

Risk Assessment for Orienteering



Risk assessments are concerned with identifying the hazards (i.e. things which might go wrong or cause an accident/injury), evaluating the likelihood of a particular event occurring (i.e. level of risk) and putting measures in place needed to reduce or eliminate the risk.

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|
| Event | Southampton City Race | Event Registration Number | 66692 |
| Date of event | Saturday 4th November 2017 | Event Level | National (Level B) |
| Venue | Southampton City Centre | Organising Club | Southampton Orienteering Club |
| Name of person in charge | Peter Davis | Position | Event Organiser |
| Name of person completing this form | Peter Davis | Position | Event Organiser |
| Signature | | Risk assessment dated | 20 July 2017 (interim version 2) |
| Risk assessment checked by | Roger Thetford | Position | Event Controller |
| Signature | | Date | |

Emergency Information

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Emergency access point (for emergency vehicles) | Post code / grid reference: Good access to all parts of the competition area. | Place from which signed: Coordinated from the Event Centre. |
| Nearest A&E hospital: | Name and Post code: Southampton General, SO16 6YD | Map available (where): At Event Centre, Reception Desk, The Spark. |
| Working telephone: | Landline or mobile: mobile. If mobile (reception checked?) Yes | Number: 0774 898 4748 |
| First Aid cover | Name of first aider: Southern Ambulance Services Ltd | Located where? Event Centre, The Spark. |
| Search Plan | Generic search plan Missing competitors identified by Results official | Contact number printed on map - yes Course closing time - 17:00 Individuals who would stay to carry out a search: Control collectors Emergency copies of all course maps plus an 'all controls' map held by organiser? Yes, available at the Event Centre. Sunset: 16:35 |

The Risk Assessment

It is essential that the mitigation column is completed in detail so that the control measures and who is responsible is fully understood in advance of the activity / session / event and that all staff / helpers are fully briefed.

NB: it is not sufficient only to put warnings in preliminary information as there is no way of being sure that all participants will have read them.

| Hazard | Possible outcome / injury | Likelihood at this event | Mitigation | |
|--|---|--------------------------|--|--|
| | Notes on potential severity | | What control measure? | Who is Responsible? |
| Equipment and Organisation In assembly areas, starts and finish | | | | |
| • Emergency access | Emergency access route blocked by vehicles, tents, etc | LOW | Good access to all locations. | N/A |
| • Electrical Equipment and Cables | Electrical shock – serious injury or death Tripping – minor injury | NONE | No external electrical installations in use. | N/A |
| • Petrol / Diesel Generators | Carbon monoxide poisoning – serious injury or death Fire – serious injury or death | NONE | None used. | N/A |
| • Tents / guy ropes | Tripping – minor injury | NONE | None used | Organiser |
| • Flags | Entangle overhead cables – serious injury or death | LOW | No overhead cables in start and finish locations | Organiser |
| • Canes / stakes | Poked in eye – major injury | NONE | None in use | Planner |
| • Cooking equipment | Fire or scalding – serious injury or death | NONE | None in use | N/A |
| In event area | | | | |
| • Uneven surfaces • Slippery surfaces • Tree roots/branches | Tripping / slipping – minor injury | MEDIUM | Courses appropriate to those taking part. Suitable footwear advice in Final Details. Professional first aid cover to reduce consequences. | Planner, communicated via final details Organiser |
| • Slopes/steps | Falls – minor, or possibly major, injury | HIGH | Courses appropriate to those taking part. Professional first aid cover to reduce consequences. A&E details available at Event Centre. | Planner Organiser |
| • Vegetation (prickly, stinging) | Scratches or stings – trivial injury | LOW | Grass parkland. No high vegetation Competitors to make suitable choice of clothing. | Competitor |
| • Wire / ruined fences | Scratches – minor injury | LOW | None in competition area. | Planner |
| • Walls to be climbed | Slipping – minor injury Falling – major injury | NONE | Not permitted. Maps show all uncrossable fences and walls. | N/A |
| • Litter (glass, used needles) | Glass cut – minor injury Needle-borne infection – major injury | LOW | Public areas are well maintained. Professional first aid cover to reduce consequences. | Organiser |
| • Water (Sea, ponds) | Drowning – serious injury or death | LOW | No ponds in competition area. | Organiser |
| • High walls, unguarded steep edges | Falling – serious injury or death | MEDIUM | Identified on maps. Routes planned to avoid them | Planner |
| • Traffic (including road crossings) | Collision between runner and vehicle – serious injury or death | MEDIUM | Majority of competitors expected to be experienced in urban racing and to understand the need to take care. Race numbers to show competitors are in a race. One marshalled, non-competitive road-crossing in use. Map symbols used to warn competitors of busy roads. Junior courses away from traffic apart from the marshalled, controlled, non-competitive road-crossing. | Competitor Organiser Planner |
| • Rail / tram lines | Collision between runner and vehicle – serious injury or death | LOW | One ungated railway line in the competition area. Organiser to establish rail timetable and advise planner. | Organiser/Planner |
| • Mineshafts / caves | Falling – serious injury or death | NONE | None in competition area | N/A |

| Hazard | Possible outcome / injury | | Mitigation | |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|---|
| | Notes on potential severity | Likelihood at this event | What control measure? | Who is Responsible? |
| • Military debris | Trips, cuts, scratches – minor injury Explosion – serious injury or death | NONE | None in competition area | N/A |
| • Wildlife | None in area | NONE | None in competition area | N/A |
| • Power lines | No HV cables in area. | NONE | None in competition area | N/A |
| Participant | | | | |
| • Clothing / shoes | Poor temperature control – see 'Heat' and 'Cold' Slipping or twisting ankle – minor injury | LOW | Clothing suitable for walking/running in urban/parkland areas. | Competitor |
| • Existing medical conditions • Unexpected reactions/allergies | Sudden serious illness or death | LOW | Competitors advised to complete existing medical conditions declaration. Professional first aid cover to reduce consequences. A&E details held in Event Centre | Organiser |
| • Disorientation (inc caused by tiredness) | Longer exposure to heat/cold than planned for – usually minor (see 'Heat' and 'Cold' for major considerations) Lost – stumble across hazard off-map or away from courses resulting in injury - usually minor (see individual hazards for major considerations) Lost – unable to find way back | MEDIUM | Courses appropriate to those taking part | Planner |
| | | MEDIUM | | Electronic timing allows missing competitors to be identified |
| | | MEDIUM | | |
| Other people/activities in area | | | | |
| • General public, shoppers • Cyclists | Runner collides with pedestrian Collision with cyclist – major injury | MEDIUM LOW | Majority of competitors expected to be experienced in urban racing and to understand the need to take care. | Competitor |
| • Walking dogs | Attacked by uncontrolled dog – major injury | LOW | Professional first aid cover to minimise consequences of injuries caused by dogs. | Organiser |
| • Park maintenance | Machinery/ Falling tree – major injury | NONE | City Events Team to confirm any planned activities. | Organiser |
| • Shooting / archery | Accidental shooting – serious injury or death | NONE | None permitted in area | N/A |
| • Stranger danger | Vulnerable person injured by stranger | LOW | Warning given in briefing. Competitors made aware. BO O-Safe guidelines referred to. | Organiser |
| Weather | | | | |
| • Heat / sun | Heatstroke – serious injury or death | NONE | November event | N/A |
| • Cold / rain / snow / hail / ice | Hypothermia – serious injury or death Slippery surfaces – major injury | LOW MEDIUM | Do likely weather conditions give possibility of problem? Not yet known Consider making cagoules compulsory if weather very poor Plan for event cancellation if necessary | Organiser |
| • Excessive wind • Lightning | Wind blown items / falling branches – major injury Lightning strike – major injury | MEDIUM | Plan for event cancellation via if necessary | Organiser |

Throughout the risk assessment, the following have been used as guidelines for 'likelihood'

HIGH = might reasonably expect this to happen to at least one person during the event

MEDIUM = might reasonably expect this to happen at least once during a season

LOW = might reasonably expect never to see this even in many years of such events

NONE = not applicable because the risk does not exist. Included as confirmation that the risk has been assessed.