

## Coping with Antisocial Behaviour

From time to time, clubs may have to deal with antisocial behaviour by other water users and members of the public. This is most common during the summer months, especially when the weather is warm and sunny. Incidents range from relatively minor to more serious incidents resulting in injuries and distress to club members.

The effects of these incidents can be avoided or reduced if clubs have plans to avoid them or deal with them. This may require having additional coaches or more helpers available so that someone can take care of juniors or other members while someone else deals with the incident.

The risk management plans in this section show what a club can put in place to deal with this type of incident.

### Notifying the Police and Water Authority

Clubs should notify the police and, if appropriate, the water authority of incidents. In some areas it may be possible to obtain a reference number to be used for all incidents of this type. Some police forces and some local authorities have dedicated teams who deal with antisocial behaviour incidents. Check with the local Police and Local Authority.

If there is a pattern of antisocial behaviour, whether caused by one person or by several different people, call 101 to discuss with the local police force the idea of creating an ongoing URN (ref number) for those incidents, so that a file of misbehaviour can be compiled. The URN, and how to file a complaint, can be circulated to all members of the club and other local clubs.

If someone is immediately in danger or an actual crime (as opposed to antisocial activity) is being committed, then call 999. Normally antisocial activity (damage or threats) is reported later, or is over quickly, in which case use 101. Go through to the local force and explain what you want to do (either set up the ongoing URN or if one already exists, quote it and then add a new complaint to the file).

### Psychological Support for Members following an incident

Members, especially Juniors, may be affected by an antisocial behaviour incident and require psychological support. Mental health support is available for British Rowing members through their insurance. To access the service, a member needs a referral from a medical professional and it needs to be following an incident occurring within a rowing environment. Details of the scheme can be found at [\(link to be inserted\)](#).

Further information can be found at the [Supporting Positive Mental Health](#) pages on the British Rowing website.

## Expectations

### Everyone

Everyone is expected to:

- Be aware of the types of anti-social behaviour that may affect the club.
- Notify club officials of incidents and concerns.

### Club

Club Officers are expected to:

- Complete a venue specific risk assessment and define the actions for dealing with antisocial behaviour.
- Provide information to members as appropriate.
- Agree restrictions on boating activities to avoid incidents.
- Ensure that rules and guidelines are observed.
- Suspend or curtail boating activities where the conditions are assessed as unsafe.
- Provide additional coaches or helpers to watch out for incidents and to provide support should an incident occur.
- Ensure that someone is available to take care of juniors and other members while someone else is dealing with the incident.

## Coaches

Coaches are expected to:

- Understand the risks of antisocial behaviour and, if possible, plan outings to avoid places where and at times when it is likely to take place.
- Explain these measures to rowers and parents or carers in the case of children or adults at risk.

## Further Information

- Supporting Positive Mental Health - <https://www.britishrowing.org/mental-health/>

## Example Risk Management Plan

There are many different types of antisocial behaviour. They include:-

1. Objects being dropped from bridges
2. Objects being thrown from the bank
3. Theft of or damage to equipment
4. Trespass on club property
5. Offensive or lewd language directed at club members
6. Threatening behaviour and assault on club members
7. Other water users disrupting on-water activities e.g. obstructing or ramming boats, creating excess wash

### Objects being dropped from a bridge

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Barriers</b> (to reduce the probability)	<b>Hazardous Events</b>	<b>Controls</b> (to reduce the severity of harm)
Objects dropped from bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plan outings to avoid passing under the bridge</li><li>• Before and during outings, check bridge for people likely to cause issues</li><li>• Cancel outing if the risk is considered to be unavoidable</li><li>• Capture photo or video evidence if it safe to do so (reduces the probability of a repeat incident)</li></ul>	Rowers and boats being hit by objects dropped from bridge causing injury or damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Call Police to report incident</li><li>• Recover crew and boat</li><li>• Administer first aid or seek medical advice</li><li>• Repair boat</li><li>• Provide support to affected members</li><li>• Provide extra help to take care of juniors</li><li>• Arrange counselling for members</li></ul>

### Objects being thrown from the bank

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Barriers</b> (to reduce the probability)	<b>Hazardous Events</b>	<b>Controls</b> (to reduce the severity of harm)
Objects thrown from bank	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan outings to avoid places and times where this is likely to happen</li> <li>• Check for people likely to cause issues before and during outings</li> <li>• Cancel outing if risk is considered to be unavoidable.</li> <li>• Capture photo or video evidence if it safe to do so (reduces the probability of a repeat incident)</li> </ul>	Rowers and boats being hit by objects thrown from bank causing injury or damage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call Police to report incident</li> <li>• Recover boat and crew</li> <li>• Administer first aid or seek medical advice</li> <li>• Provide support to affected members</li> <li>• Provide extra helpers to take care of juniors</li> <li>• Arrange counselling for members</li> </ul>

### Theft of, or damage to equipment

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Barriers</b> (to reduce the probability)	<b>Hazardous Events</b>	<b>Controls</b> (to reduce the severity of harm)
Equipment unattended in or near the club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not leave equipment unattended</li> <li>• Secure premises</li> <li>• Capture video or photo evidence if it is safe to do so (reduces the probability of a repeat incident)</li> </ul>	Equipment stolen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to police</li> <li>• Recover equipment if it is safe to do so</li> <li>• Report to insurance company</li> </ul>
Equipment unattended in or near the club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not leave equipment unattended</li> <li>• Secure premises</li> <li>• Capture photo or video evidence if it safe to do so (reduces the probability of a repeat incident)</li> </ul>	Equipment damaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to police</li> <li>• Report to insurance company</li> <li>• Repair the equipment</li> </ul>

## Trespass on club property

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Barriers</b> (to reduce the probability)	<b>Hazardous Events</b>	<b>Controls</b> (to reduce the severity of harm)
People trespassing on club property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install gates or barriers if appropriate/possible</li> <li>• Secure premises</li> <li>• Capture photo or video evidence if it safe to do so (reduces the probability of a repeat incident)</li> </ul>	Activities disrupted by trespassers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask trespassers to leave property</li> <li>• Report any damage or threats to the police</li> <li>• Take juniors inside or away from the incident</li> <li>• Provide support to affected members</li> <li>• Provide extra help to take care of juniors</li> <li>• Arrange counselling for members</li> </ul>
People trespassing on club property.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install gates or barriers if appropriate/possible</li> <li>• Secure premises</li> <li>• Capture photo or video evidence if it safe to do so (reduces the probability of a repeat incident)</li> </ul>	<p>Harm caused to members by trespassers</p> <p>Damage to equipment or property by trespassers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask trespassers to leave property</li> <li>• Report any damage or threats to the police</li> <li>• Take juniors inside or away from the incident</li> <li>• Provide support to affected members</li> <li>• Provide extra help to take care of juniors</li> <li>• Arrange counselling for members</li> </ul>

## Offensive or lewd language directed at club members

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Barriers</b> (to reduce the probability)	<b>Hazardous Events</b>	<b>Controls</b> (to reduce the severity of harm)
Members of public using offensive language and/or threatening behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep members, especially Juniors away from perpetrators</li> <li>• Ensure that sufficient coaches/helpers are available to look after members</li> <li>• Capture audio or video evidence if it safe to do so (reduces the probability of a repeat incident)</li> </ul>	Members intimidated or upset by people using offensive language and/or threatening behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to the police</li> <li>• Report any damage or threats to the police</li> <li>• Move away from the incident, especially juniors</li> <li>• Inform parents/carers</li> <li>• Provide support to affected members</li> <li>• Provide extra help to take care of juniors</li> <li>• Arrange counselling for members</li> </ul>
Members of public using lewd language and/or behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep members, especially Juniors, away from perpetrators</li> <li>• Ensure that sufficient coaches/helpers are available to look after members</li> <li>• Capture audio or video evidence if it safe to do so (reduces the probability of a repeat incident)</li> </ul>	Members intimidated or upset by people using lewd language and/or behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to the police</li> <li>• Report any damage or threats to the police</li> <li>• Move away from the incident, especially juniors</li> <li>• Inform parents/carers</li> <li>• Provide support to affected members</li> <li>• Provide extra help to take care of juniors</li> <li>• Arrange counselling for members</li> </ul>

## Threatening behaviour and assault on club members

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Barriers</b> (to reduce the probability)	<b>Hazardous Events</b>	<b>Controls</b> (to reduce the severity of harm)
Threatening behaviour by member(s) of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep members away from perpetrators</li> <li>• Capture evidence if it safe to do so (this tends to make repetition less likely)</li> </ul>	Members intimidated or upset by people using offensive language and/or threatening behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report to the police</li> <li>• Move away from the incident, especially juniors</li> <li>• Inform parents/carers</li> <li>• Provide support to affected members</li> <li>• Provide extra help to take care of juniors</li> <li>• Arrange counselling for members</li> </ul>
Threatening behaviour by member(s) of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep members away from perpetrators</li> <li>• Capture evidence if it safe to do so (this tends to make repetition less likely)</li> </ul>	Members assaulted by member of the public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call emergency services</li> <li>• Administer first aid</li> <li>• Move away from the incident, especially juniors</li> <li>• Inform parents/carers</li> <li>• Provide support to affected members</li> <li>• Provide extra help to take care of juniors</li> <li>• Arrange counselling for members</li> </ul>

## Disruption of on water activities by other water users

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Barriers</b> (to reduce the probability)	<b>Hazardous Events</b>	<b>Controls</b> (to reduce the severity of harm)
Motor boat obstructing or ramming club boats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid area with other water users</li> <li>• Cancel or curtail outing if risk is considered to be unacceptable</li> <li>• Capture evidence if it safe to do so (this tends to make repetition less likely)</li> </ul>	Collision with club boat, causing damage and harm, possible capsize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recover crew and boat</li> <li>• Report to police and/or water authority</li> <li>• Administer first aid or seek medical advice</li> <li>• Provide support to affected members</li> <li>• Provide extra help to take care of juniors</li> <li>• Arrange counselling for members</li> </ul>
Motor boat deliberately causing excess wash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid area with other water users</li> <li>• Cancel or curtail outing if risk is considered to be unacceptable</li> <li>• Capture evidence if it safe to do so (this tends to make repetition less likely)</li> </ul>	Disruption of club activities, swamping or capsize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recover crew and boat</li> <li>• Report to police and/or water authority</li> <li>• Administer first aid or seek medical advice</li> <li>• Provide support to affected members</li> <li>• Provide extra help to take care of juniors</li> <li>• Arrange counselling for members</li> </ul>

## People in the water

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Barriers</b> (to reduce the probability)	<b>Hazardous Events</b>	<b>Controls</b> (to reduce the severity of harm)
People jumping into water close to rowing boats, disrupting club activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid area where there are people in the water</li> <li>• Ask people to move away</li> <li>• Cancel or curtail outing if risk is considered to be unacceptable</li> <li>• Capture evidence if it safe to do so (this tends to make repetition less likely)</li> </ul>	Collision with boat causing injury to swimmer or capsize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recover crew and boat</li> <li>• Report to police and/or water authority</li> <li>• Administer first aid or seek medical advice</li> <li>• Provide support to affected members</li> <li>• Provide extra help to take care of juniors</li> <li>• Arrange counselling for members</li> </ul>
Wild swimmers close to rowing boats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid area where there are wild swimmers</li> <li>• Ask wild swimmers to move away</li> <li>• Cancel or curtail outing if risk is considered to be unacceptable</li> <li>• Agree circulation plan to separate rowing and swimming</li> <li>• Capture evidence if it safe to do so (this tends to make repetition less likely)</li> </ul>	Collision with boat causing injury to swimmer or capsize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recover crew and boat</li> <li>• Report to police and/or water authority</li> <li>• Administer first aid or seek medical advice</li> <li>• Provide support to affected members</li> <li>• Provide extra help to take care of juniors</li> <li>• Arrange counselling for members</li> </ul>