



International Rafting Federation

GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION RAFT AWARD SCHEME

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Levels: The following levels are recognised:

	<i>Standard Raft</i>
i)	Trainee Guide
ii)	Raft Guide
iii)	Trip Leader
iv)	Raft Instructor
v)	Assessor

Purpose: To provide commercial operators, industry organizations, national federations, government regulators and other interested parties worldwide with a common standard for whitewater professionals.

General:

Raft Guides, Inline Raft Guides, Safety Crafters must:

- be at least 18 years old, trainees must be at least 16 years old;
- be able to swim;
- hold a current (not older than 2 years) Red Cross First Aid Certificate (FAC) or equivalent with cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); Trip Leaders, Instructors and Assessors must hold advanced certification such as Wilderness First Aid (WFA) or Responder (WFR) or Red Cross FAC level 2.
- maintain a log book recording each run, signed by the Trip Leader or Operations Manager of the company, as proof of experience. This is to be presented as proof of experience before an assessment;
- complete a familiarization run and know the evacuation routes and procedures on any new stretch of whitewater they intend to Guide or Trip Lead on. (Note that an exception to this requirement is made in the case of highly experienced guides running exploratory or infrequently run expedition-style trips where a familiarization run may be impractical.)

Companies are responsible for:

- checking river levels before trips and ensuring guides allocated to the trip are appropriately qualified and experienced.

Definitions:

Standard Raft: inflatable multi-passenger self-draining craft specially design for whitewater. Always operated by a trained guide on commercial trips.

Trainee Guides must complete a **Guide Training Program (GTP)** that equips them with the necessary skills and knowledge to competently guide a raft in a safety conscious manner. A GTP must include the following topics:

- (a) skills - rafting techniques, crew training and management, emergency and rescue techniques;
- (b) knowledge - equipment, safety and emergency procedures, rapid theory, leadership, signals.

Raft Guide must have the skills and knowledge to competently guide a raft in a safety conscious manner and operate as a member of the guide crew knowing standard whitewater rescue techniques as well as have a current standard first aid certificate.

Raft Trip Leader (senior guide) must have a high level of Raft Guide skills and knowledge as well as a thorough knowledge of trip planning, whitewater rescue techniques, emergency procedures and have a current advanced first aid certificate.

Raft Instructor (trainer) must have a high level of Trip Leader skills and knowledge; also must have a current advanced first aid certificate. Instructor must have high level of skills and experience in training and assessing Guides and Trip Leaders. He/She must be physically capable of demonstrating all Raft Guide skills.

Assessor (instructor trainer) must have a high level of Instructor skills and knowledge; also must have a current advanced first aid certificate. Assessor must have skills and experience in organizing Instructor Workshops. He/She must be physically capable of demonstrating all Raft Guide skills.

Raft Guides and Raft Trip Leaders with inline-raft experience; can guide on inline-raft trips according to the same competency level they have their Standard Raft Guide or Trip Leader certificate for.

Raft Instructors aiming to train and/or assess Inline-Raft Guides or Inline-Raft Trip Leaders; need to prove their inline-raft competency and experience to the GT&E Committee prior the assessments.

Renewal: bi-annual renewal of certification requires proof that the requirements listed in the below chart have been satisfied.

GT&E Committee retains the right to withdraw a persons certification or to refuse renewal if deemed necessary to maintain the standards and integrity of the scheme.

The **category awarded** will be determined by the examining Instructor according to guidelines determined by the GT&E Committee.

A **run** is 2 hours on-river rafting time.

Certification	Classification	Function	Minimum training requirement	Minimum whitewater craft experience	Assessment	Minimum requirement for renewal after two years
IRF Raft Trainee Guide	Stadium (TGS)	On artificial whitewater courses w/ RG in raft	GTP that complies with IRF requirements	None	Demonstrate required competencies during GTP + theory exam	N/A
	River (TGR)	On rivers up to class 2 w/ RG2 or higher in raft				
IRF Raft Guide	Stadium (RGS)	On artificial whitewater course	TGS + Standard 1 st Aid Certificate	10 runs or 20 hours	Demonstrate required competencies	Guided 10 runs + valid (renewed or refreshed) 1 st Aid Certificate
	Class 2 /grade 2/ (RG2)	On rivers up to class 2	TGR + Standard 1 st Aid Certificate	10 runs or 20 hours		Guided 10 runs on rivers up to class 2 + valid (renewed or refreshed) 1 st Aid Certificate
	Class 3 /grade 3/ (RG3)	On rivers up to class 3	TGR + Standard 1 st Aid Certificate	30 runs or 60 hours on rivers class 3 or above		Guided 10 runs on rivers up to class 3 + valid (renewed or refreshed) 1 st Aid Certificate
	Class 4/5 /grade 4/5/ (RG4/5)	On rivers above class 3	TGR + Standard 1 st Aid Certificate	30 runs or 60 hours on rivers above class 3		Guided 10 runs on rivers above class 3 + valid (renewed or refreshed) 1 st Aid Certificate

IRF Raft Trip Leader	Class 2 /grade 2/ (TL2)	On rivers up to class 2	RG2 + 3 training trips under the supervision of a TL2 or higher + Advanced 1 st Aid Certificate	50 runs or 100 hours on rivers Class 2 or above	Demonstrate required competencies + theory exam + scenario assessment	Guided 20 runs on rivers up to Class 2, at least 10 as TL + valid (renewed or refreshed) 1 st Aid Certificate
	Class 3 /grade 3/ (TL3)	On rivers up to class 3	RG3 + 3 training trips under the supervision of a TL3 or higher + Advanced 1 st Aid Certificate	75 runs or 150 hours on rivers Class 3 or above		Guided 20 runs on rivers up to Class 3, at least 10 as TL + valid (renewed or refreshed) 1 st Aid Certificate
	Class 4/5 /grade 4/5/ (TL4/5)	On rivers above class 3	RG4/5 + 3 training trips under the supervision of a TL4/5 or higher + Advanced 1 st Aid Certificate	200 runs or 400 hours on rivers above Class 3		Guided 20 runs on rivers above Class 3, at least 10 as TL + valid (renewed or refreshed) 1 st Aid Certificate

IRF Raft Instructor	Class 3 /grade 3/ (RI3)	a. train candidates to RG3 and iRG3 standard b. assess candidates up to RG3, TL3 and iRG3, iTL3	TL3 + assist on 2 IRF-compliant GTPs and 1 TL scenario assessment + participate in IRF Instructor workshop	100 runs or 200 hours as TL3 or above	Performance on GTPs + demonstrate required competencies	Conducted two GTPs, Participation on an IRF Instructor workshop Be physically capable of demonstrating all Guide skills + valid (renewed or refreshed) 1 st Aid Certificate
	Class 4/5 /grade 4/5/ (RI4/5)	a. train candidates to RG4/5 standard b. assess candidates up to RG4/5 and TL4/5	TL4/5 + assist on 2 IRF-compliant GTPs and 1 TL scenario assessment + participate in IRF Instructor workshop	100 runs or 200 hours as TL4/5 or above		

Assessor	-	a. conduct Instructor workshops b. maintain the integrity of and actively promote the IRF Award Scheme	I3 or I4/5 + assist on 3 IRF Instructor workshops conducted by at least 2 different Assessors	have conducted at least 10 GTPs	Performance on the Instructor workshops + dissertation related to GT&E	Conducted two Instructor workshops + ongoing involvement in the promotion of the IRF AS
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GTP – Guide Training Program. A GTP may be provided in a structured course and/or on the job training.