

WELLESBOURNE & DISTRICT AND SHAKESPEARE LIONS CLUBS RAFT RACE
WASPERTON TO STRATFORD UPON AVON SUNDAY, 17th JUNE 2012

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 15 years of age.
- The race is a lengthy one of over 7 miles and could take you 4 or more hours to complete. You need to feel that you are fit enough to do so. 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.
- For safe handling over the weirs by the safety crew your raft must be fitted with a 4 metre rope (not longer), of about a half-inch thickness, attached only to the rear of the raft and by only one end of the rope. Its free end must be capable of easy reach by the divers in the water.
- The attached raft specification must be adhered to and is designed for your safety. Failure to comply could result in your raft being re-classified and/or 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.