

IMPORTANT - RAFT SPECIFICATION

1. Rafts must comprise of two or more hulls that are held in position by struts or a platform. Use of tyre inner tubes is permitted. A canoe design is NOT permitted.
2. **To ensure stability and prevent rafts overturning, the distance between the outer hulls MUST be a minimum of one metre. The minimum overall length of the raft should be at least 3 metres.**
3. **Crew members MUST be able to affect an immediate escape from the raft and must not be restricted in any way**
4. To ensure the safety of other raft crews, rafts must be designed in such a way that they do not have any dangerously protruding or sharp parts and must be constructed from non-toxic materials. Any barrels or containers must be completely clean both inside and out.
5. To ensure the safety of other raft crews the use of glass fibre is not allowed.
6. When outriggers are used, they must at all times be in full contact with the water along their whole length.
7. The rafts must only be propelled by paddles or poles. The use of oars or rowlocks is not permitted. All paddles must be home made and be of a single blade design. The use of commercially designed paddles is not permitted.
8. For safety reasons paddles must not be attached to crew members.
9. For safety and timekeeping reasons it is important that the race marshals are able to identify all rafts at all race checkpoints. See point 10. below.
10. The allocated identification number of the raft must be visible from the front and both sides. It must be clearly displayed above the water line in figures that are at least 230mm (9 inches) high. The figures must not be affected by water.
11. The crew must be able to manoeuvre their raft into the river without any additional external assistance. Also, the weight of the raft must be considered with regard to its removal by its crew at the finish.

SAFETY RULES

Raft racing can be great fun but having fun on the river or its banks, and particularly its weirs, can result in tragedy if insufficient care is taken. Marshals and safety crew will be on the water and at checkpoints along the course to ensure your safety but you must do your part by agreeing to abide by the rules.

- You must be at least 16 years of age.
- Raft racing is not easy and this course could take two or more hours to complete. You need to feel that you are fit enough manage this. Hypothermia, heat exhaustion, tiredness, blistered hands and injuries from paddles are all potential problems along the way.
- Depending on the conditions on the day (e.g. hot, cold etc) you need to wear suitable clothing.
- You need to be capable of swimming in that clothing in the event that you fall off the raft.
- You must provide and wear a lifejacket properly tied, capable of supporting an unconscious person, at all times while on the river.
- You must not take glass bottles of any kind onto the raft.
- You must not carry any form of missiles on the raft such as food, flour bags, water bombs/buckets or spraying devices.
- You must not indulge in behaviour likely to endanger yourself, other rafters, other river-craft and their passengers or wildlife including the consumption of drugs or alcohol.
- You must not jump or dive off the raft, the river bank or the weirs. The river is quite shallow in parts and you could injure yourself severely as a result.
- Your raft number must, at all times, be capable of being seen from the riverbank. This is to ensure that marshals can track your safe progress through the race.
- You must inform a marshal as soon as possible if one of your crew has to leave the raft and the race.
- You must not substitute crew during the race.
- You must abide by any instructions given to you by marshals at the start or during the race.
- You must follow the instructions given to you by safety crew/divers in and on the water, particularly at the weirs (no weirs are crossed during this course).
- The attached raft specification must be adhered to and is designed for your safety. Failure to comply could result in your raft being given a time penalty. The organisers reserve the right to prohibit a raft that is considered to be dangerous.
- It is the responsibility of the raft crew captain to ensure that all crew members comply with the race rules and conditions of entry.
- Crews are responsible for the recovery of their raft to their home base if they pull out of the race at any point and are responsible for removing their rafts from the finish area by 6:00 pm on the race day.
- No substitution of crew members during the race is permitted.
- No animals are allowed on rafts.
- Any crew members who are refused entry or if a raft is disqualified on the day will forfeit their entry money
- Blatant disregard of any of these rules could lead to disqualification of the whole team from the race.