

CMYC Open Water Swimming – Risk Assessment – July 2023

Venue: Hedgecourt Lake Copthorne Road Felbridge RH19 2QG

Activity: Unsupervised, non life-guarded open water swimming

Participants: CMYC Members who are aged 18 and over and who are self-declared competent swimmers; children under the age of 18 accompanied by a parent or guardian who themselves are swimming with a buddy aged 18 or over.

Times: As specified in CMYC Bye-Law 9(b).

Date produced: January 2021; Revised March 2021; July 2023

Contact: Harry Warnett Open Water Swimming Coordinator

A full safety briefing for OW Swimmers, including water quality report, is on display at the Clubhouse.

Location and description of hazard:	People at risk:	Level of risk:	Action(s) to mitigate/remove risk:	Person responsible for resolution:	Residual risk: After resolution
Injury using ladder at entry and exit point	Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: Low	Swimmers briefed to be careful to take care and wear suitable footwear.	OW Swimming Coordinator Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: Low
Injury from partially submerged objects.	Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: High	Regular visual checking for objects. Swimmers briefed to sight regularly.	OW Swimming Coordinator Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: High

Injury hitting marker buoys or tethering lines	Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: Low	Swimmers briefed to be careful of buoys and lines, give them sufficient space and to sight regularly.	Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: Low

Fishermen. Line, hook entanglement	Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: Low	Bankside fishing areas are out of bounds to swimmers and marked by white buoys – Bye-Law 12. Swimmers advised to sight regularly.	Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: Low
Injury from wildlife	Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: High	Swimmers advised to avoid close contact with large birds. Designated bird nesting area is out of bounds to swimmers and marked by white buoys– Bye-Law 12. Swimmers advised to sight regularly.	Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: High

Other water users (collision)	Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: High	Except in an emergency, use of the lake by sailing and rowing boats is prohibited during open water swimming sessions – Bye-Law 13 (b). Swimmers to track the designated swimming course and swim in a clockwise direction – Bye-Law 12 (c). Canoeing, kayaking and paddleboarding are permitted on the water during OWS sessions. Swimmers advised to sight regularly.	Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: High
Swimming too close to Maid of Kent (moored race management)	Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: High	Swimmers to track the designated swimming course and swim in a clockwise direction – Bye-Law 12(c). Swimmers advised to sight	Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: High
barge) (collision, entanglement)			regularly.		
Inclement weather – too hot, too cold,, heavy rain, thunderstorms	Swimmers		Swimmers must evaluate the prevailing weather conditions and make their own decision about suitability for swimming – Bye-Law 2(b).	Swimmers	Low

Poor water quality, Green algae, Fouling (Illness, stomach problems, Weil's disease)	Swimmers	Likelihood: Medium Impact: Medium	Comprehensive regular water testing and results on display at Clubhouse. Visible check for algae. No swimming if deemed unsafe.	OW Swimming Coordinator	Likelihood: Low Impact: Medium
Deep cold water shock	Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: High	Hedgocourt Lake is less than 2m deep and has a low likelihood of swimmers experiencing deep water cold water shock. All swimmers to wear high visibility caps and be accompanied by a swimming buddy at all times. Solo swimming is prohibited – Bye-Law 2(b).	OW Swimming Coordinator Swimmers	Likelihood: Low Impact: High
Overheating due to hot water/hot weather	Swimmers	Likelihood: Medium Impact: Medium	Swimmers must evaluate the prevailing weather conditions and make their own decision about suitability for swimming – Bye-Law 2(b).	Swimmers	Low
Unwitting importation of bio hazards such as alien species	Aquatic environment	Likelihood: Low Impact: High	Swimmers advised to use prewashed clothing and equipment before entering the water.	Swimmers	Low