



2023

Pre-Event Safety Brief



Lifeboats

Fundraising in aid of the RNLI

Safety Notes

Notes of particular importance have been flagged up by the event Insurance Companies, please take notice now to avoid lengthy arguments later.

1. **Minimum Age Requirement:** The minimum age for all rafters participating in the event is 18 years old.
2. **First-Time and Returning Participants:** Whether you are joining us for the first time or are a returning participant, we welcome you warmly. In case of any concerns or issues regarding the organisation of this charity event, please refrain from remonstrating with the on-site staff. They have a role to perform and are not there to handle complaints. Instead, we encourage you to bring any grievances to a DASAC meeting and address them directly to the committee. This ensures your concerns are handled appropriately and efficiently.
3. **Clarifications and Questions:** If there are any aspects of this briefing that are unclear or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to raise them immediately.

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Be Aware Of...

The possibility of ice along the course

If there is any ice on bridges or trees and it drops on you it can cause serious injury.

The risks of hypothermia

All rafters will be checked as to the correct apparel for the occasion at the start point – **Wet Suit, Semi-Dry or Dry Suit**. These **MUST** be worn at all times. No suit, no event, no argument.

The effects of immersion into cold water

Even when protected by wearing a wet/semi or dry suit, prolonged periods in water at this time of the year can be fatal.

Entering fast flowing water

You could get separated from your raft, if you do, swim to the nearest safe bank, get out of the water and rejoin your raft when safe to do so.

Uncharted under water obstacles

They will take the form of rocks, or other man-made obstacles in the river, which could hurt the unsuspecting swimmer.

Missiles

Thrown by other river users and spectators. Eggs and flour are banned and will be confiscated. **NO WATER PUMPS ALLOWED**. There will be a search of the rafts at the start and police surveillance en route for spectators.

Possible injuries at the weir

If in doubt let the raft go over on its own, leave the water, walk round by the path, the raft will descend on its own, then pick it up when convenient at the bottom, this part of the course is potentially the most dangerous.

The Raft Event Risk Assessment

Read it **NOW**. In accordance with the requirements of the event organisers, for the satisfaction of the Emergency Plan, Health & Safety, and the Event Insurers, please make yourselves aware of the content of this risk assessment.

The Raft Event Rules

A set of raft event rules have been prepared – these **must** be read and understood before going in the water with the raft. ALL rafts must be taken away at the end of the event. Whatever you bring with you, please take home.