

# CHARLESTOWN REGATTA ~ SEA RAFT RACES 2024

*Time to start building ... GOOD LUCK !*

## RULES

- **Registration:** on the day **from 1.00pm** at top of Slipway (latest 3.15pm for Seniors); donations in lieu of entry fees welcome.
- **Start Times: Juniors: 2.15pm / Seniors : 3.30pm** subject to last minute changes.
- **Distance:** approximately 10 to 20 minute's paddling, depending on the state of the tide, proficiency of the crew, and how far out to sea the marker buoy is for the Seniors ...!
- All crews to elect a Captain who will be responsible for his / her crew and raft.
- **SAFETY: Juniors (16 years & under) must SUPPLY & WEAR THEIR OWN buoyancy aids\* (NOT LIFE-JACKETS); parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring all their youngsters are wearing correctly fitted buoyancy aids before entering the water. Parental / Guardian consent signature & contact details required at registration confirming all crew members are proficient swimmers.**
- 4 crew members per team – (either all Juniors or all Seniors) - no more, no less !
- It's all about having FUN ! So, if your crew is mixed age or less than 4 in number, that's fine; you'll be judged for the 'Best Junior Raft' or 'Most Entertaining Senior Raft' (whichever category is most appropriate), just not eligible for the 'speediest' raft !
- Rafts must finish with all 4 crew members.
- Paddles & 'Heath Robinson' propelling devices are permitted, but no other mass-produced devices, eg flippers, outboard engines (!), or recognized 'watercraft', eg canoes, kayaks etc.
- Soft 'missiles' are permitted, but must be bio-degradable ie flour in PAPER bags, **ABSOLUTELY NO PLASTIC** – please respect your fellow rafters & our beautiful seas.
- If the tide is falling (or if you have incredibly long legs ...) ... NO WALKING !
- Prize Presentations will take place at approx 4.30pm on The Quay.
- **Teams MUST ensure their rafts (& all debris) are removed from the water & taken away from the beach &/or harbour-side at the end of the races.**
- **IMPORTANT NEWS! For 2024, there will be 2 Loan Rafts available on the day for crews in need – Juniors & Seniors – first come, first reserved, so be at the front of the Registration Queue if you're keen!**

## COURSE 2024

Once registered, please leave rafts on 'Coastguards' (*right hand beach*) & return in good time for the start

**JUNIORS: only launch rafts when instructed to do so:-**

**2.15 pm Juniors WATER start**

**3.30 pm Seniors BEACH start + mid course challenges!**

## RAFT CAPTAINS -

- when under Starter's Orders, raise your hand if **NOT** ready !
- **A HORN WILL START AND FINISH ALL RACES**
- **JUNIORS: water** start from COASTGUARD'S (right hand beach), turn around end of quay into harbour, **touch long, high 'FINISH' wall on far side.**
- **SENIORS: beach** start on waterline from COASTGUARD'S (right hand beach), turn around mark (to be advised), turn into harbour - **touch long, high 'FINISH' wall on far side.**

**MID COURSE CHALLENGE** to be advised at registration 😊