



Performance Coach Award Frequently Asked Questions

Performance Coach Award – Frequently Asked Questions

Most of this information (and more) is available in the **'Performance Coach Award Course Guide'** and **'Performance Coach Award Announcement (January 2020)'**. We recommend that you read the Course Guide prior to these frequently asked questions.

When is the revised qualification going live?

29th June 2020.

Where can I find more information about the new qualification?

Information is available on the British Canoeing Awarding Body and the Delivery Centre websites.

How does the Performance Coach Award differ from the current Performance Coach/Level 3?

There are significant differences in the learning journey, the assessment and discipline qualifications on offer.

The learning journey will have less mandatory, face-to-face training and more flexibility to tailor training and learning to areas that are most relevant to them. Online mentor sessions will help the coach navigate this journey successfully.

The Assessment standards have been revised to reflect current thinking on the demands of the coaches working in the different environments, they also represent a step up in level of sophistication from the Coach Award. There are many similarities with the existing Performance Coach awards, although the need to be coaching participants through long-term coaching relationships has been removed, allowing

the coach to work in either long- or short-term relationships. There is no Portfolio requirement.

There are 21 qualification options (and remits) that align with the Coach Award qualifications.

Who is the Performance Coach Award targeted at?

The qualifications are aimed at experienced, well-practiced coaches who already have existing (and verified) skills, knowledge and understanding in their chosen discipline(s)/environment(s). The programme is designed to support experienced coaches to refine their coaching, enhancing their ability to use sophisticated coaching practices to improve the performance and long-term development of the paddlers they coach.

This is an ideal programme for intrinsically driven, experienced coaches who want to get better at coaching the paddlers they work with, and for those who seek recognition that their delivery meets enhanced levels of sophistication.

What are the prerequisites for the Performance Coach Award?

To register for the Performance Coach Award programme, coaches need to hold a discipline specific coaching qualification in the same discipline and environment that they wish to pursue. Minimum British Canoeing (UKCC) Level 2, or BCU Level 3.

The following options are suitable:

- The corresponding Coach Award;
- The corresponding Moderate Water Endorsement or BCU Level 3 Coach;
- The corresponding Advanced Water Endorsement or BCU Level 5 Coach.

Coaches will also require:

- Full National Association Delivery Centre membership;
- In date First Aid training;

- Safeguarding training (as required by your Delivery Centre).

If coaching practice has been verified through alternative means, coaches can apply to their Delivery Centre for Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL). The APL service will consider other nationally recognised, professional awards and other training and assessment schemes, other than its own, where they are identifiable as being of equal or higher standard. Further details are available from Delivery Centre websites.

Coaches wishing to pursue a qualification with a remit in advanced conditions do not need to complete the relevant Moderate Water Performance Coach Award as a prerequisite.

Will candidates need to register to start on the Performance Coach Award?

Yes, candidates will register with their Delivery Centre.

If I am currently part way through my Performance Coach pathway what should I do?

Candidates currently working through their Performance Coach qualification will be contacted to discuss their options. Please refer to the 'Advice for coaches who are part way through the British Canoeing Awarding Body Performance Coach Award' document. Aspirant Performance Coaches may choose to complete their qualification in the existing system or move to the new system. Existing candidates will be able to use parts of their training to bypass the new components.

If I have a current UKCC Level 3 or a Performance Coach Award, do I need to do the Performance Coach Award to remain current?

No. Any qualification or award taken with British Canoeing will always remain valid, as long as the award still meets the requirements of your coaching and the British

Canoeing Awarding Body Environmental Definition and Deployment Guidance for Instructors, Coaches and Leaders.

How will the Award be assessed?

To achieve the Performance Coach Award, the candidate will need to successfully complete a mainly practical assessment. Candidates are required to organise, plan and deliver a minimum of 3-hours' quality coaching for a least two learners. The learners should be typical of the paddlers the candidate normally coaches, and suitable for coaching in the stated award environments. The 3-hours' quality coaching should be organised to suit the needs of the learners; it could be through separate (linked) practice-based sessions, multiple smaller sessions, or one long session.

Prior to the practical assessment, coaches will present and discuss their coaching philosophy with their Mentor, giving them the opportunity to articulate their thinking and share examples to showcase how it influences their coaching practices. This links to the practical coaching assessment to provide context and background to the coach's approach.

Can under 18s access the Performance Coach Award training or assessment?

Age limits are determined by the prerequisite coaching qualifications. These require coaches to be aged 16 or over at the time of assessment (18 for Advanced Water options).

Candidates under the age of 18 can take awards, but cannot be deemed responsible for leadership by law until they turn 18.

Will the Performance Coach Award be regulated by Ofqual?

Yes. British Canoeing Awarding Body is regulated by Ofqual. The Performance Coach Award will be on the register of regulated qualifications.

How are the qualifications and awards linked to Adventure Activities Licensing Authority / Adventure Activities Licensing Service?

AALA/AALS will be informed of the changes to the qualification and advised on how we recommend they should be used within the industry.