

**RIVER WEY  
NAVIGATION  
RED / YELLOW  
BOARDS**

**RISK  
ASSESSMENT  
Dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**ONLY TO BE USED BY  
AUTHORISED CLUB MEMBERS**

**GUILDFORD ROWING CLUB**

**CLUB MEMBERS CURRENTLY AUTHORISED TO CONDUCT A RISK  
ASSESSMENT FOR ROWING ON THE RIVER WEY IN FLOOD  
CONDITIONS – KNOWN AS RED/YELLOW BOARD PROCEDURES**

Paul Woowat	Lauren Smoothy
Hugh Johnson	Annika Gleichmann
Kate Austen	Jackie Johnson
Bill Austen	Danny Skillman
Richard Mattos	Steve Wright
Richard Warne	James Pigram
Ele Culley	
Richard Turpin	Flo Land
Emma Welland	
Nick Hopkins	
James Sadler	
Simon Wellicome	
John Wills	
Doug Mitchell	
Robert Hall	
Ian Pigram	
John Noble	
Rachel Craig	
Ian Craig	
Mark Starling	
Peter Scott	
Jane Alsop	
Lynsey Hussey	
Mike Spruzs	
Leonie Sadler	
Ben Hopwood	
Sam Mogridge	
Mark Rawlinson	
Paul Hussey	
Richard Cooper	

**Approved..... Date.....**

**Steve Wright; Captain, Guildford Rowing Club**

## RIVER SAFETY / RED BOARDS / YELLOW BOARDS

This is to confirm the GRC Club members named above have the Clubs authority to use the **YELLOW BOARDS**, with or without the **RED BOARDS**, when flood conditions occur. Please ensure you have read and understand the procedure detailed below before carrying out the required risk assessment for rowing on the River Wey in flood conditions.

### RED BOARDS

When the river is in flood the National Trust indicates that the navigation is closed by placing a **RED BOARD** in the frame on the Clubhouse wall. The **RED BOARD** is controlled by the National Trust and no Club member may remove it or ignore it. Under most conditions this indicates that no crews are allowed to row.

### YELLOW BOARDS

There are times when the river is in flood, but conditions are not bad enough to pose an unacceptable level of risk to experienced rowers. The **YELLOW BOARD** procedures have been developed with the National Trust to allow rowing to take place under careful control of Authorised Club Members. The Club controls the **YELLOW BOARDS**.

If the system is abused the Club may lose this concession from the National Trust and, if we damage a boat whilst rowing in flood conditions, it is unlikely the Club insurance company will pay.

- This authorisation is personal to you. You may not delegate the responsibilities contained within it to any other member of the rowing club.
- It applies solely to a crew for which you take personal responsibility either as a member of the crew or as a coach. You must be in direct control of the crew throughout the outing.
- Crews who have no authorised member in charge may not go out when the **YELLOW** and/or **RED BOARD** is displayed, under any circumstances.
- **Single scullers are forbidden from rowing when the RED BOARD is displayed unless accompanied on the bank or by another sculler or crew.**
- Before an outing you must carry out a risk assessment as laid out below. This takes into account:
  - The type of boat; doubles & fours pose lower levels of risk compared to singles and pairs
  - Other crews already on the water.
  - The experience and age of the crew.
  - Wind conditions.
  - Stream conditions and the degree to which the sluice gates opposite the Club are open.
  - Any obstructions in or on the river.

At the end of the outing the risk assessment must be signed off and filed with the incident reports

**YELLOW BOARDS** may be used in the following circumstances:

#### No RED BOARD displayed

There are occasions when the navigation is open for use but conditions increase the level of risk. The advice to all members is **IF IN DOUBT DO NOT GO OUT**.

Should any of the authorised members consider boating conditions are approaching unsafe then the following procedures must be followed:

- An authorised member completes a risk assessment and if necessary takes direct control of members boating.
- A **YELLOW BOARD** is displayed to indicate river conditions.
- Only crews with an authorised member in the crew or coaching a crew will be allowed to remain on the river once a yellow board has been posted. The authorised member who has done the risk assessment and posted the **YELLOW BOARD** is responsible for ensuring any non authorised crews come off the water.

### **RED BOARD displayed**

There are occasions when the **RED BOARD** is displayed, but conditions may be considered suitable for some crews to go out with acceptable risk. In these circumstances an authorised member completes a risk assessment as above. If the risk is judged sufficiently low a **YELLOW BOARD** may be displayed alongside the **RED BOARD** and crews with an authorised member in the crew or coaching may then boat.

**As the authorising member you are responsible for briefing all crew members of the increased risks involved in rowing in Red Board conditions. You should also monitor the behaviour, attitude and physical condition of crew members to ensure levels of awareness and fitness remain high throughout the outing. You should consider carefully how you will exercise this level of supervision and control; it is recommended that you position yourself on the riverbank rather than on the water.**

You are one of a limited number of Club Members with this authorisation. If you are unclear or have any concerns about the procedure please contact the Captain, Steve Wright, or Club Water Safety Advisor – Danny Skillman (mobile: 07710 287369).

# RIVER WEY FLOOD CONDITIONS - RISK ASSESSMENT

Date

Time

Authorised Member (print name)

## **TYPE OF BOAT**

Fours and doubles - 0

Pairs and singles - 4

## **NUMBER OF BOATS**

One to two - 0

Three to four - 1

Four to five - 2

Six plus - 3

## **CREW COMPOSITION**

Experienced adults - 0

Experienced juniors - 1

Contains adult or junior beginners - 2

All beginners - 3

Adaptive rower - 4

## **WIND**

Light moderate - 0

Gusting - 2

Strong / Gale - DO NOT BOAT

## **STREAM\***

\*Conditions above the weir

Moderate - 0

Strong - 1

Strong and Fast - 2

Fast through partially drawn gates - 3

## **OBSTRUCTIONS**

Clear - 0

Narrowboats and trees - 1

Narrowboats within 50 meters of the sluice - 2

## **POINTS TOTAL**

**0 - 4 points: Conditions are difficult and there is an increased risk. Crews should assess whether to go out, and follow the club procedures.**

<u><b>TOTAL</b></u>
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**5-6 points: Conditions require extreme care. Only go out if you are confident in your judgment.**

**7 points and above: DO NOT GO OUT**

**Crew(s) List**

**Authorised by** (signature)

**Time outing completed**

*Please complete the response below and return to Danny Skillman, Club Water Safety Adviser*

I, \_\_\_\_\_ ,

have read and understood the Guildford Rowing Club Red/Yellow Boards Risk Assessment dated 15 December 2015.

I agree to my name being included as an authorised risk assessor of the conditions on the River Wey when signified by the National Trust signage of a Red Board level and will abide by the instructions contained in the Risk Assessment.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_