

THE 'INVENSYS RAIL' RAFT RACE

DESCRIPTION

1. Arrival and registration

All rafters will arrive via the Golf Club site entrance between 8 am and 9am on Saturday 28th August where they will be met by and register with event organisation.

Teams will then be re-issued with a set of rules and asked to sign that they have read them and to confirm that they are over 16 and can swim 50 meters fully clothed.

Rafts will be checked over to ensure that they comply with the rules governing health and safety. Rafts will then be parked at the site allocated at this end of the site.

2. Provisional race timetable.

(The following provisional timescale may have to be adjusted, depending on the relative popularity of the classes. Please keep in touch with changes via the web-site.)

11am - Noon: Heats

1 pm - 2 pm: Class Finals

3.15 pm - 3.45 pm: Grand Final

4 pm - Prize giving

NB. Between 12.30pm - 1pm the Red Devils parachute team will do their display.

3. The course and the race itself

The raft race course will be from a start line some 20 metres upstream of the Town Bridge, racing upstream round the bend under the pedestrian bridge, past the boat-loading location, to a finishing line approximately halfway between the Olympiad and the Golf Course.

Raft times will be measured against the clock, but two to four rafts will be started in groups at the same time. These groups may then be released in sequence, separated by a time gap of, say, 1 minute.

The race will be under the control of a Race Control boat with a megaphone, and the start will be signalled by a starter pistol or similar.

At all times there will be at least one rescue boat and team of divers accompanying the rafters. Each group will be followed by a rescue boat, except that if three groups are racing, there may only be two rescue boats - these will be placed in between the three groups.

4. Starting and finishing the race

Teams will be instructed when to carry their raft to the boat loading point. Under direction from the race marshals, they will be issued with buoyancy aids, and when instructed, they will embark on their raft and paddle/float down to behind the starting line near the Town Bridge to await starting orders

After the race, teams will float/paddle back to the boat landing point, when they will be told by stewards when to disembark and return their buoyancy aids.

NB. Any teams who leave their raft (or parts of their raft) in the water will not be eligible for a place in the final (they may also have to meet any costs of removing their raft from the water).

Teams will be advised at this point what their race time is, and whether they must return their raft to the initial storage zone, or to put it in the temporary storage area, ready for their next race.

5. Further heats and finals

Depending on the numbers competing in the time available, the organisers will advise teams whether they will need to race twice to establish an average time, or take part in another heat, before the Class Final.

The Class Final race will be held between the fastest two or three rafts in that class to declare the Class Champion.

The final race will be the Grand Final between the four Class Champions to declare the overall winner of the Invensys Rail Raft Race.

6. Prize giving

At 4pm there will be a prize-giving ceremony by a well-known celebrity. The overall winner will receive the shield which has the winners from 1986 - 1992 on it.

