

RNLI - Hythe & Calshot Branch

Registered charity number 209603

GREAT WATERSIDE RAFT & KAYAK RACE

RULES OF ENTRY

1. **The Crew:** The raft must have a minimum of **4** and a maximum of **8** crew. In the interests of safety **LIFEJACKETS or BUOYANCY AIDS MUST BE WORN**. Crew members without lifejackets or buoyancy aids will not be allowed to take part. These will not be supplied by the organisers. Any Raft with crew members not wearing or not properly wearing a Lifejacket will be **disqualified**.
2. **Power:** Rafts must be powered solely by the crew using paddles. (Homemade ones will count higher in the judging). Oars with rowlocks, sails or other means of propulsion are not allowed.
3. **Transport:** Each crew is responsible for transporting their raft to and from the event, and ensuring that no remains of the raft are left behind in the water or on the shore.
4. **Parking:** Entrants should report to the Race Marshall near the slipway at Hythe Marina, at the advertised time on race day for directions as to raft and vehicle parking. All shore based organisers will be wearing **RNLI** Tabards.
5. **Finishing:** The finishing line will be the slipway, the first, second and third places (where appropriate) of each race will be decided as the **rafts touch the slipway**, After finishing please move the rafts out of the way to make way for the slower rafts. In the event of a close finish or any dispute concerning infringements of the rules the Race Committee's decision will be final.
6. **The Course:** The final course to be followed will be decided on the day taking into account the sea conditions and the weather. There will be a Raft Skippers meeting before the first race prior to the rafts being launched so that the Race Marshall can give a safety brief and explain the course and answer any queries. Please follow these instructions for the course and starting arrangements for each race; any attempt by a crew to start prematurely could result in disqualification.
7. **Rafts Removal:** All rafts must be removed from Hythe Marina on the day of the race and the marina left in a clean and tidy state
8. **Safety:** It is the Raft Skipper's responsibility to ensure that all the crew of their raft are familiar with these Rules and the Safety Warning. The Raft Skippers must advise their crews of any potential dangers or injury risks, particularly when carrying the raft, embarking and disembarking. This also applies to members of the public watching the race on the slipway, or in the sea, particularly children, who may be less aware of the danger. Under H&S Legislation, crew members are prohibited from throwing solid objects, such as eggs, stones etc. before or during the race. Any raft whose crew member breaks this rule will be disqualified.
9. The slipway is a public facility and so it would be appreciated if the raft crews do not unduly impede people trying to use the slipway. Raft Crews are also responsible to avoid any injury to members of the public on or near the slipway, **particularly children who may be swimming near the slipway**.

Please Note. The RNLI reminds participants that they take part in sponsored events entirely at their own risk, and must make full provisions for their own safety. The Raft Captain will be given a Safety Briefing and Safety Warning on the day which they will be expected to sign prior to racing to ensure that everyone is covered by the Organiser's Insurance.

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RAFT CONSTRUCTION RULES

Hints on how to build a raft will be sent to teams who have not previously entered the race. A raft is a flat buoyant structure that should be made from watertight plastic drums or other buoyant materials. Whilst streamlining at the bow or front is acceptable to ensure speed or stability, a raft with an obvious hull or hulls, is not acceptable, and will either be disqualified or incur an additional Handicap, (to ensure parity with all contestants). If in doubt contact the Race Committee through the Race Secretary, before building, to ensure the construction is acceptable.

1. The raft to be constructed from sound materials which will not become waterlogged and use drums or similar containers for buoyancy which must either be watertight or packed with buoyant material, securely fastened, such that the raft will STAY AFLOAT even if it is swamped.
2. A raft made up from a single row of drums is not allowed.
3. All containers used in construction should be thoroughly cleaned before being used in the raft structure so that they do not cause any pollution in the sea or on land..
4. The ideal drums to use are either the small 5 gallon capacity, or larger garden water barrel size. Approximately four of the smaller drums or one of the larger drums per crew member should be sufficient to provide enough buoyancy for the crew and the raft.
5. The various parts of the structure should be secured adequately; connections should be screwed, welded or bolted. No nails are to be used. The entire construction to be free from sharp edges, spikes, burrs or other projections, which could be a danger to crew members or other rafts. If ropes are used, the judges must be satisfied that the raft is sufficiently secure so as to complete the course.
6. The weight of the raft is to be such that it can be easily carried by the crew from the parking area to the sea and back.
7. Each raft is to be constructed so as to allow ready escape to all members of the crew in the event of the raft capsizing or sinking.
8. The rafts name must be put on the raft so that it can be clearly seen from the shore.
9. The judges reserve the option to disqualify any raft not conforming to the above rules or, in their opinion, could not safely compete in the race on the day, when all conditions, including the weather, are taken into account.
10. If you are unsure whether your raft design will qualify please contact the Race Secretary before commencing raft construction
11. Any significant deviation to the above rules, may result in disqualification.