

Raft Race Rules:

1. Teams will be made up of up to six members, each paying £10. 50% of the total fee must be paid at registration and the remaining fee payable prior to 27th August 2011. Cheques should be made payable to: New Chapter. Teams are offered the opportunity to raise further funds through sponsorship for the charity of their choice.
2. All teams must register in advance of the event. All teams will be given a copy of the risk assessment which all participants must all read. Participants are wholly responsible for their own actions and take part in the event at their own risk.
3. All participants must be aged 16 or above on the 27th of August 2011. They must all be competent swimmers ie be able to swim 50m unaided. All team members must wear the approved buoyancy aids and ensure that they are fully zipped during the race (these will be available on the day on payment of a deposit). All team members must wear suitable footwear to protect their feet from any injury e.g. trainers.
4. All teams must appoint a Captain who will be responsible for their team and with whom the organisers will communicate with. The Captain must provide a mobile number.
5. Teams as entered must remain the same, substitutes are not acceptable unless for medical reasons, and must be authorised by the Organiser.
6. Teams MUST be on site to register on the day of the race by 8:30am, in order for the rafts to be scrutineered. Failure to register by 8:30am may result in disqualification at the Judges discretion.
7. There will be no opportunity for rafters to practice with their rafts on the river on the day, and participants should not hold practice sessions in the river before the day of the race. Rafts are not allowed onto the river until race time.
8. Each raft will be allocated a number, this number must be visible from both sides of the raft and be at least 18" big.
9. Rafts should be built by the teams. The more exciting/fun the raft the better the day will be. Rafts should not be any higher than 6 feet tall and no longer than 10 feet. The teams must be able to carry their raft themselves, a considerable distance without any further assistance. All rafts should be sat on, not in.
10. Care should be taken when building the raft so that it is unlikely to cause an injury to your team or other teams. Therefore, no nails should be used (screws may be used if they are flush with the surface of the raft), no burrs, spikes or sharp edges should be on the raft. Prior to the race starting Captains should report to the Special Registration Unit to announce the arrival of their team and request a pre-race inspection of their raft. Should the inspectors find that the raft contravenes any of these rules they can exclude the raft from the race. Should a raft/rafters be prohibited from taking part in the race no fees will be refunded.
11. In order to make the race fair rafts should not have any mechanical propulsion, no oars,

rowlocks or double ended paddles should be used (poles or single ended paddles may be used, but must not be attached to the hull).

12. Rafts must be made of cylindrical devices and these shall sit in the water without streamlining.

13. All rafts must have a tow rope fitted of at least 2 meters for any unforeseen circumstances.

14. Rafts must be made of sound material that is unlikely to get water logged and sink. Rafts must not be made of foamed polystyrene or other foamed plastic material that could break up in the river.

15. It is important that at all times rafters maintain the welfare of trees, plants and wildlife and especially swans, ducks, water voles. To that end no barrels may be used that once contained toxic substances, unless they are 'triple rinsed'. All barrels must be properly cleaned and should be properly sealed with their caps on.

16. All participants have a duty to offer assistance to another participant or member of the public if they appear to be in danger, unless it endangers themselves.

17. Rafts will only be eligible for winning a race if all of their raft is completely removed from the water at the end of the race. At the end of the day all rafts must be removed completely from the site. Any rafts left that have to be removed by the organisers will incur a charge for which the Captain will be invoiced, this will also likely exclude the participants from taking part in future events.

18. All rafters must return their buoyancy aids and make use of the hand cleaning stations immediately when exiting the water.

19. The team captain must report to the Special Registration Unit at the end of the race to account for all their team exiting the water safely and for the return of buoyancy aids.

20. Rafters are not permitted to throw missiles at spectators or at other teams, this includes flour, eggs, and flares. No water pumps, cannon or buckets of water should be used to soak other teams. Any team found to be throwing any missiles will be immediately disqualified from the race.

21. The organisers reserve the right to remove teams from the race, and permanently exclude them from future events if they feel that they are putting themselves/ others at risk, or if they feel that they are disregarding any of the rules.

22. Prizes will be awarded at the end of all of the races. The judges decision is final. Prizes will not just be awarded for speed but also for design and effort- see website.