



National Guidelines for the Assessment and Management of Event Water Safety

Adam Wooler, Dave Walker, Connor Moss, John Clark



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Do we know there is a problem?



Unless there is a death or a serious near death accident, there is no requirement to report the rescues, first aid cases and near misses

So.....

We are not sure, but some high profile cases and verbal reports from clubs and lifeguards suggest there is a problem



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The problem?.....

In the UK, Health & Safety Executive (HSE) provide the national guidelines for event safety management

But it does **not include** the provision of **water safety** at events

Sporting governing bodies **have own** risk assessment and safety management practices



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Are Governing Bodies doing enough?

Triathlon is the fastest growing mainstream sport in the world

London Triathlon - 13,000 entrants

50% of people taking part each year are new to the sport



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Appeal for witnesses to fatality at triathlon

David Powell reports on the confusion surrounding the death of a competitor

How could a man drown in Britain's biggest triathlon and nobody notice it happening? That is the question being asked by James Loughery's widow, who appeared yesterday for witnesses in court forward in help to explain how an apparently fit man of 45, a trained triathlete, could die in seemingly safe waters in front of hundreds of spectators and with safety and rescue procedures in place.

"I need to know how this could happen," Joan Loughery said. "If he had a heart attack, I could accept that, but if he died through lack of care that would destroy me. Swimming was something James did like other people breathe. He was a fit, healthy man. He was wearing a wetsuit, so there was buoyancy. I

The cause of Loughery's death will not be established until the inquest, scheduled for October 27, but Smithwick expects the verdict to be drowning. The pathologist has cited two possible causes: acute respiratory distress syndrome and drowning. Raymond Tiley, the coroner's officer, appealed for witnesses. "If we can identify people who saw him in difficulties, that would help everybody," he said.

Although Smithwick's list contained the two swimmers who drew attention to Mr Loughery's plight, Mrs Loughery wants the search widened. "They are telling me they saw things their investigators, but how can they contact people besides those directly involved?" she said. "There were 2,700 participants and hundreds of spectators. I

Triathlon competitor, 45, dies after declining lake rescue

Safety was adequate in 80-degree heat, say organisers

Paul Jewess

A COMPETITOR in one of the biggest triathlon events in the country died after being pulled from a lake in North Yorkshire.

Organisers of the event at Ripon Racecourse, which saw more than 700 athletes from across the UK compete in sweltering temperatures of up to 80F, paid tribute yesterday to the 45-year-old man who had travelled from Gloucestershire to take part.

The man, who is understood to have been a strong swimmer, began to get into difficulties after about two-thirds of the 1,500-metre swim, which formed the initial stage of the contest that also included a 64-kilometre cycle ride and a 10-kilometre run.

Safety officials in canoes on the lake in the middle of the racecourse had already asked the competitor if he needed help but he declined their offer of assistance before he was then spotted floating motionless in the water.

He was taken ashore on a boat supplied by Ripon Diving Club, before an ambulance crew gave him first aid. The man was then taken by ambulance to Harrogate District Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Mr Fees, the organiser of the NTP Tri event on Saturday, yesterday expressed his sympathies to the family of the dead man but was adamant that adequate safety procedures were in place. Mr Fees, a police constable with North Yorkshire Police, said: "It was obviously a tragic incident, but we have not had a fatality or a serious injury in the 10 years we have been running the event."

"This was the 10th anniversary, and in many ways it was the best event we have ever run as we are constantly looking to improve the way the triathlon is staged."

"We have an excellent safety record and we pay for an NHS ambulance to be on site every year, as well as having trained first aiders stationed throughout the course."

"I have been in touch with a friend of the man who was also competing in the event, and expressed our deepest condolences."

"It is heart-breaking what has happened but everything that could be done to save the man's life was done."

The event, which is now the largest club-run triathlon in the UK, was first staged in the 1980s before the NTP Tri club took over the competition.

The organisation itself, which was formerly known as the North Yorkshire Police Triathlon Club, was formed in the 1990s solely for employees of the county force. It has since evolved to allow the public to become members.

The Ripon event has helped raise more than £20,000 for local charities and voluntary groups during the last decade.

The man who died was not in the police service and had entered the open event, although Saturday's event did include competitors taking part in the police national championships.

A North Yorkshire Police spokesman confirmed that officers had been called to Ripon Racecourse at about 3.30pm on Saturday after reports a competitor had got into trouble while attempting to complete the swimming section.

He also confirmed there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the man's death.



Open water swimming is the fastest growing mass participation sport in the world

Lorne Pier to Pier swim – 4000 competitors!

British 'Great Swim Series' – 7000 competitors

Hundreds of Charity Swims now being organised



Monday 25 April 2011

The Telegraph

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Swimming

American Open Water swimmer Fran Crippen dies during 10k race

American Fran Crippen, one of Open Water swimming's top stars, died on Saturday after losing consciousness during a 10K race in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates.



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IN SPORT



American Open Water swimmer Fran Crippen dies during 10k race

By Jacqueline Nagay and Rod Gilmour 7:21PM BST 23 Oct 2010

Comment

Hot water temperatures will be one of the factors investigated by authorities following the shock death.

Crippen, 26, a 2009 world championship bronze medalist, was the first swimmer to die in any FINA sanctioned competition, the world body's president Julio Maglione.

He was found unconscious two hours after failing to finish the last leg of the world cup 10km open water swim event in Fujairah, in the United Arab Emirates after other swimmers had been treated for heat exhaustion. The temperatures of the water were above 28 degrees celsius.

Three other swimmers, one male and two female swimmers, were taken to hospital and treated for heat exhaustion from the same competition.

The alarm was raised by Crippen's team mate Alex Meyer who realised Crippen hadn't finished. His body was found near the final turn buoy of the competition.

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REPORT

The Task Force realised that there has been growing concern over the safety of the sport as it increases in popularity and competitiveness. The Task Force realises that the swimming community has responded with a commitment to ensure that the risk of future harm to athletes is minimised to the fullest extent possible given the risks inherent in the sport of Open Water Swimming.

The Task Force is of the opinion that the Open Water Swimming Rules have not always been amended to establish clear requirements with regard to safety at Open Water Swimming events in closed areas like bays, rowing basins and small lakes, where "the one safety craft per swimmer rule" is impossible to achieve.

The FINA Rules state that the Organising Committee has to provide safety boats as required, having regard to the course. No mention in the Rules however is made on the quantity of boats, the requirements of the people that are handling the boats and their lifesaving/lifeguarding certification and/or background and their positioning.

The Task Force concludes that safety measures were not addressed or properly implemented at the Fujairah Event by the Organising Committee and the FINA representative. Overriding all these factors are the Open Water Swimming safety Rules and Regulations that in some instances are too vague, leaving room for interpretation.

The Task Force concludes that the inadequate surveillance and safety measures made it difficult, and at times impossible, to recognise and act upon an athlete in distress.



Commercial & Charity Events

Private event organisers only need to satisfy the requirements of the **Local Authority** where their event takes place, normally **NOT** the Governing Body

Most Local Authorities don't know anything about Open Water Events!

= **variable levels** of event water safety provision, often inadequate



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The Solution.....

The research, compilation and publication of;

National Guidelines for the Risk Assessment and Management of Event Water Safety

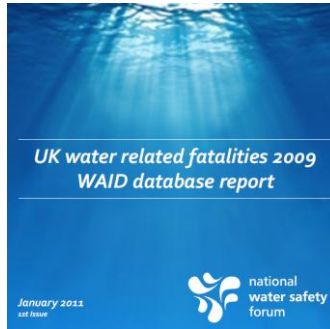
Led by SLSGB and RoSPA, in partnership with the University of Derby, the only University in the UK to offer a diploma in Event Safety Management

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New standards will include the requirement to lodge all reportable incidents in the national Water Accident and Incident Database (**WAID**)



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Scope

Any event involving swimming and/or human powered water craft

- Open water swimming
- Triathlons (swimming event)
- Lifesaving competitions
- Surfing competitions
- Rowing
- Canoeing



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Contents

- Legal considerations
- Principles of running a water based event
- Developing the Health and safety plan
- Hazard identification, the assessment and control of risk
- Guidance on suitable water safety provision
- Case studies to illustrate current best practice
- Suggested Training & Qualification Competencies



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Potential Users

- Private Companies
- Charities
- Local Authorities
- Sports organisations
- Clubs



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Stakeholder engagement



National Water Safety Forum



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Anticipated launch date



March 2012 @ RoSPA National Water Safety Congress, UK

Next steps

Help please!

Best practice from ILS Federations, other international sporting Federations

Examples and lessons learned.... All gratefully received



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