

Title	Demonstrate knowledge of and apply introductory riverboard guiding skills		
Level	4	Credits	10

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to: demonstrate knowledge of the New Zealand riverboarding industry and professional riverboard guiding practice; demonstrate knowledge of riverboarding equipment and its use in a riverboarding context; demonstrate knowledge of river hydrology, hazards and river features for introductory riverboard guiding; prepare to guide a riverboard trip on a Grade 2 river; demonstrate riverboard guiding techniques for Grade 2 river trips; guide participants on Grade 2 riverboard trips.
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Classification	Outdoor Recreation > Rafting
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Available grade	Achieved
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Guidance Information

- 1 All learning and assessment against this standard must be carried out in accordance with the following:
 - relevant legislation including Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, Human Rights Act 1993, Children's Act 2014, Health and Safety at Work (Adventure Activities) Regulations 2016, and subsequent amendments;
 - industry Codes of Conduct, such as the Mountain Safety Council Land Safety Code available from [NZ Land Safety Code — NZMSC \(mountainsafety.org.nz\)](https://www.mountain-safety.org.nz/), 'Leave No Trace' principles available from https://leavenotrace.org.nz, Department of Conservation Water Care Code available from <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/things-to-do/boating/water-responsibility/>;
 - a recognised and approved Safety Management System (SMS) including organisational policies and procedures, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), incident response management plans and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);
 - current industry good practice.
- 2 Classification of river grading systems as stated in the WorkSafe NZ June 2020, Good Practice Guideline, *White Water Rafting: Guidance for Commercial Rafting Operators*, available from <https://worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/adventure-activities/white-water-rafting/> Section 3.0. Managing risk: the river environment.

Grade 2 rapids

Characteristics

- have regular medium-sized waves of less than a metre,
- low ledges or drops, easy eddies, and gradual bends, and
- a passage that is easy to recognise, and generally unobstructed, although there may be rocks in the main current, overhanging branches or log jams.

3 Definitions

Current industry good practice means the range of actions currently accepted within the adventure and outdoor sector (which includes the raft and riverboard industries) to manage the risk of harm to staff, participants, and visitors.

Pod is the term used for one group of riverboarders.

River hydrology includes the study of the how river water moves in relation to the land, river volume and the flow rate. This can also be referred to as river dynamics.

4 Evidence towards performance criterion 6.5 can be collected under simulated conditions.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Demonstrate knowledge of the New Zealand riverboarding industry and professional riverboard guiding practice.

Performance criteria

1.1 Describe the roles of organisations involved in riverboarding in New Zealand in terms of rules and safety guidelines.

Range qualification provider, national member organisation, WorkSafe, auditing bodies.

1.2 Demonstrate respect for the environment through the personal application of environmentally sustainable practices.

Range Leave No Trace, Water Care Code.

1.3 Demonstrate etiquette and actions supporting positive interaction with other river users.

Range other users may include but are not limited to – anglers, landowners, kayakers, powered craft, swimmers, rafters, riverboarders.

Outcome 2

Demonstrate knowledge of riverboarding equipment and its use in a riverboarding context.

Performance criteria

- 2.1 Describe the different types of riverboard, the conditions they are best suited to, and their limitations.
- Range conditions include but are not limited to – types of river, client needs and ability, client height/weight ratio.
- 2.2 Identify a guide's personal equipment for a riverboard trip and describe its use.
- Range personal equipment includes – helmet, Personal Floatation Device (PFD), fins, knife, throw bag, karabiners, slings, Prusik cord, whistle, suitable wetsuit, quick release belt.
- 2.3 Identify types of rope and describe their uses and application in a riverboarding context.
- Range throw bag rope, Prusik cord, slings.
- 2.4 Demonstrate riverboard care and maintenance.
- Range gear retirement, transportation, storage.

Outcome 3

Demonstrate knowledge of river hydrology, hazards and features for introductory riverboard guiding.

Performance criteria

- 3.1 Describe the nature of sections of rivers in New Zealand commonly used for riverboarding.
- Range nature may include – braided, single channel, gorged, pool drop, continuous.
- 3.2 Describe river hydrology.
- Range eddies, boils, eddy lines, waves, reversals, seams, cushions (buffer, pillow), helical and laminar flow, volume.
- 3.3 Identify river hazards and describe the danger they present to the river user.
- Range strainers, undercuts, reversals, sieves, eddy lines or seams, flooded rivers, mid-stream boulders.
- 3.4 Describe the river grading system used for riverboarding in New Zealand.
- Range nature of water at each grade, degree of danger and/or difficulty at each grade.

Outcome 4

Prepare to guide a riverboard trip on a Grade 2 river.

Performance criteria

- 4.1 Describe safety considerations for a selected riverboarding trip on a Grade 2 river.
- Range river section information, emergency exits and response, communication equipment, intentions and estimated times.
- 4.2 Interpret weather and river flow information for a selected riverboard trip and adjust trip plans as required.
- Range includes but is not limited to – effect on catchment areas, current river conditions and local climate.
- 4.3 Prepare equipment required for the selected riverboard trip on a Grade 2 river, taking into account the location, season, weather, participant needs.

Outcome 5

Demonstrate riverboard guiding techniques for Grade 2 river trips.

Performance criteria

- 5.1 Demonstrate riverboard control and guiding techniques.
- Range may include but is not limited to – eddy in and out, effective positioning on board, kicking, turn in deep water, turning in shallow water, duck diving, barrel rolls, board recovery.
- 5.2 Select and run safe lines through Grade 2 rapids.

Outcome 6

Guide participants on Grade 2 riverboard trips.

Performance criteria

- 6.1 Give instructions to participants that are relevant to the riverboard and trip.
- Range may include but is not limited to – introductions, medical conditions, river signals and commands, main flow, in and out of eddies using angles; hazards include – rocks (walls and/or boulders), and each other; other users.
- 6.2 Demonstrate awareness of the physical, emotional and cultural needs of participants.

- 6.3 Assess participants' ability and manage the group according to their ability, expectations and needs.
- 6.4 Demonstrate clear communication with participants to enable the safe handling of riverboards on land and water.
- 6.5 Demonstrate control of the pod in normal and emergency situations.
- Range maintain communication and work with rear/front guide.
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Planned review date	31 December 2029
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	24 September 2020	31 December 2026
Review	2	27 March 2025	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0099
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact Toi Mai Workforce Development Council qualifications@toimai.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.