

WWCC Rafting Procedures

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Skills Required of Club Raft Leaders

This section outlines the key skills required for a Club member to consider themselves a Club Raft Leader, for a particular grade of river.

Grade 2

1. Driving the raft
 - a) Entering and leaving eddies, and;
 - b) Ferry glides, and;
 - c) Maintaining coherence in the raft paddling team, and;
 - d) Reading the river and choosing appropriate positions, lines and angles, and;
 - e) Communicate clearly and effectively with raft paddlers, and;

- f) Avoid raft wraps and entrapments, and;
- g) Maintain appropriate contact with and safety cover for the river group, and;
- 2. Safety and Rescue
 - a) Move confidently and safely in and around the river, and;
 - b) Transport rafts safely, and;
 - c) Recognise river hazards, and;
 - d) Delivering an effective safety briefing, and;
 - e) Pulling individual swimmers back onto the raft, and;
 - f) Throw bagging an individual swimmer from the raft, and;
 - g) Be aware of other river users and understand the dangers rafts pose to kayakers, and;
 - h) Communication and river signals, and;
 - i) Retrieve multiple swimmers using appropriate methods in a safe timeframe, and;
 - j) Recover a flipped raft and retrieve all raft paddlers and equipment in a timely manner, and;
- 3. Repairs and maintenance
 - a) Check the raft for safety before the trip leaves, and;
 - b) Perform small leak repairs on the side of the river.

Grade 3

- 1. Perform all grade 2 skills on grade 3 water, and;
- 2. Driving the raft
 - a) Scout Rapids and make decisions about running or portaging based on the river conditions and raft paddlers' ability, and;
 - b) Reverse ferry glides, and;
 - c) Solo guide a raft down a grade 3 rapid, and;
- 3. Safety and Rescue
 - a) Recover a wrapped raft on grade 3 rapids, and;
 - b) Understand and use appropriate mechanical advantage and rope systems, and;
 - c) Swim effectively and safely in grade 3 rapids, and;
 - d) Rescue trapped swimmers, and;
 - e) Perform tethered swimmer rescues, and;
 - f) Portage a raft and rafters safely around a rapid, and;
- 4. Repairs and maintenance
 - a) Repair large holes or tears in the raft, and
 - b) Repair or replace broken grab, bow or stern lines.

Grade 4

The club does not allow the rafts to be used on Grade 4.

Skills and assessment of Club Raft Leaders

Club members can become a Club Raft Leaders by assessing their skills against the required skills listed in these procedures and confirming their assessment to the committee. The process for this is for the club member to complete a Club Raft Leader Self Assessment Form.

Recognition of Skills and Experience

A member may self assess their rafting skills and experience for the grade of river they are applying for by providing:

1. Evidence of recent and relevant experience,
or
2. A reference from a currently active commercial rafting guide of the same qualification level that pertains to the river grade being applied

Developing Skills and Capability of Club Raft Leaders

Club Raft Leaders must take personal responsibility for their ongoing competence to continue to be a Club Raft Leader.

This can be achieved by:

1. Providing evidence of undertaking sufficient rafting at the appropriate level to maintain skills (log book);
or
2. If insufficient rafting has been undertaken, attending a club skills development weekend;
or
3. Working as a commercial raft guide at an appropriate level.

A yearly confirmation of self assessment will be required by the committee as part of the membership renewal process.

Trip Equipment Required

Refer to the River Trip Code of Good Practice.

Rafter Requirements - All Trips

Grade 2

To participate as a rafter on Grade 2 rivers, rafters must have the following skills, which are to be checked by the trip leader and Club Raft Leader prior to departing:

1. Basic swimming ability, and the ability to share responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others on the raft, or;
2. Be accompanied by a person responsible for the safety of the rafter and;
3. Be confident in the water, and;
4. Be suitably fit.

Grade 3

To participate as a rafter on Grade 3 rivers, rafters must have the following skills and experience, which are to be checked by the trip leader and/or Club Raft Leader prior to departing:

1. Demonstrate an ability to swim confidently in Grade 2 water, and the ability to share responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others on the raft, or;
2. Be accompanied by a person responsible for the safety of the rafter, and;
3. Be suitably fit.

Grade 4

The club does not allow the rafts to be used on Grade 4.

Trip Requirements – All Trips

All trips that incorporate a raft must, in addition to the River Trip Code of Good Practice, ensure the following:

All Grades of River

1. All club rafts are guided by a Club Raft Leader who is competent at the appropriate level.
2. All rafts shall be fit-for-purpose for the trip being undertaken and shall be in good condition. Good condition means, at a minimum:
 - a. Being able to maintain air pressure.
 - b. Having grab lines around the entire perimeter of a raft that are tight and do not create an entrapment hazard.
 - c. Having D-rings that are securely adhered to the raft to allow for rescues.
 - d. Having bow and stern lines at least 10m long.
3. Each club raft must carry a minimum of the following equipment:
 - a. Throw rope, and;
 - b. 2 spare paddles or oars, and;
 - c. First aid kit.
4. Each trip must carry a minimum of the following equipment:
 - a. Repair kit for all fabric types on the trip, and;
 - b. Pump, and;
 - c. Rescue equipment sufficient to rescue a trapped raft on the river being paddled.
5. Rafters must receive a safety briefing from their Club Raft Leader or a group safety briefing from a Trip Leader at the put in.

Grade 2

1. Comply with the river trip code of good practice, and;
2. Single raft trips must have a safety kayaker, and;
3. Another person on the trip must be suitably skilled and experienced to guide the raft if the raft leader is incapacitated, and;
4. Rafts may not carry more rafters than that recommended by the manufacturer.

Grade 3

1. As for Grade 2, and;
2. Each raft must have one safety kayaker, with a minimum of 2 safety kayakers per trip.
3. Refer to River Trip Code of Good Practice for rules about the use of club rafts and trips for Grade 3 rivers.

Access to the rafts and hireage

For a club member to have access to the club rafts they must complete a Raft Trip Plan Form and email this to the committee.

A contribution or hireage rate of \$50 a day is required for the use of the club raft. This is to contribute to general wear and tear and upkeep of the rafts and equipment.

The oar frame and oars can be hired separately at a rate of \$50 per weekend.