

Appendix 3 - Risk Assessment Process

The risk assessment process is system of reviewing severity of outcome against the likelihood of it occurring. We have used the simpler traffic light system of low, medium and high potential risk outcome. There are many other systems in use but they all assess the risks associated with the task and the likelihood of it happening.

Risk assessment is a subjective process based on an individual's experience. Some people when doing this process start off with the worst case of death. If this was the case the sport would have major problems as we would not be able to continue.

If you look at an example of saving money you can invest £1 and the risk outcome can be worse than investing £1m. If you invest £1 you would not consider splitting the risk across several accounts but if you are investing £1m, you would look at the safety nets in place, and with the Financial Compensation Scheme, you can also spread the investment risk across different investment systems and different continents. The things that you put in place to reduce the risk are called **mitigations**.

The Risk Matrix at the top of the Risk Assessment examples is a table to remove some of the subjectivity from the process. The Risk Matrix which I have put together for the examples provided is based on my experience in completing risk assessments for 30 years in the gas and oil industry where risk assessments are used every day. You may want to develop your own Risk Matrix document with the team who conduct your risk assessment but this should be fixed for future Risk Assessments once agreed.

The Risk Matrix shows potential risks to the Club, the Council, and England Athletics and these are shown down the right hand column whilst the probability of them occurring is shown across the bottom of the table.

When doing the Covid assessments for the competitions last year, the greatest uncontrollable risk was bad weather due to the fact that people would huddle together in torrential rain. Due to lack of understanding of Covid propagation, we would have had to cancel the meeting. This risk has now moved from a Red (High) to an Amber (Med) or Green (Low) with greater understanding of the Risk. Risk Assessments are living documents and should be reviewed on a regular basis.

The Risk Assessment Team should have experience in operation of the cage, an understanding of throwing and control of the throwing area, and there should also be a representative from the stadium management team. If you involve them in the process, they are likely to be less resistant to throwing continuing

The first task is to identify the perceived risks; these should be recorded line by line within the main body of the assessment. This can be done by brainstorming issues (these can be condensed into similar issues once the process gets started). Moving to the next section, you identify the people or property that may be exposed to a bad outcome. You then look at the mitigations you have currently in place and assess the status of the risk. You then look at the additional mitigations to bring the risk down to an acceptable level which would normally be Green (Low). If the Risk is still Red then the event should not go ahead until the risk can be reduced. In the case of my Covid assessment, the residual risk remained Amber (Med) with the rider that the meeting would be cancelled if the rain was such that people were congregating in groups in enclosed spaces.

Risk Assessment Flow Diagram

