

Safe Rowing Note

Subject	River Levels and Stream		
Note number	2	Version	6
Date	14 October 2024		

Hazards

Rowing hazards exist when:

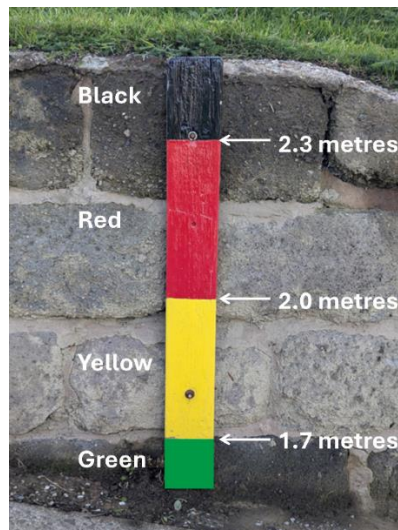
- there is a fast stream, normally during higher river levels,
- the river level is rising rapidly, and
- significant quantity or size of debris is floating in the river.

Safety Rules

River Level

Check the river level before your outing, using one or both methods below:

- The local river level indicator positioned by the Club's slipway, as shown below, and/or
- The Environment Agency website of the current river level at Welsh Bridge and 36 hours ahead prediction, [River Severn level at Welsh Bridge - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/river-severn-level-at-welsh-bridge)



Safe rowing boating restrictions for various river level conditions are summarised below.

Stream and Debris

The Captain, Coach, Rowing Safety Advisor, or experienced club member will decide if river stream conditions and extent of river debris are safe. They may restrict or prohibit rowing to reduce risk to an acceptable level.

This may occur while the river level remains in the green, yellow, or red zones.



Safe Rowing Boating Restrictions - River Level Conditions

Pontoon Indicator Colour	River Level	All	Juniors	Beginners* and Adaptive	Novices* and Intermediate*	Competent*
Black	Above 2.3 m		No outings	No outings	No outings	No outings
Red	2.0 - 2.3 m		No outings	No outings	No outings	Follow risk assessment. No single sculling. Stay between English and Welsh Bridges.
Yellow	1.7 - 2.0 m	Stay upstream of English Bridge. Look out for floating debris - alert members	Capability to be assessed by Coach. Outings supervised by Coach. Safety launch available on pontoon or river.	No outings	Follow risk assessment Stay between Welsh and English Bridges. Coxes competent in difficult water conditions. Return to boathouse if conditions deteriorate.	Follow risk assessment specifically if rowing upstream of Welsh Bridge.
Green	Up to 1.7 m		Boating between Junior look-out stations or English and Welsh Bridges. Outings supervised by Coach. Safety launch available on pontoon.	1x or 2x dedicated boats: stay within sight of clubhouse. 4+/x beginner boat: between English and Welsh Bridges. No 8+ boats. Supervision by Coach or Club Member. Safety launch available on pontoon (Adaptive).	Stay upstream of English Bridge. Can go upstream of Welsh Bridge with an experienced cox, sculler, or crew.	Can use navigable river. Risk assessment to cover upstream of Berwick Turn well upstream of Weir.

* Refer to rowing competence definitions in Safe Rowing Note 1 - Pre-Outing Assessment of Risk.