# Kontiki Guidelines

## Raft Safety

1. The Raft Pioneering Safe Operating Procedures to be utilised throughout the event. Important sections include:
	1. Venturers must be able to swim 50 metres dressed in shirt, shorts, shoes and properly fitted PFD.
	2. Level 50, 100 or 150 PFDs/lifejackets must be in good condition and be the correct size for wearer
	3. Rafts are to be checked prior to launching by a leader who has completed the Rafting Pioneering Course
	4. Raft crew members will wear PFDs/lifejackets, and effective closed footwear (no thongs/sandals), *at all times* even during launch and retrieval procedures
	5. Safety boats which may include powerboats or canoes will be on hand with qualified operators
	6. Rafts will be moored prior at dusk with mooring lines and anchor lights as per boating regulations. All rafts will be moored together at a single nominated point and supervised overnight by rotating leaders.
2. National Policy & Rules (12th Edition, November 2022) includes:
	1. R12.2 Transport to, from and during the event to be done by licensed drivers in currently registered and roadworthy vehicles and trailers, all road regulations to be observed including seating, seatbelts, loading and speed.
	2. R12.4 The consumption of alcoholic beverages and other performance-affecting drugs by participants (including leaders) prior to or during an activity is prohibited.
	3. R12.8 Each person must have separate bedding
	4. R12.12 Venturer Scouts must exercise all reasonable precautions when swimming.
3. Rafts must carry:
	1. 2 mooring lines of min. 20 meters length (10mm min diameter).
	2. Waterproof torch
	3. Anchor light
4. Although first aid support is available, each raft should carry a personal first aid kit
5. Sun Smart Hats, t-shirts and closed-in shoes must be worn *at all times* (no thongs, sandals or Crocs – the riverbed is full of unpleasant surprises)

## Construction

Rafts to be constructed to a high standard as they will need to hold securely together for a minimum of 24 hours.

1. Rafts must not be larger than 4 x 4 meters and no higher than 1.8 m. Due to low bridges any structures over 1.5 m high should be collapsible or temporarily removable.
2. Rafts must be constructed to float with the deck not less than 200 mm above the water level when loaded. The deck must provide a dry sleeping platform.
3. There must be a 300mm clear deck area around the sleeping area to allow access to all sides of the raft.
4. The sleeping area should have a covered shelter (e.g., tent, tarpaulin, hutchie).
	1. If the sleeping shelter has a sewn floor, a safety rail needs to be secured around the sleeping platform, secured on all sides and at a maximum height of 250 mm above the deck.
	2. Two safety rails must be used if the sleeping shelter does not have a sewn floor. The bottom rail must be solid, a minimum of 100 mm from the deck and minimum of 20mm diameter. The top rail can be rope or solid and must be 100 mm from the bottom rail.
	3. Safety rails may be removed for paddling.
5. Suitable floatation materials include but are not limited to: barrels, noodles, PVC tubes, drums, tarps, tyre tubes (with valve stem covered). *Canoes, surfcat pontoons, kayaks and other enclosed hulls are not permitted.*
6. Consideration should be given to the amount of buoyancy that the floatation will supply (e.g., 200 L Blue plastic or metal drums with a 50% safety factor will float 100kg for each barrel used).
7. Inventiveness in flotation configuration is encouraged. (Could you build a coracle?)
8. Raft frame *must be* timber including staves, poles or bamboo.
9. Raft frames must be held together with cordage (ropes) or twine (poly or sisal).
10. *No metal permitted to hold together the frame* including ratchet straps, nails, screws, welding, or bolts.
11. Rafts must travel around 6 km each day, so thought must be given to propulsion! Oars, sails, paddle wheels? (Note: rowing a 1 ton raft 6km is very tiring.) Any paddle wheels must have a safety cover to prevent crush injury. Oiled chains or other devices using oil-based lubricants are *not* permitted close to or below the waterline. Outboard motors are not to be fitted to rafts.
12. Raft design must include 2 suitable tow points of a secured loop no larger than 100mm diameter.