

FAQ FRIDAY #12





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ATTENTION: Update to Mandatory CLIMBING AND FIXED ROPES GEAR

The Metolius Alpine PAS 14 kN will not be allowed. Grigri devices of any model will not be allowed. We apologize for any inconvenience or expense this will cause you, but it is for your own safety.

Q: Will you be supplying team stickers/labels to label our gear bins and other baggage?

A: NO. You must label all gear boxes/baggage before you get to Fiji.

Q: Will additional filming/photography allowed during the expedition?

A: NO. There is no personal filming or photography allowed during the expedition.

Q: In the instruction diagram for the uniforms it has extra white on either side of the number patch that is cut off. Are we able to trim the number patch to replicate the diagram?

A: NO. Do not trim any of the patches. Patches should be placed on the uniforms the way they have been shipped to you.

Q: If we arrive on the 5th will there be someone from Eco-Challenge to pick us up?

A: Information regarding airport pickups will be answered in the newsletter coming out August 19.

Q: What is the itinerary for the day of arrival? What things do we have to do? Does our team have specific time slots for gear review, etc?

A: All information about your arrival day and the Team Registration schedule will be answered in the newsletter coming out August 19.

Q: Is it mandatory to wear our race shirts at all times?

A: YES. The uniforms that were approved **MUST be worn at all times during the race.**

Q: Can you send more than 4 patches per team member?

A: NO. No more additional patches will be provided. What we sent you is what you are required to use/wear.

Q: Can we bring a basic MP3 player (old school with nothing but the ability to play music) so our team has something to listen to while out there for up to 10 days?

A: NO. MP3 players or music players are strictly prohibited from the race.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can we add our last names to the back of our team jerseys?

A: NO.

Q: The rules do not cover much. Should we assume that anything not covered in the rules is fair game?

A: We have not sent out the Official Rules and Regulations yet. This document will be sent out in the near future. You will be required to review and sign the Rules and Regulations and turn in a signed copy to Competitor Relations at Registration. More information will be in the next Newsletter. There will also be additional rules in the Expedition Guidebook that you will receive throughout the expedition.

Q: Will the teams need cash while on the expedition?

A: YES. Bring some cash in small bills. Teams may purchase or accept accommodation, food and drink from the general public and retail outlets along the course. Teams are responsible for any and all costs associated with these transactions at the time of the transaction.

Q: Are teams allowed to ask directions from locals on the course?

A: Teams may ask directions and be “shown the way” by members of the general public as long as those members of the public have no previous affiliation or arrangement with the team. Remember, there is no guarantee that the local people will give you accurate information. Route finding is the responsibility of your team.

Q: To be clear, if we carry kayak paddles with us on the course, are we allowed to use them whenever we want to?

A: NO, not necessarily. There may be sections of the course where using paddles other than those provided by Eco-Challenge will be prohibited. Those sections will be clearly designated in the Expedition Guidebook.

Q: Are teams allowed to have locals carry their packs? Or hire horses to ride or carry their gear?

A: Teams may not hire or use vehicles, porters, horses, etc. to carry themselves or their equipment at any time during the competition (except when allowed by Race Management and dictated in the Expedition Guidebook).

Q: Are we allowed to use IV's and electrolyte/saline bags during the expedition?

A: NO.

Q: Are 55-gallon Rubbermaid Cargo Boxes appropriate as Gear Boxes?

A: YES.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Our gear is being shipped to Fiji. Who is the contact person to receive the gear? What is their contact information so we can ensure the shipping and customs broker has it?

A: *This contact was in the last newsletter – Newsletter #5. Please review and let us know if you have any questions after you do.*

Q: For team members who own their own companies with 100% ownership and own their trademarks, can we place the logo only (no words, numbers or URL's) on team gear?

A: *NO.*

Q: I understand PRW-3100 is not allowed. How about Casio SGW-300H-1AJF? It is same model as SGW-300H-1AV, but SGW-300H-1ALF is just Casio Japan version.

A: *NO. The only acceptable model is the Casio SGW300H-1AV. We are providing two per team.*

Q: Is there a flip cord provided with the raft?

A: *NO.*

Q: Will a gear box of 77cm x47cm x49cm be acceptable for the expedition?

A: *Yes, as long as all of your gear fits and they are rigid, durable and stackable. They must be capable of protecting all of your critical gear while it is transported along the course.*

Q: Are the grid lines on the maps oriented to magnetic north?

A: *NO. The map is not oriented to magnetic north. The declination for 2019 is given on the map legend.*

Q: If we use 10 water purification tablets during first part of the race, do we need to refill our supply to 100 at every Camp?

A: *You must carry enough tablets to get your team from Camp to Camp without any chance of running out.*

Q: At what point will you send a final gear list to clarify one last time what is expected?

A: *The current version is likely the final version. At most, there will be one more edition with minor changes.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Would the [Aquamira Part A+PartB](#) drops satisfy the Water Purification Tablets requirement (drops instead of tablets)?

A: YES.

Q: Does the [SOL Emergency Bivvy](#) qualify as a Survival Blanket?

A: YES.

Q: Could you please let me know the exact model of SUP paddle we'll be using for the race?

A: You will find this information out in Fiji.

Q: We don't quite understand what the 100gr Fleece refers to. Is it the actual weight of the garment?

A: Fleece is categorized by weight – in grams per square meter (gsm). Here is a table that may be of use:

Fleece Weight	Description	Typical Use
<100gsm	Ultralight	Summer walking in cool weather
100 – 200gsm	Lightweight	General wear, walking in temperate weather
200 – 300gsm	Mid-weight	Outer layer in everyday wear or mid-layer in layering system
>300gsm	Heavyweight	Outdoor activities in Arctic conditions

A fleece made out of Polartec 100 or Patagonia R1 would be acceptable.

Q: What is the appropriate size of a backpack for the expedition? 20L / 50L / 75L?

A: Backpack choice is left up to the Competitors.

Q: We have a tarp which is 2.8m x 4.5m. The overall m2 size is bigger than the required size, but the width is 20cm smaller. Will this be acceptable?

A: YES.

Q: Are we allowed to use walking sticks during the expedition?

A: YES.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: During the race, what should we carry water and other necessary equipment in? Do we need a rucksack or backpack or is Eco-Challenge providing those?

A: *As was clearly stated in Newsletter #4, there's a lot of clothing and equipment that doesn't appear on the Mandatory Gear List but remains essential for your success on the expedition. One example is your backpack which is one of the most crucial pieces of gear! It's going to be with you for the whole expedition so choose wisely. Also, remember, you'll have to carry your PFD with you on sections of the mountain bike legs AND the trekking legs. It's important that you have a convenient system to secure your PFD to your pack so that it doesn't flop around with each pedal stroke or footfall! It should also be quick to remove from your pack when you need it. You'll have to carry your climbing helmet at times too. The good news is that you probably won't be required to carry your PFD and your climbing helmet at the same time, just know that you should have a secure and efficient system for carrying these items on your pack.*

Q: FAQ #8 mentions the [Black Diamond VaporLock Magnetron carabiner](#), but doesn't specify if this will be accepted by Eco-Challenge. Is this accepted?

A: *YES. It is accepted as a double action carabiner.*

Q: Is the Edelrid Huascaran a suitable harness? The small weighs 230g?

A: *NO.*

Q: In Newsletter #5, it stated that the [Edelrid - Eddy Belay Device](#) was ok to use. Has that changed with the new requirements in the latest email, is this device still ok? I don't believe this device is classified as a "grigri".

A: *YES, per FAQ #5, and the marketing literature states the criteria which we are looking for. Although none of: "A controlled descent with an emergency brake system eliminates the "panic pull syndrome which can lead to serious accidents."*

Q: Are the [Black Diamond Crag Half Fingered Gloves](#) acceptable as Leather Palm Gloves?

A: *YES. As mentioned in the previous FAQ FRIDAY.*

Q: If we arrive to the hotel by 7 AM, will we have access to our hotel room at this time? Or do we need to pre-book the hotel room the night before?

A: *This information will be in the next newsletter.*

Q: Can you please specify what type of outlet will be at Camps? Fijian or American?

A: *The outlets at the Camps will be Fijian. Please plan accordingly.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: All the Antihistamine tablets I can find are 25mg. Is this a typo in the mandatory gear list? Would Benadryl suffice (it's 25mg)?

A: Benadryl that is sold in the USA contains diphenhydramine, an old type of antihistamine that causes poor co-ordination and drowsiness. This would not be suitable for use during the race. A suggestion would be to carry a non-sedating antihistamine, the most common are Cetirizine and Loratadine.

Q: Would [Drip Drop ORS](#) work for our Oral Rehydration solution? A 10g packet has 330mg of sodium. If that doesn't work, would [Liquid IV](#) work? A 16g packet has 500mg of sodium. If neither of these work can you provide a brand or example with the proper concentration?

A: Those examples aren't ideal. Dioralyte and Enerlyte are common brands that would be suitable.

Q: Will the checkpoints have hot, running water that is purified?

A: *Some checkpoints will have more facilities (fresh water, electricity, bathrooms) while other checkpoints will have absolutely zero facilities. We recommend relying on the Camps for all facilities and everything else is bonus.*

Q: Will all checkpoints have guaranteed water, bathrooms and electricity?

A: NO. The vast majority of the Checkpoints will NOT have purified water, toilets nor electricity. The Camps will have these amenities.

Q: Where is our gear being stored? Will we have access to it when we arrive?

A: *Your gear boxes will remain with your Team until Team Registration. After your team goes through Registration, you will be required to drop off your boxes at a designated area. Eco-Challenge will then deliver your team gear boxes to the Start and all other necessary Camps.*

Q: When we begin the race, our normal luggage, cell phones, laptops, wallets, valuables will need to be stored somewhere. Where will this be? Some of us will have as much as \$15,000 worth of clothing, luggage and electronics so how it is being stored and the level of security is critical and paramount for the safety of personal belongings.

A: *The Pullman Resort has agreed to store all personal non-race luggage during the race. This will be in a secure and locked container on the hotel property. We understand the value and need for securing this personal property and have taken specific and precise planning with the Pullman to secure this.*