing attendees to inform Ctte if subsequently, they are diagnosed with covid.	Quarterly – and at each event where visitors are present	