

2026 WATER CARNIVAL

RAFT RACE RULES and SAFETY NOTES

1. All entry and indemnity forms are to be submitted to Claire Harvey no later than 21st August. Email richardhand@btconnect.com. Forms are available from the harbour office or downloaded from www.stmarys-harbour.co.uk
2. The entry fee is £25 and all money will go to charity (named charity to be confirmed).
3. All rafts are to be made of barrels, drums, wood etc. No boats or canoes to be used in the making of the raft.
4. Rafts are to be paddled only, no rowing, sailing or motorised power allowed – rafts may be disqualified!
5. Raft teams are collectively responsible for disposal of their own rafts on completion of the race. A charge will be made if debris or rafts are to be removed.
6. All rafters must act responsibly and have regard for fellow rafters, particularly children – this is a family fun-day, not the Olympics!
7. For safety reasons children under 10 are not permitted to enter and those under 18 years old must have their own indemnity form signed by a parent or guardian.
8. Decisions of the Water Carnival Volunteers are final!

SAFETY NOTES – TO BE READ BY ALL TEAM MEMBERS

This information is important. It needs to be read and understood by everyone taking part in the 2026 Water Carnival Raft Race.

1. You must follow the safety instructions given to you by the Water Carnival Marshals.
2. You must wear a buoyancy aid, and keep it fastened at all times whilst you are on your raft and in the water. This is for your own safety. If you have a manually inflatable life jacket, it must be worn outside of your clothing. **Auto inflate life jackets are not suitable and should not be worn.**
3. The risks of taking part in an event on water can be reduced if you obey the instructions of Water Carnival Marshals. There is a chance that your raft may break up or capsize so please dress appropriately and bring spare clothes and a towel (just in case!).
4. You may be refused to take part in the event if Water Carnival Marshals decide that you are unfit (or unsafe) to race for any reason, especially if you are drunk.
5. It is extremely dangerous to deliberately capsize, disable your raft or competitors raft at any stage of the event and so any crew that does so will be disqualified from the entire event.
6. In compliance with the requirements of our insurers the event organisers cannot condone and strongly discourage the throwing of any materials and we will not be held responsible for any damage or injury caused by thrown materials.
7. There will be rescue boats to assist you if your raft is in trouble. Please do not swim to the rescue boat until you are directed to do so, the boats will come to you. You will be asked to hold onto the side of the rescue boat and turn around, so that your back is against the boat. You will then be lifted from the water onto the side of the boat. If you are injured or require medical attention, please tell the rescue boat first aider, and he will arrange medical help for you.