



Paddlesport Instructor Award

Frequently Asked Questions

British Canoeing Awarding Body

Paddlesport Instructor Frequently Asked Questions

A section of frequently asked questions is included here. Most of this information (and more) is in the '**Paddlesport Instructor Course Guide**' The '**Paddlesport Instructor Tutor Notes**' also offers further details for potential providers. These were available to download from the British Canoeing Awarding Body website. We recommend that you read the Course Guide prior to these frequently asked questions.

What is the Paddlesport Instructor qualified to do?

On completion of the Paddlesport Instructor qualification, candidates will have achieved the minimum recognised standards of competency to deliver taster/starter sessions in very sheltered water within the safety management systems of clubs, centres or other organisations.

The qualification is an entry level award and is designed to prime instructors ready for their first instructing role. It is important to note that the instructor is certificated after completing the course. At this point they may not have any **instructing experience** and have not have been assessed 'instructing'. They will be in a good position to start gaining experience in a supported working environment. It will be at the deployer's discretion to decide when they think the person can deliver sessions on their own.

What craft can an Instructor work from?

Candidates choose to paddle **one** type of craft for the personal paddling and rescue skills assessment. The craft used will be identified on the certificate. The options are; sit on top kayak, stand up paddleboard, open canoe, or kayak.

If the certificate does not cover all the potential craft options, how can it be extended later?

We would normally expect candidates to operate from the type of craft identified on their certificate, unless they have further experience or training to suggest otherwise.

Deployers may wish to use British Canoeing Awarding Body Personal Performance Awards as an indication of competence in craft not stated on the candidate's Paddlesport Instructor Certificate. The following awards are recommended (a relevant 3 Star Award can also be used):

Craft	Award Title
Canoe	Canoe Award
Kayak or Sit on Top	White Water Award, Touring, Award, Sea Kayak Award, Surf Kayak Award
Stand Up Paddleboard	Stand Up Paddleboard (Sheltered Water) Award

After the Personal Performance Award has been achieved, it is advised that the deployer checks the paddler's skill and competence; British Canoeing Awarding Body would anticipate Paddlesport Instructors could then be deployed in the alternative craft.

Deployers are advised to have systems in place to check their instructor's skill, competence and currency. The Paddlesport Instructor Assessment Guidance can be used to provide information on the level of competence required. A coach with a 'Coach Award' or Level 2 Coach qualification is well placed to confirm this competence.

What are the prerequisites?

The candidate entry requirements are as follows:

- Full National Association Membership;
- Delivery Centre registration;
- British Canoeing Awarding Body Paddlesport Safety and Rescue course or Foundation Safety and Rescue Training;
- Personal paddling and rescue competence;
- 14 years of age, or older.

Candidates under 18 years of age should check the suitability of the course with a tutor before attendance.

What standard of personal skills are required?

Prior to attending the Paddlesport Instructor course, candidates are expected to have developed personal paddling and rescue competence in their preferred craft through in-house or independent training, practice and coaching. Remember that candidates choose to paddle **one** type of craft for the personal paddling and rescue skills assessment; sit on top kayak, stand up paddleboard, open canoe, **or** kayak. Further guidance is provided in the Course Guide.

There is no bank-based option; taster/starter sessions are not typically delivered by bank-based instructors.

How will the Paddlesport Instructor be assessed?

Assessment is integrated into the course. Personal paddling skills are assessed throughout and specific rescue assessments are included. The candidate will also receive some feedback on specific instructor attributes that are considered essential for the role.

Is there eLearning available to support candidates?

Yes. The Instructor eLearning is open to anyone and is designed to support instructors and aspirant instructors through varying topics of knowledge and skills. This would be great for those looking to attend their Paddlesport Instructor course or those looking for a refresher. It is optional.

Do existing Paddlesport Instructors (or Level 1 Coaches) need to do the new Paddlesport Instructor to remain current?

No. Any qualification or award taken with British Canoeing Awarding Body will always remain usable as long as the award still meets the demands of the role. The Paddlesport Instructor course can be accessed for Continuous Personal Development and is recommended for those looking for an update in current best practice.

How long is the Paddlesport Instructor course?

The Paddlesport Instructor course is delivered over a minimum of two days and will include at least 15 hours' teaching/learning contact time. Tutors can offer longer courses, facilitating more time for personal paddling, rescue and/or instructing skills.

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

AALA/AALS no longer maintain a qualification matrix. The British Canoeing Awarding Body has developed its own [qualification matrix](#) to support both deployers and those accreditation scheme inspecting activity providers.

Will the Paddlesport Instructor Qualification be regulated by Ofqual?

British Canoeing Awarding Body is regulated by Ofqual. The Paddlesport Instructor qualification will be on the register of regulated qualifications.

What are the requirements to becoming a Provider?

Please see the British Canoeing Awarding Body '**Paddlesport Instructor Tutor Requirements**'.

Please contact your Delivery Centre who periodically recruit for providers of this qualification.

Once I become a Paddlesport Instructor, can I assess Personal Performance Awards?

Once qualified as a British Canoeing Awarding Body Paddlesport Instructor, you are able to become a provider of the [personal performance awards](#) enabling paddlers to receive recognition and celebrate their achievements. To become a provider you will need to have completed and hold the following:

- Valid (within 3 years) [British Canoeing Awarding Body recognised 1-day first aid award](#)
- Valid (within 3 years) [Safeguarding Training](#)
- Completed the [Personal Performance Awards Provider eLearning](#)
- Full National Association Membership

Once I become a Paddlesport Instructor, can I deliver the Paddle Safer course?

Once qualified as a British Canoeing Awarding Body Paddlesport Instructor you are able to become a provider of the [Paddle Safer course](#). The course covers safe paddling practices and is aimed at new/novice paddlers in any craft. To become a provider you will need to have completed and hold the following:

- Valid (within 3 years) [British Canoeing Awarding Body recognised 1-day first aid award](#)
- Valid (within 3 years) [Safeguarding Training](#)
- Completed the [Paddle Safer Provider eLearning](#)
- Full National Association Membership