

MATLOCK RAFT EVENT SAFETY RULES & GUIDELINES

The success of this event depends on entrants following the guidelines and rules laid down by DASAC. The organizers reserve the right to cancel this event and refuse admission if conditions are considered hazardous. **THESE RULES ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE AND ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST OBEY THEM. PARTICIPANTS FAILING TO DO SO WILL ASKED TO LEAVE AND BANNED FROM FUTURE EVENTS.**

CHARGES

£15.00 per participant, payable at the gate. Company sponsored rafts or rafts with company logos will be **£50 per raft**. All rafts to be on site and assembled at the quarry start site for scrutineering by 10.00am. The organizers recommend that all rafts be on the car park by no later than 9.30am.

PARKING

Ample parking available on the Tarmac quarry at the start. There is no parking on the grass at Cromford Meadows. Pay and display parking in and around Matlock is NOT suspended for Boxing Day.

RAFTS & INSPECTION

No oars or metal edged paddles. No granular polystyrene or other granular material. Every raft will display two identification numbers. No rafts will be allowed on the river until the Marshall's inspection has been completed at the event start. All rafts will pass through an enclosure, on the way to the river, where each raft will be inspected and photographed for identity purposes. Try to take care of, and in the building of, your raft. The more spectacular the event, the more generous the spectators will be, all street donations go to the RNLI.

PARTICIPANTS

Minimum age 18. All must be strong swimmers. Half of each "crew" compliment should be members of a national accredited diving club, or members of other statutory organizations. All "crews" **MUST** wear either a **Semi-Dry** or **Dry Suit**. Buoyancy aids, head and eye protection are strongly recommended. All race participants must complete and return the application form on the day. This will enable the event co-ordinators to register all persons taking part in the event in accordance with HSE practices. All participants must make themselves aware of the risk assessment prepared by DASAC. All rafts will be issued with a registration number, which is to be displayed on the raft. **This number must be handed in at Cromford Meadows at the end of the race.** This will ensure all participants have safely navigated the course, and account for the same number of persons who registered at the start.

CREWS & TEAM LEADERS

Each raft must nominate a "**Leader**" responsible for the "**Crew**". Remember it is your duty to save life if necessary providing it is safe for you to do so. There is no limit to the number of participants on each raft. The nominated leader shall report to an event Marshall at the **start and finish** to ensure all participants finish safely. In the event of a missing person, the leader must contact The nearest riverside Marshall / Steward to summon assistance and instigate a search if required. All Leaders must act as on-water co-ordinators in the event of any incident with either rafters or members of the general public falling into the water.

WRECKAGE

All raft wreckage must be removed from the river & river bank providing it is practical and can be done safely. Failure to do so may result in participants being banned from future events and charged for the removal of any wreckage.

MISSILES & PROJECTILES

No missiles, or **eggs** to be thrown at all as they pose a risk of serious injury and road accidents. **No pyrotechnics** (flares or fireworks) or **water pumps** to be carried on rafts. Any rafts in breach of this rule will be **refused entry and banned from future events.**

WATER SAFETY & RECOGNITION OF RISKS

Please keep in mind the need to keep warm, the effects of hypothermia, and the **NEGATIVE** effects of alcohol. All Participants should recognize and accept that the event is a risk activity and will undertake to abide by the rules and instructions given by raft event officials. They will take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of themselves and other participants and spectators. It must also be understood that the Masson Weir stretch of the course can be dangerous; the event organizers recommend participants inspect it before the event. Masson Weir can be observed from the A6, 400 yards inside Matlock Bath. The Weir has a fall of about 30 feet. Those who do not wish to traverse the weir are advised to get off and walk around.

FINISH

To qualify for a prize rafters must remove all their rafts after the event failure to do so will incur a possible charge for removal of **£50 to £200** and banned from future events. The organizers do not know all the judging points as this is left to the discretion of the judges.

JUDGING & PRIZES

Judging will take place at the start and finish. The Judge's decision is **FINAL**. Judging will end at Cromford Meadows at 1.00pm. Prizes will be presented at 2.00pm at the Fishponds Hotel (upstairs) opposite the Pavilion, Matlock Bath. Prizes not collected by 3.00pm will have to be claimed from the Race event organizer. **1st prize - Cup and Plaque. 2nd prize - Plaque, 3rd prize - Plaque.** The winners keep the plaques. The Cup remains the property of the DASAC, and must be returned cleaned, engraved and ready for presentation the following year.

ABOUT DASAC & THE EVENT

The Derbyshire Association of Sub-Aqua Clubs represents diving clubs in and around Derbyshire and South Yorkshire. It organizes the Boxing Day raft race to benefit the RNLI who return the favor, if we ever get into trouble at sea and has negotiated and controls diving access to freshwater sites in Derbyshire. The proceeds from the street collection go entirely to the RNLI. The proceeds from previous raft events have helped purchase two lifeboats.

- Money taken at the gate is split in three ways.
- All monies from company sponsored rafts with company logos go to RNLI.
- The remainder of gate money goes to a charity of the DASAC's choice.
- All Raft Event expenses are deducted prior to distribution of the monies to charities.

Stephen Eyre Raft Event Organizer - Updated 29/11/17

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND EVENT DOCUMENTATION VISIT
WWW.MATLOCKRAFTEVENT.CO.UK**