

# DONAGHADEE RNLI

## Rent-a-Raft Race

### 2011

**Saturday 13TH AUGUST 2011 start 12.00 noon**

Thank you for supporting the Charity Raft Race at Donaghadee in aid of the Donaghadee Lifeboat.

A special thanks is due to, ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL TOURISM & FESTIVAL FUND and everyone who has assisted in making this event possible.

As a charity the RNLI is totally reliant on your support.

See [www.donaghadeelifeboat.co.uk](http://www.donaghadeelifeboat.co.uk) for details.

Please enter the following raft/crew for Donaghadee RNLI Raft Race

Name of raft \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of business/organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Raft captain's name \_\_\_\_\_  
Raft captain's address & telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

**Raft captain's signature** - I have read, understand and agree to comply with the Raft Race rules etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Entries can be obtained and returned to: DONAGHADEE RNLI RAFT RACE, Donaghadee Lifeboat Shop, 32 The Parade, Donaghadee BT21 0HE, or c/o Dunn's Footwear High Street, Donaghadee or downloaded from the Website [www.donaghadeelifeboat.co.uk](http://www.donaghadeelifeboat.co.uk)

#### **SPONSORSHIP MONEY**

Each raft must donate a minimum of £40 sponsorship money for a 4-man and £60 for a 6-man raft. Cheques to be made payable to **RNLI**.

#### **RAFT RACE PRIZES**

The cost of running the raft race comes from our business sponsors, without whom it would not be possible.

#### **Make that extra special effort**

Approximately 30 minutes after the end of the race the prize presentation will take place on the slipway.

- RAFT RACE AWARD (OVERALL WINNER)
- MOST HEROIC FAILURE
- FIRST ALL LADIES CREW
- FIRST JUNIOR RAFT
- BEST CREW DRESS

## THE RULES

The organisers wish to emphasise that the event is a charity fun race in aid of RNLI for the enjoyment of competitors and spectators alike. Although 4 and 6-man rafts are available to rent some groups might prefer to make their own as in previous years (many moons ago) and that will be permitted. You will however have to pay since it is a Fundraising event and abide by the construction rules. We would remind all competitors that the land areas of the raft race are designated "Alcohol Free" and therefore the drinking of alcohol in public is forbidden.

Thirty minutes after the start of the raft race a LOUD HORN will be sounded. From then on rafts still at sea will be helped to the slipway by the safety crews. We would also advise that, depending on raft numbers, we may have to split the fleet and run heats.

### THE RAFT RACE

1. The general and safety rules of the Raft Race for 2011 are set out below. Please read carefully.
2. The Raft Race committee may decide to run heats if entrant numbers are high.
3. The race will start at 12 noon at the Slipway, opposite the Sailing Club on a course to be decided by the organisers.
4. Rented rafts will be available from 11am. Home made rafts should arrive from 11 onwards for scrutiny. This will take place at the Slipway
5. Raft Captains to check in at Control Area at the Slipway to register and obtain raft number etc.
6. All entries to be submitted by 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011

### GENERAL RULES

1. The crew will consist of at least four persons (maximum six) with one person remaining on board at all times. The raft must have at least four persons on board when crossing the finishing line.
2. Crewmembers must not assist themselves, or receive assistance from the shore or any other vessel, e.g. no towing.
3. Dress: - The waters around Donaghadee are not particularly warm. Competitors are requested to use suitable dress/protective clothing so as to conserve body heat.
4. Start and finishing instructions will be issued to raft captains when confirming entries at the start control.
5. At the time of registration every crewmember will be required to sign a declaration absolving the organisers from all responsibility. Anyone under the age of 18 years must get the signature of a Parent/Guardian.
6. Crewmembers with a disability should be noted on registration form.
7. Rafts should be strongly constructed and capable of withstanding sea conditions.
8. In all matters relating to the Raft Race the committee's decision is final.

### RAFT CONSTRUCTION RULES (for those making their own)

1. A raft must be capable of being carried by the crew of the raft.
2. No rowlocks or substitutes will be accepted. Any form of rowing will not be permitted. No type of engine propulsion allowed; however, rafts can be paddled, pushed, sailed, swim towed, or driven by human mechanical power.
3. Rafts must not be modified from normal marine craft or other waterborne craft.
4. Paddles are allowed.
5. Competitors are reminded that the Slipway opposite the Sailing Club is narrow and crews carrying their raft should exercise due care.

### RACE RULES

Weather conditions will determine the course of the race but hopefully it will be as below.

#### Course 1

The Start & Finish Line will be an imaginary line between the Pole on Rock at the Slipway and an Outer Limit Mark. All rafts must pass between these marks when starting and finishing. The Course will be through the line and round two marker buoys keeping these to starboard.

### SAFETY RULES

1. **Recognized Lifejackets or buoyancy aids must be worn by all competitors and provided by all competitors. There is no exception to this rule.** The wearing of a canoe safety helmet is strongly recommended.
2. No physical interference between rafts is permitted.
3. In the interest of safety all rafts debris must be removed from the water and surrounding areas at the end of the race.
4. Please observe any instructions given to you by the Safety Boat Helms.