

FAQ FRIDAY #1



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: I have a question about gear, can we use the climbing helmet for biking? Or vice versa?

A: As is stated in the Mandatory Gear List, each competitor needs a helmet that is designed and certified for mountain biking AND a climbing helmet that is certified by either UIAA or CE.

Q: The description on the gear list for the climbing harness says "Must incorporate a "belay loop" and be designed for rock climbing or technical mountaineering." Which of these are acceptable climbing harnesses?

[Petzl Altitude](#) - NO

[Black Diamond Couloir](#) - NO

[Black Diamond Vision](#) - YES

[Petzl Hirundos](#) - YES

Q: Are there any mandatory specifications of the machete?

A: Teams must bring a machete of at least 280g in weight and having a 12" (390mm) blade length. The blade of the machete must be completely covered in a sheath. For the whitewater rafting section, the machete must be placed inside a backpack.

Q: Are we allowed to use buck saws instead of machete's?

A: NO. Saws are allowed BUT they cannot replace the machete as mandatory gear.

Q: Will they allow the use of the [Kong Futura Ascender](#)?

A: NO

Q: Are we permitted to use any altimeter watch or will we be required to use the supplied Casio watches?

A: Eco-Challenge is providing each team with two Casio twin sensor altimeter watches. Competitors may only use this model of watch during the expedition. To be clear, competitors may not wear any other type of watch. We are enforcing this rule because it is very difficult to recognize which watches have GPS capabilities these days. As you all know, any devices with GPS capabilities are prohibited and this is our method of ensuring that teams are only wearing watches that comply with this rule.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Knife: is the blade required to lock in both the open & closed positions?

A: The blade is only required to lock in the open position.

Q: Can the rappelling gloves be open-finger?

A: YES.

Q: Can we use a Petzl Dual Connect Adjust instead of lanyards and a personal anchor?

A: YES, the Petzl Dual Connect Adjust would take the place of the personal anchor and one lanyard. Therefore, one more lanyard would still be required.

Q: Can we use the [Black Diamond Vapor Helmet](#) as a climbing helmet and a mountain bike helmet?

A: NO. As stated in the Mandatory Gear List, competitors must bring a helmet that is designed and certified for mountain biking as well as a climbing helmet. The Black Diamond Vapor is a climbing helmet and is not certified for mountain biking.

Q: Can you give examples of the steering paddle and outrigger paddles?

A: As is stated on the Mandatory Gear List, an example of a steering paddle is the [Quickblade Maunalua 26 Steering](#). As for the three paddles for those not steering, we used the [Quickblade Kanaha All Carbon Outrigger](#) when testing the course.

Q: For the skin diving is it just one team member that has to dive down?

A: Yes, only one competitor per team has to do the skin diving.

Q: We understand we are going to be using two types of outrigger canoes: one will be the Camakau and the other will be a racing canoe. Does each team get 2 two person racing canoes? Or 1 that will seat all four competitors?

A: All four competitors per team will be paddling in a single, fiberglass outrigger racing canoe.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What will be the size of the SUP board?

A: The dimensions of the SUPs will be 335 x 81 x 15.2cm (11' x 32" x 6").

Q: Will we be allocated a certain size area to set up in at each camp and if so do you know roughly what dimensions our camps will be?

A: Each team area will be at a minimum of 30x30 feet (roughly 10x10 meters). Once the TAC arrives to each camp, he/she will report to the Camp Manager and the Camp Manager will show the TAC to the allotted spaces (marked with small flags).

Q: Are there limitations on how much equipment we can have in our camp area? For example can we have bike work stands, tool boxes, work benches, tents, gazebos, etc.

A: Your 30x30 space is yours to do with what you want.

Q: What if we have camp equipment that doesn't fit within our six gear boxes?

A: If you have camp gear that does not fit within your six gear boxes, the TAC will be responsible for transporting it to the next camp in their own vehicle.

Q: If the Rubbermaid gear boxes and other equipment are not available in our country, can we order them and have them ship to the Eco-Challenge office?

A: Yes, we can handle this. Please keep in mind that all shipping costs will be deducted from your final team stipend payment. Please ship to: Competitor Relations, 1849 Centinela Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90404

Q: Is it possible to send some of our equipment directly to Fiji?

A: Yes, we have a warehouse in Fiji that you can ship to. This warehouse address will be shared soon.

Q: Will we be carrying the PFD with us or will it be staged for us at the water events?

A: YES. As was stated numerous times in the competitive newsletters. You will have to carry your PFD for long distances when trekking and mountain biking.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Will we be able to park our car next to our dedicated team camping area?

A: Your TAC vehicle will not be able to drive up to the dedicated TAC area. The camp footprint is too small to accommodate this. Posted parking area signs will be at each camp.

Q: How many camp sites will there be? Additionally, are there trees around the camp or they are generally just open areas?

A: We can't share how many camps there will be at this time. A typical camp is an open farming or livestock field with very few, if any, trees scattered around.

Q: What is the expected rental vehicle mileage for a TAC throughout the competition?

A: The TAC's should anticipate driving approximately 700 kilometers (435 miles).

