

The Great Strait Raft Run 2026

Instructions [issue 2, 16th Feb]

Sunday 24th May Start 13.00hrs

A full list of rules and information is listed below. The rules and definitions are to assist your planning of the Raft Run:

1. Entries are restricted to 52 rafts on a first come first served basis;
 2. Rafts must be sat upon, not in (canoe/dinghy type construction will not be accepted);
 3. Each raft must carry a minimum of 3 persons and a maximum of **11**;
 4. Each person must wear personal buoyancy aid/lifejacket at all times on the water;
 5. The raft may have any number of hulls;
 6. The hulls must not be commercially manufactured;
 7. The Raft must have inherent buoyancy eg if waves fill up the raft it must still float
 8. All crew members must carry a paddle plus 1 spare per raft (only single blade paddles are permitted);
 9. Entries will be divided into the following CLASSES -
All classes are muscle powered and/or sail assisted
 - a] - Time Chaser Trophy
 - b] - Best of the Rest Trophy
 - c] - Junior Class [see 9 below]
 - d] - Ladies Class
 - e] - Tail End Duck Trophy
 - f] - Spirit of the Event Trophy picked by the Judges from classes a, to f inc
 - g] - Elim Trophy - Raft raising the most Money
 10. Junior entrants [class c] must be over 14 years of age and under 18 years on the 10th of May 2026 (At least one adult [and no more that 25% of total crew] must accompany each junior raft); Juniors between 12 & 14 will be allowed with prior notice so extra safety measures can be put in place
 11. All participants in classes a to f must be over 14 years of age on the 18th of May 2026;
 12. All rafts must be equipped with a 5metre tow rope securely attached to a strong point at the front of the raft
 13. So spectators can see who's who, each raft must have its **entry number** clearly painted and displayed on both sides of the raft, on a board 300mm[12"] x 600mm[24"] high, mounted on a pole. [possibly a broom stick];
 14. The approach to the start area is by means of narrow streets. HGVs and articulated vehicles will not be allowed. All vehicles & trailers should approach by way of Ffordd Caernarfon & Rowen to Ffordd Glan y Mor, i.e. from the Caernarfon direction. [see map on web site]
 15. Recovery of your raft, at the finish will be controlled by Marshals. To reduce congestion and to make the operation safer please follow their instructions. There will be a rope in front of Princes Pier wharf. Rafts should tie up to this rope and await instruction from the marshals regarding recovery. Recovery drivers must stay with their vehicles until their raft is ready to collect. **Please DO NOT block the slipway**
 16. **Any person found to be intoxicated will not be allowed to compete**
 17. In the case of any damage caused to 3rd party property, it is the responsibility of each raft to be covered by adequate insurance
 18. Before any one can participate the captain and crew members must sign confirmation, on form provided, that they understand and agree that they:-
 - a. Have a prime duty of care to other participants, especially when on the water
 - b. Must be capable of swimming in cold water with the aid of the required buoyancy aid
 - c. Must be physically and medically fit to take part
 - d. Are over 14 years [or between 14 & 18 if entered in the junior class] on the 10th May 2026
 - e. Must agree to behave considerately, and obey instructions from officials
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- f. Have read and understood these Instructions
19. Crews should be alongside their rafts in the start area 5 minutes before the start time
 20. All rafts should be on the shore side of the starting rope/flags until released for the start.
 21. All rafts & crew will be inspected, on the day by the Scrutineers whose decisions will be final. If in the opinion of the organisers, the raft is not seaworthy, it will be eliminated and the entry fee forfeited.
 22. Scrutineering starts at 10.00 so please be in plenty of time to be checked before the start
 23. Start time is planned for **13.00hrs**. One warning gun and one start gun will be fired, one at 5 Min & one at the start. A row of painted stones will indicate the start line. Marshals will be on hand to ensure that you stay behind the start the painted stones before the start. On the start gun.
 24. The finishing line will be between St Georges Pier Promenade and a large floating DUCK marker. Also see course page
 25. Each person on every raft will be given a numbered tally band which must be handed in to the Count Marshal on St Georges Pier Promenade when they have finished. [A longer walk this year] THIS IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE ORGANISERS TO BE ABLE TO ACCOUNT FOR THE SAFE ARRIVAL OF EACH ENTRANT.
 26. Prize giving will be held after the event at about 4.30 pm on **St Georges Promenade**. The donation of money raised, to the local causes, will still be in September/October. All will be notified of the exact date and venue near the time
 27. Elim Trophy - To find the winner, the final amount you have raised for your Charity needs to be sent to the Organisers at charlie_heney@hotmail.co.uk
 28. Please note that it is a Council By-law that your **raft cannot be left** on or near the slipway and you will be charged for removal.

SAFETY

Please Do:-

Respect the environment we are lucky to live in such a pristine environment and we wish to keep it that way.

Wear protective headgear and suitable footwear

Bring a change of dry clothing

Wear a wet suit or suitable warm clothing on the water

Be on time for briefings, scrutineering and starting

Be alert for any announcements of changes

Have a safe and enjoyable day

Please Don't:-

Drink alcohol, before or during the run, as the cold water and drink **DO NOT MIX**

Do anything to spoil the day for others

And Be aware

Safety boat cover for the raft run will be provided.

It should be noted that the prime function of the safety boats is to look after the competitors and therefore the towing of any raft will be secondary.

Please think of the Marine environment when you are constructing your raft. Do not use any materials that will pollute that environment. If in doubt contact Natural Resources Wales [NRW] for any help

Please ensure that all raft material is cleared from the slipway

HELP US TO HELP YOU

ENTRY FORMS To be completed and returned with a cheque for a total of **£70**, [£30 entry £40 donation to our charity] made payable to 'Menai Bridge Raft Run Charity', to reach us by 17th of May 2026, after which date entry fees will increase to **£80**.

CANCELLATION. In the event of the run being cancelled due to weather conditions, on the day of the run, £30 will be re-funded. (This decision would not be taken unless it is considered unsafe to proceed).

THOUGHT. If you are short of a cause for which to raise money, you might consider the Menai Bridge Raft Run Charity fund No 1121383 - proceeds from which will be distributed to local Charities and other local good causes.

Entry forms to be completed and returned (together with large stamped & addressed envelope) to: **The Organisers, Menai Bridge Charity Raft Run, C/o 1 Rhes Menai, Menai Bridge, Anglesey LL59 5EL**

The above is correct at the time of issue - Please check for any amendments 16/02/26 iss2

ITEMS IN GREEN NEED APPROVAL