



2018 FORT LAUDERDALE PIRATE FESTIVAL NEW RIVER RAFT RACE RULES

The Raft Race Committee promotes a safe, family-oriented event. We encourage all participants to act in a responsible sportsman-like manner, obey all safety requirements and raft race rules, assist their fellow rafters when necessary, and above all, enjoy the event. Remember, safety comes first! Watch out for fellow rafters, lend assistance when needed, and have fun.

There will be two categories of craft:

- Category 1: Rafts: Flat bottom crafts (anything that floats)
- Category 2: Pirate row boats: “V” shaped bottom crafts (boat-like structures)

Both categories of crafts will race at the same time, and the first craft of each category to cross the finish line shall be declared the winner of that category.

The winner of each category will receive a trophy and a coveted pirate booty chest.

Additional recognition trophies will be presented to other participating crafts for the following categories:

- Most pirate-like craft
- Most creative craft
- Most pirate-like crew
- Best branding craft

1. All captains are required to read these Rules and inform the entire crew.
2. All captains are responsible for obtaining a signature on the “Risk Awareness Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability Agreement” from each person on their craft.
3. Racecourse starts and finishes in front of Esplanade Park.
4. The anticipated duration of the race is from approximately 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. The festival at Esplanade Park and along Riverwalk will run from 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and will offer live entertainment, children’s play area, games of skill, pirate encampment, arts and crafts vendors, food, and libations for all!
5. We encourage the use of water guns and super soakers but NO WATER BALLOONS shall be permitted.
6. No alcohol is to be consumed during the race. Participants must be able to “walk the plank” in a straight line in order to participate. There will be plenty of libations available at the festival and along Riverwalk afterwards.

7. All entries will be required to accept a tow if found to be floundering mid-race and/or have not finished by 4:00 p.m.
8. All crafts must be of homemade construction; no commercially manufactured nautical parts allowed with the exception of rope, cleats and other rigging.
9. Craft size shall be limited to a maximum size of 12' wide by 20' long. Craft heights shall be limited to no more than 15' above the waterline.
10. All sheet metal raw edges to be turned over and taped.
11. Any protruding long bolts are to be sawed off, filed, and taped.
12. All crafts may be inspected prior to launch and are subject to modification and/or disqualification at the discretion of the Committee and/or based on the Rules.
13. All entries must be solely human powered and self-propelled and make use of poles, oars, paddles, paddlewheels, sails, propellers, flippers, etc. or any combination thereof.
14. All minors must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. No one under the age of 12 may participate or be on a craft during the race.
15. Each entry must be equipped with at least 50' of 3/8" towline.
16. Each participant must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket at all times during the event.
17. Captains will ensure their crew wear the Coast Guard approved life jackets aboard their craft and will also conduct "abandon ship" drills with the crews donning life jackets before heading out.
18. All entries must display their competition number in plain sight on both sides of the craft.
19. All Captains and their crew must remain aboard their registered craft for the entire duration of the Race.
20. All entries must run the entire course under their own power to be eligible for first place only. Second and third place in each category will not be recorded.
21. Anyone exhibiting unsafe behavior will be disqualified and could be permanently banned from the event.
22. All crafts must be removed from the river at the end of the event and discarded appropriately. In the event your team decides to trash the craft, there will be a large dumpster provided for you at Cooley's Landing.
23. Derelict crafts are subject to police action and/or fines from the D.E.P. and risk permanent disqualification from the event.
24. In the event a manatee or leatherneck turtle is sighted in the waterway, officials must be notified and all crafts must paddle to the side of the river and await the all clear when the animals have departed the area.