









International River Rating System

Black Water		
Class A: Very Easy	Pools, lakes, rivers under 2 mph; suitable for beginners.	
Class B: Moderate	Rivers flowing 2 – 4 mph; beginner with river instruction	
Class C: Challenging	Rivers flowing above 4 mph; instructed and practiced beginner.	
Whitewater		
Class I: Easy	Waves small; passages clear; no serious obstacles.	
Class II: Medium	Rapids of moderate difficulty with passages clear. Requires experience plus suitable outfit and boat.	
Class III: Difficult	Waves numerous, high, irregular; rocks; eddies; rapids with passages clear though narrow, requiring expertise in maneuvering; scouting usually needed. Requires good operator and boat.	
Class IV: Very Difficult	Long rapids; waves high, irregular; dangerous rocks; boiling eddies; best passages difficult to scout; scouting mandatory first time; powerful and precise maneuvering required. Demands expert paddler, excellent boat, quality equipment.	
Class V: Extremely Difficult	Exceedingly difficult, long, violent rapids, following each other almost without interruption; riverbed extremely obstructed; big drops; violent current; very steep gradient; close study essential but often difficult. Requires best person, boat & outfit; all possible precautions.	
Class VI Class U	Formerly classified as unrunnable by any craft. This classification has been redefined as "unraftable" due to people having recently kayaked multiple Class VI around the world. Some consider rafting on a class VI river suicidal, and only extreme luck or skill will allow success.	