



Woking Lions Club Charity Raft Race



Sunday 20th September 2015

Constructor's Notes, Rules, Regulations and Safety Instructions

1. Introduction

These rules are for the guidance of raft designers and builders and to ensure safety and fair play for all. They will be strictly enforced and include regulations to ensure your team's personal safety. Please remember that any water activity can be dangerous and that whilst every effort will be made to provide rescue facilities the eventual responsibility for your own safety will rest with each Rafter.

Neither Woking Lions Club, Thames Water or Woking Borough Council can, or will, 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.

2. Construction

1. Each raft shall be manufactured from sound material that will not become waterlogged on immersion. All parts are to be of adequate strength and securely fixed to avoid breaking up in the lake.
2. Each raft must be designed to carry a specific number of persons, (min 4 max 8) and be buoyant and stable with 50% overload
3. Containers such as oil drums and plastic containers shall be thoroughly cleaned before being used in the construction with all caps, bungs, etc. so designed that no leakage can occur when the raft is afloat on the lake.
4. Any mast and sail should not exceed 2 metres above the water line.
5. The raft may be propelled by a paddle (not double ended), rudder, pole or direct drive paddle wheel with no mechanical advantage.
6. All rafts must be capable of being carried, launched, paddled and recovered from the water (even if sunk) by the crew itself. There will be no additional support available from the organisers or its agents.
7. **The length should not exceed twice the breadth. Rafts longer than these dimensions will be put into the Special Category together with Super Rafts**
8. Each raft must clearly display its designated Raft Number (300mm high) so that it can be viewed from either side. This number will be allocated upon receipt of the entry fee together with the signed entry form confirming the acceptance of these Rules and Regulations and *future payment of the sponsorship money to the Woking Lions Club Charity Trust Fund.*

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF RAFTS IN ANY OF THE CLASSES:

- a) **Any proprietary canoe or boat hulls or proprietary boat parts.**
- b) Foamed polystyrene or any other foamed plastic material that is likely to break up and pollute the lake, unless encased in plastic or other suitable material to ensure no possible pollution of the water.
- c) Any material of a toxic nature liable to pollute the lake.
- d) Oars, rowlocks and any form of fixed rowing station. (Rafts must be paddled without any attachment to the hull)
- e) Any form of purely mechanical propulsion.
- f) Towing from the bank.
- g) **For safety, No nails** to be used in the general construction, screws are allowed but they must not protrude.
- h) Sharp edges, burrs, spikes or any protrusion likely to cause injury to any competitor, spectator or property.

THE WOKING LIONS CLUB RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RECLASSIFY RAFTS AFTER INSPECTION AND IF NECESSARY TO PUT THEM INTO A SPECIAL CATEGORY

If you have any queries about these Conditions, please do not hesitate to contact: **Roger Chamberlain on 01483 723832 or email rogerjacchamberlain@gmail.com.**

Constructor's Notes, Rules, Regulations and Safety Instructions (continued)

3. Sponsorship

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 taking part in the event in order that the Lions Club can provide assistance to local charities and deserving causes. When we receive your entry you will be sent your sponsorship forms, a summary of which should be declared at the start of the event and will commit the principal contact to produce those sums, or better, to the Lions Club as soon as possible. To participate you should aim for a minimum of £80 per raft to play your part in the event. Several rafts produce sums over £1,000. Try to encourage your Company or organisation to support your team. In special cases we will agree that sponsorship can go to a charity of your choice but at least £80 must be donated to the Woking Lions Club Charity Trust Fund.

Tax efficient giving can be arranged. The Lions Club will acknowledge all donations as contributions to Charity. Sponsorship to this worthy cause will also ensure this event continues as well as assisting the local community.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE DAY IS TO HAVE FUN AND TO SUPPORT LOCAL WORTHY CAUSES. PLEASE PLAY YOUR PART.

There are awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each class, trophies for the Best Presented Raft and Crew in the Adult and Youth classes, Best Engineering Design and Fundraising awards.

This year's theme for crew and raft decoration is 'JUNGLE'.

Competitors Safety Instructions

- a) All competitors must be able to swim fully clothed a distance of at least 50 metres.
- b) All youth competitors aged under 16 years must produce parent/guardian written consent on the form provided before the start of the Race and wear approved buoyancy aids or life jackets at all times (*Contact organisers if a problem, as life jackets are available on loan*).
- c) It is recommended that all competitors wear life jackets in the interest of their own safety and those of any assisting people or craft.
- d) All competitors are required to wear suitable protective footwear.
- e) Team Captains are responsible for the behaviour of their crew, both on the bank and on water.
- f) The instructions of any official from the Lions Club, Sea Cadets, Police or any other authorised body however given must be obeyed in order to ensure maximum safety to all crews and spectators.
- g) 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.
- h) The organisers will disqualify any crew who in its opinion behaves in such a manner as to constitute a threat to the safety of others or is disruptive prior to the start.
- j) The construction of the raft must be such that in the event of the raft sinking, capsizing or breaking up there is no restriction to the ready escape of all occupants.
- k) The raft must be designed to remain afloat in a stable condition with at least a fifty percent overload factor.
- l) **Competitors must not dive or jump into the lake as the depth of water will vary and sharp or solid objects may be concealed out of sight on the lakebed.**
- m) Any changes to the Team list shall be notified in writing before the start of the race.
- n) **Buckets or water guns carried on rafts are not to be used to throw water at spectators or at the Mayor's launch**

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

Important Rules

- i) **The lake is open to others so keep to the route.**
- ii) **Any injuries, however minor, must be reported to the First Aid staff at the start or finish.**
- iii) **Any symptoms of illness after the event should be reported to your doctor.**
- iv) **Competitors are strongly advised not to consume alcohol before the race.**
- v) **Alcohol must not be carried on any raft.**
- vi) **All crewmembers must sign on at the reception table before the start and crew captains must sign off their raft at the finish.**

- vii) **Any unruliness, unnecessary boisterousness or other acts endangering the public or other crews safety before or during the race will result in disqualification.**
- viii) **NO EGGS OR HARD OBJECTS ARE TO BE CARRIED ON RAFTS OR THROWN AS MISSILES.**

**** *PLEASE REMEMBER, SAFETY IS MUCH, MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN WINNING***
