

Rapid Classifications

The **International Scale of River Difficulty** is a standardized scale used to rate the safety of a stretch of river, or a single rapid, it will help you to understand and enjoy better your whitewater rafting experience.

International Scale of River Difficulty:

- **Class I** (easy):
Fast moving water with riffles and small waves. *
- **Class II** (novice):
Straightforward rapids with wide, clear channels which are evident without scouting. *
- **Class III** (intermediate):
Rapids with moderate, irregular waves which may be difficult to avoid and which can swamp an open canoe. *
- **Class IV** (advanced):
Intense and powerful but predictable rapids requiring precise boat handling in turbulent water. The rapids may feature large, unavoidable waves and holes or constricted passages demanding fast maneuvers under pressure. *
- **Class V** (expert):
Extremely long, obstructed, or very violent rapids which expose a paddler to added risk. Rapids may contain large, unavoidable waves and holes or steep, congested chutes with complex, demanding routes. Rapids may continue for long distances between pools, demanding a high level of fitness. *
- **Class VI** (extreme and exploratory):
These rapids have rarely been attempted and exemplify the extremes of difficulty, unpredictability, and danger. The consequences of errors are very severe and rescue may be impossible. *

* this is a condensed description, for full description go to :
http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Wiki/safety:start#vi._international_scale_of_river_difficulty