

Hosting a World Rafting Championships with the International Rafting Federation



International Whitewater Raft Racing... ON THE EDGE



World Championship Whitewater Raft Racing is on the edge of high level, high challenge competition on wild rivers across the globe.



The 2022 World Rafting Championships in Bosnia-Herzegovina featured 62 teams in open, youth, and master's categories for both men and women competing in Sprint, Slalom and Downriver Events.

Head-to-Head Sprints- Using raw power and strategy, teams face off against each other while navigating around buoys in challenging whitewater. This is the most fast paced and visually dynamic event for spectators as paddles and boats clash throughout the course.



Slalom - four-person raft teams maneuver through 15 gates set throughout a challenging whitewater rapid with unparalleled power and finesse.



As in any adventure sport there are the inevitable mishaps. These skilled paddlers usually rescue themselves, but safety teams are also always close at hand.



Downriver – The final event, is the ultimate test of river running skills and endurance through always beautiful and often remote river canyons.



Mass Start Heat for Downriver, Rio Alumine, WRC Argentina 2018



Tully River Downriver, WRC Australia 2019

Word Rafting Championships are also on the Edge of promoting sustainable river-based recreation and tourism. These events bring attention to the significant ecological, cultural, and recreational value of wild rivers in often exotic and unfamiliar parts of the world. Presenting an often-untapped wealth of sustainable tourism based economic opportunities.



WRC Bosnia-Herzegovina 2022, Vrbas and Tara Rivers

And finally, international raft racing is on the leading edge of building a global river community bound by a shared passion for wild rivers and adventure sport. Friendships and partnerships are created across cultural/political divides inclusive of gender, race, and age. These relationships promote the sport of whitewater rafting through sharing knowledge and resources across countries and continents.



The International Rafting Federation (IRF)

The IRF is the world governing body for whitewater rafting, and currently includes 52 National rafting federation members. Since 1998, twenty world championships have been organized under the auspices of the IRF. The IRF provides detailed guidelines for organizing and implementing international whitewater rafting competitions including race rules, safety requirements, anti-doping standards, and bid processes. The guidelines are designed to ensure competitions are fair, safe, and inclusive, creating a solid framework to allow consideration of future inclusion in the Olympic Games.

What can Hosting a WRC do for you?

- ***Highlight the recreational, cultural, and ecological values of your rivers and river canyons.***
- ***Help grow a sustainable river-based tourism economy.***
- ***Create cross cultural exchange and international partnerships for protecting rivers and promoting sustainable tourism -based economic development.***

Who Will Be Next? – To Keep Us On the Edge!

Please visit the IRF website, <https://www.internationalrafting.com/>, to see more about past World Championships, current raft racing news, and information on the bid process. We are ready to help you be the host of the next World Rafting Championships, including helping you create a bid within the constraints and resources unique to your location.



Locations of Past World Rafting Championships

Chuya River, Siberia (1989)
Nantahala River, USA (1990)
Reventazón and Pacuare rivers, Costa Rica (1991)
Çoruh river, Turkey (1993)
Dora Baltea River, Italy (1994)
Zambezi River, Zimbabwe/Zambia (1995–1997)
Reventazón and Pacuare Rivers, Costa Rica (1998)
Orange River, South Africa (1999) and
Futaleufu River, Chile (2000)
Gauley River in West Virginia, USA (2001)
Vlatava River in Czech Republic (2003)
Quijos River in Ecuador (2005)
Naerinchon River in South Korea (2007)
Vrbas and Tara Rivers in Bosnia & Herzegovina (2009)
Zoetermeer Artificial Whitewater Course, Netherlands (2010)
Costa Rica, Pacuare River (2011)
Ceske Budejovice artificial white water and Vltava River (2012)
Rotorua, New Zealand (2013)
Foz do Iguaçu, Brasil (2014),
Citarik River, Indonesia (2015)
Wadi Adventure, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates (2016)
Koboke section of Yoshino River, Japan (2017)
Aluminé River, Argentina (2018)
Tully River, Australia (2019)
Vrbas and Tara Rivers, Bosnia-Herzegovina (2022)