



International Rafting Federation

GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION INLINE-RAFT AWARD SCHEME

First written Augrabies workshop, August 1999
Reviewed April 2005
Reviewed May 2007
Reviewed May 2009

Levels: The following levels are recognised:

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| <i>Inline-Raft</i> |
| I) Inline-Raft Trainee Guide |
| ii) Inline-Raft Guide |
| iii) Inline-Raft Trip Leader |
| iV) Committee Assigned 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:

Inline-Raft: inflatable whitewater craft, with 1, 2 or 3 person seated inline. (croc, ducky, whitewater-canoe, outsider, inflatable kayak, inline miniraft, etc...) On commercial trips, inline-rafts not necessarily have Inline-Raft Guides on board; they can operate from different crafts covering multiple inline-rafts at the same time.

Inline-Raft Trainee Guides must complete a **Guide Training Program (GTP)** that equips them with the necessary skills and knowledge to competently guide an inline 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.

Inline-Raft Guide must have the skills and knowledge to competently guide an inline-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.

Inline-Raft Trip Leader must have a high level of Inline-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 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 |
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| IRF Inline-Raft Trainee Guide | Stadium (iTGS) | On artificial whitewater courses w/ iRG in raft | GTP that complies with IRF requirements | None | Demonstrate required competencies during GTP + theory exam | N/A |
| | River (iTGR) | On rivers up to class 2 w/ iRG2 or higher in raft | | | | |
| IRF Inline-Raft Guide | Stadium (iRGS) | On artificial whitewater courses | iTGS + 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/ (iRG2) | On rivers up to class 2 | iTGR + 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/ (iRG3) | On rivers up to class 3 | iTGR + 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 |
| IRF Inline-Raft Trip Leader | Class 2 /grade 2/ (iTL2) | On rivers up to class 2 | iRG2 + 3 training trips under the supervision of a iTL2 or higher + Advanced 1st 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) 1st Aid Certificate |
| | Class 3 /grade 3/ (iTL3) | On rivers up to class 3 | iRG3 + 3 training trips under the supervision of a iTL3 or higher + Advanced 1st 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) 1st Aid Certificate |

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| IRF Raft Instructor | Class 3 /grade 3/ (R13) | 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/ (R14/5) | 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 | | |

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| 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.