

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	16 October 2017 (interim version 3)
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: Enhanced Care 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		Mitigation	
	Notes on potential severity	Likelihood at this event	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. Courses have been planned to avoid the crossing.	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.