

Selsey RNLI RAFT RACE 2017

Revised Rules and Details for the Raft Construction and Race

Construction

- 1a) The size of the raft and crew is completely open, so long as it complies with the following points, 1b & 1c.
- 1b) The raft must be light enough to be launched and re-beached by it's crew.
- 1c) Each crew member must be a competent swimmer, wearing a life jacket, and be a minimum of 10 years old.

- 2a) The raft's buoyancy must not use marine methods or materials. Therefore, a raft is a floating platform made of materials that were manufacture for purposes other than a boat.
- 2b) Materials that are acceptable and recommended are, Barrels, Drums, Containers, Large Pipes, Planks, and Polystyrene

- 3) Fixings are to be Lashings and Ties, using either; Rope, cord, cable ties or wire, sticky tape, expanding foam and paper mache. **But no bands, banding, fibreglass, welding, screws, bolts, nails, glue etc.** Please note that if you're using pre-made non marine items such as pallets, the nails already in the items are allowable.

- 4) The only item that doesn't have to be home-made is the paddles or oars. However, if you want to make them, screws and bolts etc. are allowable for this item only.

- 5) If on the day it is noticed that a raft is not in accordance with these rules, the raft may still enter the race but not be eligible for any prizes. To avoid this dilemma; if you're in any doubt please contact me.

Race

For the course and start location, see the attached sketch.

All the raft race entrants line up along the water's edge on the beach, behind the Raft Race Banner.

But if we have a large entry we will allow any raft teams that have at least 50% of their team 17 yr's and under, to start on the beach the near side (west) of the Banner at a position agreed by the RNLI Raft Race organiser.

On the sound of the Air Horn at the agreed time, **all the crews / teams** carry their rafts into the sea, climb aboard and race toward the designated Red Beacon.

Having rounded the red beacon, paddle into the adjacent shore.

To finish, the entire raft and crew must be out of the water, back on the beach.

For safety reasons there is a 'Safety Boat Interception Line' shown on the sketch.

If any raft drifts this far they will automatically receive assistance and thus retire from the race.

The RNLI have insisted that if a raft team is requested to abandon their raft and get into the rescue boat, they must do so as part of the rules.

The purpose of all this is to keep everyone from injuring themselves on the Catwalk and Boathouse support legs structure.

Please note that the raft race is free to enter up until 12 noon on the Saturday prior to the race day, but there is a late entry fee after this time of £20.00 per raft. All monies to Selsey RNLI.

Prizes

Many thanks to Highhouse Insurance Services Ltd for donating £350.00 prize money.

Prizes will be awarded as follows,

Winner of Raft Race	£100 and trophy		
Second place	£30	“	“
Third place	£20	“	“
Fourth place	£10	“	“
Best Dressed Raft and Crew	£50	“	“
“ “ “ 2 nd place	£30	“	“
“ “ “ 3 rd place	£20	“	“
“ “ “ 4 th place	£10	“	“

Further Information

Judging for the Best Dressed Raft and Crew will initially take place at about 1230, and also the appearance of the Team and Raft at the end of the race will be taken into account before the final decision is made.

Please note that the start time of the race is usually 1300 but can vary a bit from year to year. Once we have something more definite the entrants will be informed.

There will be a member of the RNLI to officiate proceedings.

They will be available on the start beach between 1230 and 1300 to confirm the race course, and the start and finish procedure.

They will also check everyone is wearing lifejackets / buoyancy aids prior to the start.

We also request everyone involved in the raft race wears appropriate protective footwear on the beach as there can be unexpected sharp or unhygienic items amongst the pebbles etc.

As soon as all the rafts are finished, the prize giving will take place on the beach where the race finished.

After the race, it is important that all the parts of your raft are gathered together in readiness to be cleared off the beach that same day after the crowds have dispersed: (approximately 4pm).

Please note, the promenade and beach access roads are very congested with crowds of people by the end of the raft race and stay for the subsequent RNLI activities.

Our risk assessment prohibits attempts to manhandle rafts through these crowds of spectators.

So only enter the raft race if you're able to clear your raft later in the afternoon when the crowds have dispersed.

The organisers accept no responsibility or liability whatsoever for injury or damage to any person or property caused in the participation or spectators of the raft race.

All entrants therefore take part at their own risk.

Please fill in the application form and email it to me if you wish to enter.

(address below if you prefer paper)

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