



Pandani Adventures 

ABN 99 662 576 614

# WHITE WATER GUIDE ACCREDITATION PROGRAM



## AUTHORISATION

<b>AUTHORISED BY</b>	Wade Wilson <b>Managing Director</b>
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## AMENDMENT HISTORY AND DOCUMENT CONTRIBUTORS

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	CHANGES
1.0	Nov 2022	Wade Wilson	First version finalised.
1.1	Jun 2023	Wade Wilson	Adapted for conciseness, simplified introductory competence standard, updated formatting and style

## TAXONOMY

Training // White Water Guide Accreditation Program

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## CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Compliance and accreditation	1
Introductory competence standard	1
River guide competence standard	5
References	8

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PURPOSE

This document is designed to outline Pandani Adventure’s (PA) white water guide accreditation program.

The purpose of the program is to ensure PA white water guides are competent, compliant, and safe guides before engaging in activities – regardless of qualifications and experience.

### 1.2 DEVELOPMENT METHODOLOGY

This program is informed by the following qualifications under the Australian Qualifications Framework:

1. SISORSC004 Self-rescue in white water
2. SISORSC005 Rescue others in white water
3. SISORAF002 Guide a raft on grade 3 rivers

Modifications and additions are made where appropriate, informed by the experience of senior PA staff and industry best practice.

## 2. COMPLIANCE AND ACCREDITATION

### 2.1 COMPLIANCE

White water guides must be assessed as competent before they are authorised to undertake the duties of the level they are accredited to.

### 2.2 ACCREDITATION PROTOCOL

Guides must be assessed as competent by a guiding development officer (GDO) using the matrices provided in this document. Assessment documents are available to GDOs.

Accreditation assessments must be held in a context appropriate for that level:

- Introductory competence standard – must be a structured assessment session without clients present
- White water guide standard – may be conducted concurrently with work on standard commercial activities

## 3. INTRODUCTORY COMPETENCE STANDARD

### 3.1 OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The introductory competence standard is the minimum standard required for a guide to participate in any river activities (excluding basic training). This level is intended for new or junior guides.

Accreditation at this level permits guides to:

- Engage in training and professional development beyond the introductory competence standard
- Assist white water guides in guiding activities

### 3.2 SELF-RESCUE IN WHITE WATER

ELEMENTS	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
<p><b>1. Manoeuvre self in white water.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess danger of situation and identify hazards.</li> <li>2. Use defensive and aggressive swimming techniques as appropriate to navigate river, avoid hazards, and minimise risk of injury.</li> <li>3. Time breathing appropriately.</li> <li>4. Identify safe zones such as eddies.</li> <li>5. Use eddies and currents to reach safe zones and shore.</li> <li>6. Use direction provided by others to reach shore or rescue craft.</li> <li>7. Receive throw bags and position self appropriately.</li> </ol>

<p><b>2. Wade in white water.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify safe locations to wade in moving water.</li> <li>2. Wade across rivers at mid-thigh depth using physical aids (e.g., paddles) where appropriate.</li> </ol>
<p><b>3. Re-enter craft.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Re-enter craft using technique appropriate to type of craft.</li> <li>2. Utilise techniques that are effective when fatigued.</li> <li>3. Request assistance for craft re-entry as required.</li> </ol>
<p><b>4. Provide first aid to self.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Rapidly assess self for life-threatening injuries.</li> <li>2. Rapidly treat life-threatening injuries.</li> </ol>

### 3.3 UNDERTAKE SIMPLE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

ELEMENTS	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
<p><b>1. Identify emergency and initiate appropriate response.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify type of emergency (e.g., rescue, medical, or other).</li> <li>2. Communicate emergency to other guides via appropriate means (e.g., paddle signals, hand signals, whistle, radio).</li> <li>3. Ensure safety of other participants and bystanders before initiating response.</li> </ol>
<p><b>2. Execute basic rescues.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify immediate hazards and assess risk of situation.</li> <li>2. Provide clear and concise instructions to person being rescued and others assisting.</li> <li>3. Rescue a swimmer in white water using watercraft.</li> <li>4. Rescue a swimmer in white water using throw bags.</li> <li>5. Retrieve persons and equipment using watercraft.</li> </ol>
<p><b>3. Provide basic first aid.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess participants for life threatening medical emergencies or injuries.</li> <li>2. Treat participants for life threatening conditions, including                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Life threatening bleeding</li> <li>b. Life threatening chest injuries</li> <li>c. Life threatening hypothermia and hyperthermia</li> <li>d. Head and spinal injuries</li> <li>e. Asthma and anaphylaxis</li> <li>f. Diabetic hypoglycaemia</li> <li>g. Heart attack</li> <li>h. Choking</li> <li>i. Unconsciousness and cardiac arrest.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><b>4. Appropriately activate emergency resources.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess acuity of emergency and determine appropriate response.</li> <li>2. Activate emergency services as appropriate.</li> </ol>

### 3.4 ASSIST IN WHITE WATER GUIDING

ELEMENTS	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
<p><b>1. Prepare for the rafting activity.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Select clothing, footwear, personal protective, rescue, and other equipment, and check for safe working condition.</li> <li>2. Prepare craft and complete safety and serviceability checks, including pressure checks on inflation.</li> <li>3. Fit and adjust personal protective equipment to ensure comfort and safety.</li> <li>4. Understand the requirement for a safety brief for all participants.</li> </ol>
<p><b>2. Manoeuvre watercraft.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify basic hydrological features from the water and utilise favourably to control and manoeuvre watercraft.</li> <li>2. Control direction of watercraft forward, in reverse and sideways using a range of appropriate strokes and combinations.</li> <li>3. Utilise appropriate padding strokes and techniques to enter eddies.</li> <li>4. Maintain visual contact and effective communication with participants, other rafts, and guides in party throughout all activities.</li> </ol>
<p><b>3. Perform swimmer and capsize recoveries.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assist participants back into raft.</li> <li>2. Recover capsized watercraft using techniques to re-establish upright raft.</li> <li>3. Manage capsize response of participants and take actions appropriate to situation.</li> </ol>
<p><b>4. Land and secure watercraft.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land and disembark watercraft using techniques suitable for river conditions and participant abilities.</li> <li>2. Select a secure bank feature and secure watercraft using appropriate knots.</li> </ol>

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## 4. WHITE WATER GUIDE STANDARD

### 4.1 OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The white water guide competence standard is the standard required for all independent white water guides. This level is intended for current professional guides.

Accreditation at this level permits guides to:

- Guide on white water without supervision up to grade 3
- Lead white water activities up to grade 3

### 4.2 SELF-RESCUE IN WHITE WATER<sup>1</sup>

ELEMENTS	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
<p><b>1. Manoeuvre self in moving water.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess situation, identify immediate hazards and risks, and promptly determine best action.</li> <li>2. Set and maintain a ferry angle to balance swimming against current.</li> <li>3. Use appropriate body position and defensive swimming techniques to negotiate moving water and river hazards.</li> <li>4. Use appropriate body position and aggressive swimming techniques to negotiate moving water and to free self from river hazards.</li> <li>5. Transition between defensive and aggressive swimming and maintain body position that avoids foot entrapment.</li> <li>6. Break in and out of eddies and cross a current to reach shore.</li> <li>7. Use direction and support aids provided by others to reach shore or rescue craft.</li> </ol>
<p><b>2. Wade in moving water.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify safe river location to Wade.</li> <li>2. Wade across rivers at mid-thigh depth and negotiate swift currents when present.</li> <li>3. Use direction and support aids provided by others to reach shore.</li> </ol>
<p><b>3. Re-enter craft.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Select a method of re-entry according to physical ability, type of craft, and situation.</li> <li>2. Re-enter craft with and without assistance.</li> </ol>
<p><b>4. Provide first aid to self.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Rapidly assess self for life-threatening injuries.</li> <li>4. Rapidly treat life-threatening injuries.</li> </ol>

### 4.3 RESCUE OTHERS IN WHITE WATER<sup>2</sup>

ELEMENTS	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
<p><b>1. Determine rescue requirements and prepare for rescue.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess situation, identify hazards promptly, assess risks and manage to avoid injury to self and others.</li> <li>2. Select and use other leaders or party members, equipment, and rescue techniques appropriate to situation.</li> <li>3. Implement rescue operations according to organisational policies and procedures for emergency response.</li> </ol>

<p><b>2. Rescue others from moving water.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify immediate hazards, assess risks, and negotiate throughout rescue to avoid injury to self and others.</li> <li>2. Provide clear and concise instructions to person being rescued and others assisting.</li> <li>3. Rescue a swimmer in moving water using reach techniques.</li> <li>4. Utilise throw resources to reach a swimmer in moving water.</li> <li>5. Release entrapped person, utilising methods suitable for situation.</li> <li>6. Use safe contact methods, using craft, to rescue and transport a swimmer.</li> <li>7. Provide both tethered and supported tows to nearest safe landing.</li> <li>8. Select and use equipment and methods appropriate to situation to retrieve abandoned craft and equipment.</li> </ol>
<p><b>3. Use mechanical advantage systems to recover watercraft.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Determine need for use of mechanical advantage systems.</li> <li>2. Identify and promptly establish type appropriate for the rescue or recovery situation.</li> <li>3. Verify manufacturers' recommendations, equipment limitations and safety margins; rig and use equipment accordingly.</li> <li>4. Modify system, as required, to increase efficiency and communicate system changes to others assisting.</li> </ol>
<p><b>4. Debrief and complete reports.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participate in incident management debrief and identify future response improvements.</li> <li>2. Complete required incident reports according to organisational procedures.</li> </ol>

**4.4 GUIDE PARTICIPANTS ON GRADE 3 RIVERS<sup>3</sup>**

ELEMENTS	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
<p><b>1. Prepare for the rafting activity.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Select clothing, footwear, personal protective, rescue, and other equipment suitable for the trip conditions, and check for safe working condition.</li> <li>6. Prepare craft and complete safety and serviceability checks, including pressure checks on inflation.</li> <li>7. Waterproof, pack and stow clothing, personal resources, and food according to access requirements during trip.</li> <li>8. Interpret planned course from activity plans and maps to assist in following the course.</li> <li>9. Confirm activity safety and emergency response procedures to ensure compliance during activities.</li> <li>10. Confirm protocols for communications between team members.</li> <li>11. Fit and adjust personal protective equipment to ensure comfort and safety.</li> </ol>

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<p><b>2. Launch watercraft and complete participant drill.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Select launch site according to river conditions and participant abilities.</li> <li>2. Board participants in seating positions appropriate to their paddling, swimming, and physical abilities.</li> <li>3. Launch raft using technique suitable for river conditions and participant abilities.</li> <li>4. Inform participants of guide commands and strokes to be used.</li> <li>5. Demonstrate and explain correct stroke technique, and engage participants in practice.</li> <li>6. Check and confirm participant stroke abilities and understanding of communication protocols.</li> </ol>
<p><b>3. Manoeuvre watercraft on grade 3 rivers.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Identify hydrological features from the water and utilise favourably to control and manoeuvre raft.</li> <li>6. Control direction of raft forward, in reverse and sideways using a range of appropriate strokes and combinations.</li> <li>7. Maintain appropriate posture, use of trunk rotation, paddle, and blade to efficiently paddle the raft.</li> <li>8. Utilise appropriate padding strokes and techniques to cross currents and break into and out of eddies.</li> <li>9. Avoid or negotiate obstacles and hazards using a combination of strokes, paddling techniques and weight shifts.</li> <li>10. Maintain control over participant paddling, providing prompt and clear commands.</li> <li>11. Maintain visual contact and effective communication with participants, other rafts, and guides in party throughout all activities.</li> <li>12. Monitor party formation, paddling pace, and space between rafts and make required adjustments.</li> </ol>
<p><b>4. Plan and run routes through grade 3 rapids.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scout rapids from the water and shore to identify hydrological features, hazards, and impediments.</li> <li>2. Assess features and hazards to determine a safe route through rapids.</li> <li>3. Plan route through rapids accounting for participant abilities; communicate route, strokes, and manoeuvres.</li> <li>4. Identify reference points to guide chosen passage through rapids.</li> <li>5. Run predetermined route using avoidance techniques and commands to safely negotiate river hazards.</li> <li>6. Use efficient paddling techniques and strokes and utilise hydrological features to assist in turning and crossing currents.</li> </ol>

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<p><b>5. Perform swimmer and capsized recoveries.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Assist ejected participants in moving water using reach techniques and assist to re-enter raft.</li> <li>5. Rescue self in water, maintaining position upstream of raft, retrieve paddle and re-enter craft.</li> <li>6. Promptly reach and recover capsized raft using techniques to re-establish upright raft.</li> <li>7. Manage capsized response of participants and take actions appropriate to situation.</li> </ol>
<p><b>6. Land and secure watercraft.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Select a suitable location to exit the river, and to allow for any subsequent re-entries.</li> <li>4. Land and disembark raft using techniques suitable for river conditions and participant abilities.</li> <li>5. Select a secure bank feature and secure raft using appropriate knots.</li> <li>6. Secure raft for road transport, on activity conclusion, using suitable methods.</li> </ol>

## 5. REFERENCES

1. <https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/SISORSC004>
2. <https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/SISORSC005>
3. <https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/SISORAF002>