

### Guiding Principles

The aim is to have fun, for everyone to enjoy the day and for no one to get hurt. We want the day to go smoothly with no one missing their race or feeling cheated.

To help us organise the day we will ask each team to appoint a Captain who will co-ordinate the raft team and act as our main point of contact.

The lake at Portishead is shallow, only about 4 feet deep at its maximum, and is used by bird life throughout the year as their home. Please do nothing that would pollute the water or endanger their lives.

### Raft Construction

Rafts will be inspected and must pass scrutiny before the race.

1. We look after the lake grounds, so the following are NOT allowed
  - a) Foamed polystyrene or any other foamed plastic material that may break up into small pieces and pollute the lake
  - b) Any material of a toxic nature (or container) liable to pollute the lake
  - c) Abandoned rafts sunk in the lake, so if it sinks then you need to recover it!
2. We take care of all the competitors in the races so rafts must not have sharp edges or any protrusion likely to cause injury to any competitor, spectator or property.
3. We hold a true and fair raft race so:
  - a) You CAN use:
    - A clearly homemade raft
    - Homemade paddles (use round handles to avoid blisters).
    - Single ended dinghy paddles
    - Poles to punt the raft along (never seen it done though ...)
    - As much fancy dress or decoration as you like
    - Barrel(s) that you sit or kneel inside
    - From **min two to max six** crew members who paddle/propel the raft
    - Any number of **non-paddling** passengers (but think about weight)
    - Water pistols for soaking your rivals (use clean water though)
    - A practice session from 10am on race day
  - b) You CANNOT use:
    - Any means of propulsion other than the crew. So engines and sails are out. If you want a sail for the fancy dress theme then it needs to be clearly useless (but bear in mind the effect of a headwind...)
    - Manufactured oars or double ended paddles.
    - Any sort of hull-attached rowing station, such as oarlocks.
    - Conventional hulls, such as a boat or canoes/kayaks lashed together. Any raft built from or around what is clearly an old boat or canoe etc will be disqualified.

If you have any concerns about your raft then just ask and we will do what we can to help and guide you.

4. Your raft and crew must not prevent the smooth running of the raft races so:
  - a) You must be capable of carrying the raft to the water, launching it and recovering it from the water (even if sunk) with only the help of your team. There will be no additional support available from the organisers. Please note there is no slipway or any similar facility at the Lake Grounds for a trailer launch. We strongly suggest you practice launching, paddling and recovering the raft beforehand, or at least on the morning of race day.
  - b) Make sure your raft won't run aground in the shallow waters – so try to ensure it will float in 2 feet of water. (rule of thumb; 1litre of air supports ~1kg of weight, so allow 100litres of air/buoyancy per person)
  - c) Each raft must **clearly display its designated Raft Number so that it can be viewed from front, rear & side of the raft from the shore**. This number will be allocated upon receipt of the signed entry form. Putting the number on a flag is not usually enough to make it visible.
  - d) All rafts and materials must be removed from the lake and shore by 16:00 hours on race day by the entrants. Please take away everything you brought with you. Any subsequent costs associated with clearing rubbish or removing abandoned rafts will be charged to the entrants.

### **Shared Rafts**

You may want to share a raft with another team. We have no objection to this, but if both teams qualify for the final then only one of the sharing teams will be allowed to go forwards. You will be asked to decide amongst yourselves who this team will be.

### **Competitor Safety Instructions**

The Lake at Portishead is shallow (maximum 4 feet) but very murky and has a muddy bottom. It is home to several hundred water fowl, so it is probably best if you avoid drinking the water! Please use the hand cleansers provided at the boat house after racing, especially before eating.

The racing will be cramped with lots of rafts on the water at the same time so we need to pay particular attention to the following:

What you should wear:

1. You **must** wear footwear to protect your feet from any sharp objects on the bottom of the lake.
2. Wear clothes you can swim and wade in
3. It is recommended that each team member wears a buoyancy aid (we can loan a limited number)

Conduct at the Lake Grounds:

1. Team Leaders/Captains are responsible for the behaviour of their crew, both on the bank and on the water.
2. The instructions of any event officials, marshals, Police or any other authorised body however given must be obeyed in order to ensure maximum safety to all crews and spectators.

3. It is the duty of any rafter who is aware of another rafter (or member of the public) to be in difficulty to offer assistance, unless that assistance would endanger the life of the provider.
4. The organisers will disqualify any crew who in their opinion behaves in such a manner as to constitute a threat to the safety of others or is disruptive, unruly or exhibits antisocial behaviour.
5. Competitors must not dive or jump into the lake as the depth of water is limited and sharp or solid objects may be concealed out of sight on the lake bottom.
6. Competitors are recommended not to consume alcohol before or during the race. Be advised that local byelaws relating to drink are in force.

**General Points:**

1. All teams with entrants aged under 16 years must confirm they have parent/guardian consent before the start of the Race and wear approved buoyancy aids or life jackets at all times.
2. All teams must sign on at the start of the race.
3. Any injuries, however minor, must be reported to the first aid staff.

Failure to comply with these Safety Instructions will result in disqualification of the Team.

**Sponsorship**

The primary purpose of the Portishead Raft Race, as well as to provide a fun family day out, is to raise money for local charities.

To enter the raft race each team shall complete an entry form, which requires the crew to obtain sponsorship in recognition of their efforts in designing and building their craft, and taking part in the event.

Based on previous years' events, we hope you will aim for at least £50 sponsorship per team member. There will be a prize for the highest sponsorship amount raised directly by the raft team members.

In addition to individual sponsorship we suggest you try to encourage your company or organisation to support your team with sponsorship. Often companies are receptive to doing "matched funding" where they contribute the same amount as that raised by employees.

Further details of current arrangements for sponsorship forms, collecting sponsorship online and GiftAid will be sent out to entrants when the entry form is received.

## Disclaimer

The organisers cannot accept any responsibility for any loss or damage to persons or property howsoever caused. Any entry is accepted on the clear understanding that each person is wholly responsible for his/her own actions and takes part in the event at entirely their own risk.

These rules may be subject to change and you will be notified of any modification. When signing on at the event you will be required to agree to the rules in force at that time.