



Outdoor Council of Australia

National
Outdoor
Leaders
Registration
Scheme

RAFTING REGISTRATION LEVELS AND ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

NOLRS VERSION 2.2

October 2009

Outdoor Council of Australia

Ph: (08) 9248 6677 1800 660 540 Fax: (08) 9248 5799

Email: nolrs@outdoorcouncil.asn.au

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Introduction

This document contains information on the minimum skills required to achieve Registration within the National Outdoor Leader Registration Scheme (NOLRS) at specific levels within the activity of RAFTING.

Additional documents are available at www.outdoorcouncil.asn.au that provides information about the Scheme and the registration process includes:

- **NOLRS Registration Guide** - information about the registration requirements and process
- **NOLRS Re-registration Guide** - information about the re-registration requirements and process
- **Application for Registration**
- **Application for Subsequent Registration**
- **Application for Re-registration**
- **NOLRS Partnered Assessment Providers** - a guide for organisations that conduct assessment of outdoor leaders, detailing how to have their course outcomes recognised as equivalent to the skill and knowledge requirements of the NOLRS.

What is RAFTING?

The activity of rafting is described as the navigation of moving on water, often white water courses (typically rivers) by paddling inflatable craft including one-, two- or multi-person craft.

This Standard is not intended to be applied to “raft-building activities.”

Registration Levels and Description

RAFTING registration levels apply to Guides and Instructors who conduct RAFTING activities on grade 3 and 4 rapids

The following registration levels are available within the NOLRS within the activity of RAFTING -

- Rafting Guide
- Rafting Instructor

RAFTING Guide:

A person designated as a RAFTING Guide has the skills, knowledge and experience to work autonomously within a closely defined range of skilled operations involving known routines, methods and procedures, where a small amount of discretion and judgement is required in the selection of equipment, services or contingency measures. This person may conduct activities independently only within clearly defined contexts where there are clearly defined Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and relevant documented guidelines for the activity, they are familiar with those SOPs, and where assistance is readily available should a non-routine situation arise.

A RAFTING Guide leads or guides dependent participants in RAFTING activities. There is no intention of imparting skills or knowledge to participants beyond that which is necessary to enable their safe participation in the RAFTING activity. At the end of a session or program with a Guide, the intent is not for the participant to have acquired the skills to independently participate in the activity

A RAFTING Guide may conduct activities only at sites which have documentation that defines the key safety features and risk management procedures for the activity. *They may only work at sites that have rapids up to Grade 3*

A RAFTING Guide does not have the ability to adequately assess the suitability of a new facility / site and its characteristics or to independently develop procedures for the conduct of RAFTING activities. They may work as an assistant with a more experienced leader in potentially non-routine or more complex activities and programs.

A RAFTING Guide has the knowledge, skills and experience that enable them to:

- Plan for minimal environmental impact
- Undertake risk analysis of activities
- Interpret weather forecasts
- Guide outdoor recreation sessions
- Follow defined Occupational Health and Safety policy and procedures
- Facilitate groups and deal with conflict
- Respond to emergency situations
- Apply rafting skills on grade 3 rapids
- Perform deep water rescues
- Guide participants on raft trips
- Perform white water rescues and recoveries
- Apply self rescue skills in white water

RAFTING Instructor:

A person designated as a RAFTING Instructor facilitates skill transfer or development to participants in order that they may independently RAFTING. This requires the instructor to be able to transfer required skills and knowledge, apply a variety of appropriate instructional strategies, and assess a participant's skill and knowledge acquisition during and at the end of a program or session. *RAFTING Instructors may only work at sites which have rapids up to grade 4*

A RAFTING Instructor has the knowledge, skills and experience of a RAFTING Guide as well as additional skills and experience in training and assessment. A person at this level of competence may instruct participants to enable them to:

- Instruct rafting skills
- Train small groups
- Co ordinate, manage and guide white water rafting trips

RAFTING Skill, Knowledge and Experience Requirements

RAFTING Guide:

Critical aspects of a RAFTING Guide experience, knowledge and skills include the following knowledge and skills:

- Application of risk analysis principles in a rafting context
- Maintenance of a participant's physical and emotional safety during RAFTING sessions in a diversity of situations (eg, different participant groups, different learning outcomes)
- Ability to plan, guide and evaluate rafting sessions at a number of different locations to suit available resources, environmental limitations and different types of participant groups with differing needs and activity aims
- Establish and maintain positive group dynamics
- Ability to select, establish and maintain a temporary or overnight site
- Raft designs, material and construction types and repair techniques to maintain equipment in operational order
- Selection and use of rafting equipment to determine suitable equipment for specific participant groups
- Selection and use of rescue equipment for retrieval of any persons or equipment
- Knots used to secure raft and perform rescues for maximum strength and safety
- Hydrology and river features to determine hazards
- Defensive and aggressive swimming techniques for self and to advise to participants
- Medical problems commonly encountered whilst rafting in order to treat and conditions encountered
- Local conditions and effect of changes in gradient and volume on water dynamics to determine safe operating conditions
- International river grading system to describe conditions to other rafts
- Effect of river levels and dam feed releases (top or bottom)
- Marines services Board Code of Practice to operate within acknowledged safe practices
- Other legislative requirements (National Parks, Forestry, DEC, Occupational Health and Safety) in order to conform with legislation
- Minimum impact code to care and protect the environment
- Signalling techniques in order to communicate whilst on the river
- Location specific knowledge to be able to provide a safe and informative route
- Defensive and aggressive swimming to use if parted from raft

- First aid skills appropriate to the location and level of responsibility
- Communication skills in dealing with participants
- Skills to safely handle the raft
- Ability to read a river to determine safe lines and routes through the rapids
- Participant handling skills to handle any conflict while on the trip
- Throwbag skills to recover a swimmer

In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of guiding a minimum of four (4) RAFTING sessions (minimum of three hours per session) in the past twelve (12) months. In addition, evidence must be supplied of 'in-house' or external aquatic rescue training within the past 12 months, or participation in aquatic rescue of 'real' participants.

Newly trained outdoor leaders require verifiable evidence of guiding a minimum of six (6) RAFTING sessions (minimum of three hours per session) at least two (2) different locations.

RAFTING Instructor:

Critical Aspects of a RAFTING Instructor skills and knowledge include those of a RAFTING Guide **PLUS** the following:

- Apply knowledge of hydrology to manoeuvre the raft
- Consistently negotiate rapids with adequate control, i.e. without flipping, wrapping and side- ons.
- Perform strokes effectively and efficiently on fast currents and rapids
- Rescue competencies to effectively deal with emergencies whilst instructing rafting
- Instructional techniques to adapt sessions to meet a variety of learning abilities
- Rafting skills to demonstrate and correct technique
- River reading skills to select appropriate site and aid in hazard identification
- Activity location and it's suitability for the conduct of the instructional session
- Industry guidelines, codes of practice, recommended staff/participant ratio's
- Relevant legislation impacting upon the instruction or conduct of rafting
 - land and water management authorities
 - occupational health and safety
 - local government
- Theories of instruction applicable to a range of ages and learning abilities
- Participant abilities and needs, in order to adapt the instructional session
- Safety procedures during the conduct or instruction of rafting skills

Ability to demonstrate and / or teach the following:

- Inform participants of locations , suitable to their skill level, for participating in rafting
- Provide information relevant to the competencies being taught, on the range of equipment and clothing available or required, and factors affecting choice
- Inform participants of opportunities to further develop their personal skills and knowledge.

In order to demonstrate currency, an applicant seeking registration must have verifiable evidence of instructing or guiding a minimum of four (4) RAFTING sessions (minimum of three hours per session; at least three sessions must be instructing) in the past twelve (12) months. In addition, evidence must be supplied of 'in-house' or external aquatic rescue training within the past 12 months, or participation in aquatic rescue of 'real' participants.

Newly trained outdoor leaders require verifiable evidence of instructing or guiding a minimum of six (6) RAFTING sessions (minimum of three (3) hours per session; at least three (3) sessions must be instructing) at different locations.