



**Fort Lauderdale Rotary Club River Race 1:30 p.m. 4/20/2019 - Esplanade Park, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Raft Race Rules**

Race Committee Chairperson: Mike Sanchez (954) 873-0965

The Race Committee promotes a safe, family-oriented event. We encourage all participants to act in a responsible sportsman-like manner, obey all safety requirements, race rules, race officials, and to assist their fellow racers when necessary. Above all, be safe and enjoy the race. Remember, safety comes first! Watch out for fellow racers, other boat and boaters, and other items floating in the river. The river will not be closed to other boats.

There will be two categories of rafts:

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 raft of each category to receive a winner's flag at the dock shall be declared the winner of that category.

1. All participants are required to read these Rules and the crew captain from each raft must insure their crew adheres to these rules. A violation of these rules by one person on the raft will disqualify everyone on the raft.
2. All participants shall complete the "Risk Awareness Acknowledgement, Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability Agreement" and the captain is responsible for confirming with Rotary Club Race Officials that each person on the raft has completed the form. The form can be found at the Pirate Fest website: www.FTLpiratefest.com. Copies will also be available the day of the race.
3. Beginning point and turning point of the race:

All racers will assemble at the dock by Esplanade Park by 1:15 p.m. for last minute instructions and safety check.

Beginning Point of Race: The starting point, upriver from the dock, will be marked with a buoy. All races begin at the same place. By 1:30 PM all racers will begin to make their way to the starting line. There will be a Rotary Club starter to make sure everyone is behind the starting line buoy. Starting in front of the buoy will disqualify the racer.

Start of race: 1st cannon shot the paddle boarders and kayaks will begin their races. 2nd cannon shot will signal the beginning of the raft race.

Turning Points: Crews will paddle their rafts around a buoy in the New River and race back to the dock. Any crew that does not go around the turning point buoy will be disqualified.

4. The anticipated duration of the race is from approximately 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Each crew's captain is responsible to ensure their raft is out of the water by 3:00 p.m. There will be no exceptions.

The festival at Esplanade Park and along Riverwalk will run from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 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 manually operated water guns and super soakers. WATER BALLOONS, and anything else that leaves debris in the river, are strictly prohibited and the use of such will result in disqualification from the race.

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. No one under the age of 12 may participate in the race. All minors and dogs must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

8. Each participant must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket at all times during the event. Not wearing one will result in the participant being disqualified. All Captains and their crew must remain aboard their raft for the entire duration of the race.

9. 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.

10. One crew member from each raft must wear the competition number they were assigned and it must be in plain sight at all times.

11. All entries must run the entire course under their own power to be eligible for a trophy. All entries will be required to accept a tow if found to be floundering mid-race and/or have not finished by 3:00 p.m.

12. Construction of rafts:

a. All rafts must be of homemade construction; no commercially manufactured nautical parts allowed with

the exception of rope, cleats and other rigging.

b. Craft size shall be limited to a maximum size of 12' wide by 20' long. Nothing on the raft is permitted more

than 15 feet above the waterline.

c. All sheet metal raw edges are to be turned over and taped to prevent sharp exposed edges.

d. No bolts may protrude from the raft. Long bolts are to be sawed off, filed smooth, and taped to prevent sharp exposed ends.

e. All crafts may be inspected prior to launch and are subject to modification and/or disqualification at the

discretion of the Race Officials based on these rules.

f. 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.

g. All rafts must be equipped with at least 50 feet of 3/8" towline.

13. Derelict crafts are subject to police action and/or fines from the D.E.P. and risk permanent disqualification from the event.

14. Winners and prizes: At the dock a Race Official will give a pirate flag to the winner of each category. There shall be no pushing or shoving of another racer at any time and the decision of the race official is final. Trophies will be provided for the first, second, and third place finishers in each category. There will also be trophies for the best Pirate themed raft, the best Pirate costumes on a raft, and if applicable, the best Pirate costume on a paddle board and the best Pirate themed kayak/kayaker.

15. Anyone exhibiting unsafe behavior will be disqualified and could be permanently banned from the event.

16. All paddleboards and kayaks must be removed from the river at the end of the race. All rafts must be discarded appropriately by the crew. In the event a crew decides to trash its raft, Rotary has provided a large dumpster at Cooley's Landing for that purpose.

17. In the event a manatee or leatherneck turtle is sighted in the waterway, officials must be notified and all participants must paddle to the side of the river and await the all clear signal when the animals have departed the area.