

# FAQ FRIDAY #7



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Reminder: Passports are due TODAY, July 12. Please email photographs of the passports from all five of your team members!**

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Air travel itineraries for all five members of your team are due no later than August 1. Please send the FULL FLIGHT ITINERARY that you received from the airline as opposed to simply the flight #, date and time. Ashley also sent out a form for your team to fill in your flight information.**

**Please make sure that you are reviewing ALL of the newsletters, gear lists and FAQ documents. Many of you have been asking the same questions that have already been answered many times when the answers are clear on the documents. It is EXTREMELY important for all members of your team to read and understand all of the documents and materials related to the expedition. Thanks!**

**Q: Is there an update on what food we can bring into Fiji?**

*A: Backcountry Cuisine freeze-dried meal pouches have been approved by Fiji Biosecurity. You can contact Backcountry Cuisine at:*

*Tony Caudwell  
+64 3 216 2001*

*[tony@backcountrycuisine.co.nz](mailto:tony@backcountrycuisine.co.nz)*

**Q: Is it better to buy dehydrated food from Australia or New Zealand and get it shipped directly to Fiji?**

*A: What we can say is that Fiji Biosecurity has approved the race organization's shipment of Backcountry Cuisine out of New Zealand. We suggest you contact Backcountry Cuisine directly to assist you with getting your orders into Fiji. As mentioned above, our Backcountry Cuisine contact is:*

*Tony Caudwell  
+64 3 216 2001*

*[tony@backcountrycuisine.co.nz](mailto:tony@backcountrycuisine.co.nz)*

**Q: Is the [Petzl Vertigo](#) carabiner acceptable for the expedition?**

*A: Yes.*

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: Can we buy gear containers or Rubbermaid boxes when we get to Fiji?**

**A:** *During our previous two scout visits to Fiji, we did NOT find gear boxes of the proper size in Nadi. You can do your own research, but be advised that we have not found these gear boxes in Nadi.*

**Q: Is this [multi-sport helmet](#) or this [multi-sport helmet](#) acceptable for the expedition?**

**A:** *YES. Both of these helmets are designed and certified as both a climbing helmet and a mountain bike helmet. However the Kong Scarab helmet is difficult to find since it is a discontinued model.*

**Q: Can TAC's sleep in the TAC rental vehicles at the transition areas? Or will that be prohibited?**

**A:** *TAC's can sleep in their rental vehicles at the Camps if they choose, but keep in mind that the TAC parking areas are not necessarily immediately next to the Camps.*

**Q: Can we use [foot ascenders](#) for climbing and traversing horizontal lines?**

**A:** *Yes. Not Recommended. Two handled ascenders are recommended and mandatory.*

**Q: Can our River Knife be kept in a zipped front pocket on our PFDs or does it need to hang off (on the outside) of our PFDs?**

**A:** *The River Knife must be attached to the OUTSIDE of the PFD so it can be accessed quickly if needed.*

**Q: Do we have to use outrigger paddles? Or can we purchase [this](#) paddle?**

**A:** *YES, you can use that paddle if you choose.*

**Q: Are the jersey's required to be worn over top of our PFDs? Are the jerseys required to be worn over top of the mandatory waterproof shell jacket when we put it on?**

**A:** *NO. You are not required to wear your jerseys over your PFD or your waterproof jackets.*

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: Do you have suggestion for reef safe sunscreen?**

**A: YES!** At the Pullman Resort, there will be a Fiji Market that features several vendors selling “Made in Fiji” products and reef-safe sunscreen is definitely one of those products. One product that will be available: [Dilo Up Sunscreen](#). Also, on our course-testing survey we used [Thinksport Safe Sunscreen SPF 50+](#).

**Q: Is a [merino top](#) (more than 100g) acceptable as fleece?**

**A: YES.**

**Q: What countries need to apply for Visa’s? And who should we send our applications to?**

**A: As Newsletter #2 states: There are only 3 countries that need pre-entry visas to enter Fiji:**

- COSTA RICA
- ECUADOR
- GUATEMALA

**The visa application form and checklist has been uploaded to the competitor website.**

Please note you will need to apply for pre-entry visas at least 3-4 weeks before travel and is only for entry purposes (valid for 3 months for a stay of 14 days). The work permit will be applied when the team member is in the country. **ALL VISA paperwork should be submitted to:**

Chanel Bentley

[chanel.bentley@picl.com.fj](mailto:chanel.bentley@picl.com.fj)

**Again please note this only applies to team’s from Costa Rica, Ecuador and Guatemala.** For countries that **do not need to obtain a Visa:** a valid passport for at least three months beyond the intended period of stay in Fiji and a ticket for return or onward travel is required. Additionally, an arrival card will be given to each person on the plane before the flight arrives in Fiji. **All competitors who don’t require a visa should tick 1.17.1 (b) which is Film/Cinema.** See below for reference:

Answer this section **ONLY** if you are **NOT** a Fiji Citizen or Resident

1.16 Expected date of leaving Fiji

1.17 What is the main reason for your visit? 1. Business:  a. Investment  b. Film/Cinema

2. Convention/ Conference  4. Visiting friends/relatives  6. Transit

3. Holiday  5. Education/Training  7. Other

1.18 What is your usual country of residence?

**The full arrival card has been uploaded to the competitor website for your reference.**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: Will we need to carry our outrigger paddles long distances?**

**A: NO.**

**Q: Is it possible to send more equipment to the Eco-Challenge office in California to ship to Fiji? For example: head lamp**

**A: NO.** *The container has left. As FAQ Friday #4 stated, you can send equipment directly to Fiji after July 15. The warehouse information is below:*

*Thirteen Enterprises LLC  
c/o Williams & Gosling Ltd  
Bradfield Drive  
Nadi Airport  
Contact: Mike Terry +679 9999746 or +679 3312633*

*If you are planning on shipping gear boxes to this warehouse PLEASE make sure your team name and competitor name is listed on the package.*

**Q: In newsletter 2, it states that we will have four nights of hotel accommodations on Sept. 5-8. However, the race does not start until Sept. 10th. What do we do the night of Sept. 9th?**

**A: More information will be coming on this in Newsletter #5.**

**Q: Will SUP ankle leashes be provided by Eco Challenge?**

**A: YES.** *As is stated in Mandatory Gear List v2, each SUP comes with a leash.*

**Q: Is this [tarp](#) acceptable?**

**A: NO.** *The tarp must be a minimum of 3m x 4m (10' x 12'). It doesn't appear that this one is.*

**Q: A magnetic compass is listed under Personal Mandatory Safety Gear. It appears that all four members of our team must have one. Is this correct?**

**A: Correct.** *Each competitor is required to have one magnetic compass.*

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: We're having trouble finding the right sized gear boxes and Quickblade paddles that will be delivered to Turkey. Is it still possible to have these sent to Eco Challenge in CA and then shipped from there onwards to Fiji?**

**A: NO.** The container has left. As FAQ Friday #4 stated, you can send equipment directly to Fiji after July 15. The warehouse information is below:

*Thirteen Enterprises LLC  
c/o Williams & Gosling Ltd  
Bradfield Drive  
Nadi Airport  
Contact: Mike Terry +679 9999746 or +679 3312633*

*If you are planning on shipping gear boxes to this warehouse PLEASE make sure your team name and competitor name is listed on the package.*

**Q: Is the Mocke Racer PFD acceptable for the expedition?**

**A: NO.** That PFD does not meet the standard for many reasons. It provides only 60n of buoyancy and the shoulder straps are not strong enough.

**Q: Will Glo-Toobs be acceptable as our emergency waterproof strobe lamp?**

**A: NO.**

**Q: Does the headlamp have to have flashing red AND flashing white light?**

**A: We have decided to modify the headlamp requirements. The headlamp does NOT need to flash (strobe) on the white light setting. Here is the updated requirements of the headlamps:**

*The headlamp must be waterproof with a red-light setting.*

*Competitors will be required to wear their headlamps on the red-light setting while stand up paddleboarding at night. You will need enough batteries for multiple nights. Remember, the course is open for 11 nights. This will be revised in the next version of the Mandatory Gear List.*

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: What is the mandatory minimum size of the rear reflector for our mountain bikes?**

*A: We have decided to reduce the mandatory minimum size of the rear reflector to 15cm (5.9") SQUARE. This will be revised in the next version of the Mandatory Gear List.*

*Here is a picture of a reflector that is 5cm x 3.5cm and is therefore compliant:*



*This is also a good example of a [reflector](#) that says it is 3" x 2.5" and would therefore comply as well.*

**Q: Can you explain how the hotel rooms work post race? As I understand it with the race schedule change from 14 days to 11 days, the hotel rooms are booked from 09/20-09/22. Is this correct?**

*A: As its stated in Newsletter #2: Eco-Challenge, post-race, is providing a maximum of 3 nights of accommodation post-event in Nadi (with a mandatory check-out by 22 September). For example, if you finish on the 21 September race cut-off, Eco-Challenge will provide ONE night of accommodations. If you finish on 19 September, Eco-Challenge will provide THREE nights of accommodations. If you finish or withdraw any time before 19 September, each team is responsible for accommodations until 19 September, then Eco-Challenge will cover hotel costs thru the mandatory 22 September check-out.*

**Q: For team's that do NOT drop out of the race but also do not finish early (are still on the course), can family members coming to be there for the finish and closing ceremonies stay in these reserved rooms?**

*A: NO. Rooms are strictly for competitors. Family members & friends must book & pay for their own rooms.*

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: Is the [Edelrid Loop Lite](#) harness acceptable for the expedition? A locking carabiner is used as to hook the two belay loops on the ends of the belt together.**

**A: NO.** Please refer to mandatory gear list as a guideline.

**Q: Can the bike reflector be in the back wheel?**

**A: NO.** It must be mounted on the back of the bike, not on the wheel.

**Q: What insurance coverage is Eco-Challenge providing for competitors?**

**A: Eco-Challenge is providing competitors with the following coverage:**

- \$1,000,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment
- \$1,000,000 Excess accident medical
- \$50,000 sickness and Disability
- Medical Evacuation/Repatriation

Please note that this insurance is **ONLY** during the race and **ONLY** in Fiji. This is subject to the terms and conditions of the policy. More information on insurance to be provided in the official Eco-Challenge Fiji 2019 rules document to be provided at a later date.

**Q: Is Eco-Challenge allowing custom bike boxes, made of polycarbonate? (We have a industrial designer in the team and he is capable of doing it as your requirements).**

**A: YES,** as long as the boxes meet all specifications and are capable of protecting your bikes during air travel and ground transportation over rough, dirt roads during the expedition.

**Q: Can we use the [Petzl Dual Connect Adjust](#) instead of the personal anchor loop chain?**

**A: Yes,** although I would be concerned that the fixed arm seems short, and the whole thing may be heavier than necessary.

**Q: Is there a meal credit included in our hotel stay before and after the race?**

**A: Breakfast is included in the hotel stay.** Your team will be responsible for all other meals.

**Q: Can we bring an extra outrigger canoe paddle?**

**A: YES,** each team is allowed to bring up to one extra outrigger canoe paddle.



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: What are the approved dimensions for the outrigger canoe paddles and the outrigger steering paddle? Is there a minimum and maximum length?**

*A: There are no requirements as to minimum or maximum length of the outrigger paddles or the outrigger steering paddle.*

**Q: Should the outrigger paddle be straight or curved?**

*A: This is a preference of the individual paddler. We have no requirements.*

**Q: Can the 2 lanyards be polyethylene instead of nylon?**

*A: NO. As is clearly stated in the Mandatory Gear List, lanyards must be nylon.*

**Q: Will team's ever have to transport our gear bins with our rental car?**

*A. NO. The TAC's will never have to transport their team's gear boxes with them. The TAC should transport their own personal gear box OR gear bag so they always have it with them. TAC's will likely arrive at the next camp prior to the Eco-Challenge transportation truck with your team's gear boxes.*

**Q: We shipped our gear on the container to Fiji, will we be able to use the Eco-Challenge container to get it home after the race?**

*A. NO. It's your responsibility to get your equipment back to your own country post-race.*