

Monmouth Rowing Club	
Legionella Disease Policy	
Adopted: October 2021	
Revision V2	

1.0. Policy Statement

- 1.1. In common with other establishments/businesses, Monmouth Rowing Club (MRC) has a statutory duty under the Health & Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HASWA), the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR), and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) in relation to Legionnaires' disease. As such, MRC undertakes to identify and assess the risk of Legionella infection to its employees, members, contractors, and visitors arising from the way the water systems, over which the Club has day-to-day control, are operated, managed, or designed.

2.0. Understanding Legionnaires' Disease

- 2.1. Legionnaires' disease is a type of pneumonia caused by Legionella bacteria, primarily affecting those who are susceptible due to age (over 50), illness, immuno-suppression, smoking, lack of fitness, etc., and may be fatal. Legionella bacteria are widespread in natural sources of water and can enter man-made systems where, under favourable conditions, they can multiply.

3.0. Legislation and Guidance

- 3.1. The Club will comply with the Health and Safety Executive's Approved Code of Practice L8 (Fourth edition), Legionnaires' disease: The control of legionella bacteria in water systems (ACOP) and HSG274.

4.0. Managing the Risk: Responsibility Structure

- 4.1. The responsibility for managing Legionella risks resides with the Committee. The facilities manager will be responsible for undertaking appropriate checks, and reporting to the Committee the outcome of these checks (see 12 below).

5.0. The Club

- 5.1. The Club will conduct regular risk assessments of all water systems within its premises, including all hot and cold water systems, and "tank".

6.0. Managing the Risk: Control Regime

- 6.1. Control measures will include maintaining water temperatures outside the range that supports Legionella growth, ensuring proper maintenance of water systems, and implementing regular cleaning and disinfection protocols.



7.0. Water Risk Assessments

- 7.1. Water risk assessments will be conducted at regular intervals, and any findings will be documented and addressed promptly.

8.0. Water Services Monitoring

- 8.1. Regular monitoring of water services will be carried out to ensure compliance with control measures and to detect any potential Legionella presence.

9.0. New Installations and Refurbishments

- 9.1. All new installations and refurbishments will be designed and constructed to minimize the risk of Legionella contamination.

10.0. Action in the Event of an Outbreak

- 10.1. In the event of a Legionella outbreak, immediate action will be taken to identify the source, implement control measures, and notify relevant authorities.

11.0. Periodic Audit and Review

- 11.1. The policy will be reviewed and audited periodically to ensure its effectiveness and compliance with current legislation and guidance.
- 11.2. The primary method used to control the risk from Legionella is water temperature control. Water services should be operated at temperatures that prevent Legionella growth:
 - 11.2.1. Hot water storage cylinders (calorifiers) should store water at 60°C or higher.
 - 11.2.2. Hot water should be distributed at 50°C or higher (thermostatic mixer valves need to be fitted as close as possible to outlets, where a scald risk is identified).
 - 11.2.3. Cold water should be stored and distributed below 20°C.
 - 11.2.4. The Facilities Manager, or suitable alternative, will routinely check, inspect and clean the system, in accordance with the risk assessment.

12.0. Key Procedures We Need for the Prevention of Legionella Bacteria

- 12.1. Run cold water weekly – typically achieved by normal club usage.
- 12.2. Keep hot water in the tanks at 60 degrees centigrade – hot water is currently heated 24/7 to this heat.



12.3. The hot water pipes around the property need frequently circulating with water of 50 degrees centigrade and above to kill the bacteria. The bacteria thrives in 30-40 degree centigrade temperatures. Showers and taps to be run at least weekly.

12.4. A PIR/movement sensor installation will switch on the pumps for 10 minutes whenever there is movement behind the electric shutter. This will give plenty of “movement triggers” and cumulatively achieve bacteria killing heat on a regular basis. However, during flood times access to the club may be zero for a week/10 days so a switch to turn on the pumps 24/7 in the same circuit is to be used. This is to be turned on when the sewage pumps are turned off as part of flood processes.

13.0. Policy Accessibility and Review

13.1. This policy will be available online to all members and prospective members. This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as needed.

Date of most recent review: 29 Aug 2025