



International Rafting Federation

GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION AWARD SCHEME

First written Augrabies workshop, August 1999
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Levels: The following levels are recognised:

- i) Trainee Guide
- ii) Raft Guide
- iii) Trip Leader
- iv) Instructor
- v) Assessor

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

General:

Guides must:

- be at least 18 years old, trainee guides must be at least 16 years old;
- be able to swim;
- hold a current Red Cross first aid certificate (FAC) or equivalent with cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR); It is recommended that Trip Leaders working in remote areas 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. *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:

Guide trainees 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.

Trip Leaders must have a high level of guide skills and knowledge (as listed above) as well as have a thorough knowledge of trip planning, whitewater rescue techniques, emergency procedures and advanced first aid.

Renewal: bi-annual renewal of certification requires proof that the requirements listed below 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 commercial experience	Assessment	Minimum requirement for renewal after two years
IRF Trainee Guide	Stadium (TGS)	Competently guide a raft in a safety conscious manner on artificial whitewater courses with an RG in the raft	GTP that complies with IRF requirements	None	Demonstrate required competencies during GTP + theory exam	N/A
	River (TGR)	Competently guide a raft in a safety conscious manner on rivers up to class 2 an RG2 or higher in the raft				
IRF Raft Guide	Stadium (RGS)	Competently guide a raft in a safety conscious manner on an artificial whitewater course	TGS	10 runs or 20 hours with an RG in the raft	Demonstrate required competencies	Guided 10 runs
	Class 2 (RG2)	Competently guide a raft in a safety conscious manner on rivers up to class 2	TGR	10 runs or 20 hours with an RG2 or higher in the raft		Guided 10 runs on rivers up to class 2
	Class 3 (RG3)	Competently guide a raft in a safety conscious manner on rivers up to class 3	TGR	30 runs or 60 hours on rivers Class 3 or above with an RG3 or higher in the raft		Guided 10 runs on rivers up to class 3
	Class 4/5 (RG4/5)	Competently guide a raft in a safety conscious manner on rivers above class 3	TGR	30 runs or 60 hours on rivers above Class 3 with an RG4/5 or higher in the raft		Guided 10 runs on rivers above class 3
IRF Trip Leader	Class 2 (TL2)	Competently lead rafting trips in a safety conscious manner on rivers up to class 2	RG2 + 3 training trips under the supervision of a TL2 or higher	50 runs or 100 hours on rivers Class 3 or above	Demonstrate required competencies + theory exam +	Guided 20 runs on rivers up to Class 2, at least 10 as TL

	Class 3 (TL3)	Competently lead rafting trips in a safety conscious manner on rivers up to class 3	RG3 + 3 training trips under the supervision of a TL3 or higher	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
	Class 4/5 (TL4/5)	Competently lead rafting trips in a safety conscious manner on rivers above class 3	RG4/5 + 3 training trips under the supervision of a TL4/5 or higher	200 runs or 400 hours on rivers above Class 3		Guided 20 runs on rivers above Class 3, at least 10 as TL
IRF Instructor	Class 3 (I3)	a. train candidates to G3 standard b. assess candidates up to G3 and TL3	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
	Class 4/5 (I4/5)	a. train candidates to G4/5 standard b. assess candidates up to G4/5 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

GTP – Guide Training Program. A GTP may be provided in a structured course and/or on the job training.