



2025

Rules & Guidelines



Lifeboats

Fundraising in aid of the RNLI

Notes

The smooth running and success of the Matlock Raft Event hinge on participants adhering to the established guidelines and rules set by DASAC. We count on your cooperation to ensure the event's success.

1. **Minimum Age Requirement:** Please be aware that the minimum age for all participants is now set at **18 years old**.
2. **Construction and Navigation of Rafts:** We encourage careful construction and piloting of your rafts. A more visually appealing and spectacular event tends to inspire greater generosity among spectators. All street donations collected during the event will be contributed to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).
3. **Safety and Health Considerations:** It's important to stay warm and be aware of the risks of hypothermia. Additionally, please consider the adverse effects of alcohol consumption in such environments.
4. **Adherence to Rules:** These rules have been established by DASAC and are non-negotiable. All participants are subject to these rules and must comply with them.
5. **Event Cancellation Rights:** The organisers reserve the right to cancel the event or refuse admission if conditions are deemed hazardous.
6. **Prize Distribution:** Prizes will be awarded at 2:00pm at The Fishpond Pub, located opposite the Pavilion in Matlock Bath. Please note that prizes not collected by 3 pm will need to be claimed directly from the Race event organizer.

For any further information or queries, please contact the Raft Event Committee Secretary, Terry Radford, at **07837822452** or **terryradders@aol.com** .

We look forward to a safe and enjoyable event and thank you for your commitment to following these guidelines.

Rules



Start

Entry is £15.00 per crew member, payable at the gate.

All rafts to be on site and assembled at the quarry start site for scrutiny by 9am.

No rafts will be allowed on the river until the Marshall's inspection has been completed at the event start.

Rafts with no artistic merit start at 11am. Fancy rafts start at 11:15am.



Parking

There is ample parking on Cawdor 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.



Crews

All rafters must be at minimum **18 years old**.

Half of each crew should be members of a national accredited diving club, or other statutory organisations.

All crews **must** wear either a **Wet Suit, Semi-Dry or Dry Suit**.

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.

Buoyancy aids, head and eye protection are strongly recommended

Each raft must nominate a Leader Responsible for the crew.

There is no limit to the number of participants on each raft.

Rafters are not to leave the rafts and climb the banking or bridges down the course.

Remember it is your duty to save life if necessary, providing it is safe for you to do so.



Practice

There are NO practice facilities.



Raft Construction

No metal edged paddles.

No water pumps.

No pyrotechnics (flares).

No granular polystyrene or other granular material.

All rafts will be issued with a registration number, which must 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.



Missiles

No missiles, (e.g. eggs), to be thrown **at all**. These cause risk to spectators directly, and also increases risk of road accidents for those standing near the main road who may step backwards to avoid being hit.

Any rafts in breach of this rule will be refused entry to future events.



Judging

Judging will take place at the start and finish. Judging will end at Cromford Meadows at 1pm.

To qualify for a prize, rafts must be removed from the river at the finish.

The organisers do not know all of the judging criteria as this is left to the discretion of the judges.

The judge's decision is **final**.



Wreckage

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



Masson Weir

It must be understood that this stretch of the course can be dangerous; the event organisers 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.



Recognition of Risks

All Participants should recognise and accept that the event is a high risk activity and will undertake to abide by the rules and instructions given by raft event officials.

Participants agree to take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of themselves and other participants and spectators

All crew members must read the risk assessment given to the crew captain.

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.

All crew 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.

About



About DASAC

The Derbyshire Association of Sub-Aqua Clubs represents diving clubs in and around Derbyshire and South Yorkshire.

DASAC organises the Matlock Raft Event 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 event is supported by the following DASAC clubs:

SAA

- ALCSAC
- Saturn
- In-Depth
- Matlock
- Seahorse
- N Notts Nautilus
- Phoenix
- IKSAC

BSAC

- Alferton
- Ashbourne
- Ashfield
- Chapelton
- Burton
- Fathom
- Chesterfield
- Derby
- Glossop
- Headstream
- Heanor
- Mansfield
- Long Eaton
- NEDSAC
- Spondon
- Rolls Royce
- Nottingham
- Buxton



About Prizes

1st Prize - Trophy and Plaque

2nd Prize - Trophy

3rd Prize - Trophy

4th Prize - Trophy (Special Award)

The winners keep the trophies. The plaque remains the property of DASAC, and must be returned cleaned, engraved and ready for presentation the following year.



About Money

All proceeds from the street collection go **entirely** to the RNLI.

The proceeds from previous raft events have helped purchase two lifeboats.

The gate money goes to the running costs of the event.