



**BCAB Level 1 Stand Up
Paddleboard Instructor Award
Frequently Asked Questions**

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A selection of frequently asked questions (FAQs) is included here. Most of this information (and more) is in the '**BCAB Level 1 Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor Course Guide**'. The '**BCAB Level 1 Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor Tutor Notes**' also offer further details for potential providers. These are available to download from the British Canoeing Awarding Body website. We recommend that you read the Course Guide prior to these frequently asked questions.

When is the qualification going live?

January 2023. Details were available on the British Canoeing Awarding Body and Delivery Centre websites.

What is the remit?

The remit of the BCAB Level 1 Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor is within a Very Sheltered Water Environment. The very sheltered water definition includes:

- Quiet canals with easy bankside access and egress;
- Small lakes, which are not large enough, and do not have difficult landing areas for problems to occur if there is a sudden change in conditions;
- Specified sites on gentle, slow moving rivers.

The definition implies normal conditions where weather conditions are not in themselves likely to cause problems. Care is advised when water temperatures are low. At any point, the paddler should not be more than 50 metres from the bank.

What are the prerequisites?

The candidate entry requirements are as follows:

- Full National Association Membership;
- Delivery Centre registration;
- 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 BCAB Level 1 Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor Award course, candidates are expected to have developed personal paddling and rescue competence through in-house or independent training, practice and coaching. Further guidance is provided in the Course Guide.

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

How will the BCAB Level 1 Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor be assessed?

Assessment is integrated into the course. Personal SUP 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 BCAB Level 1 Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor Award course or those looking for a refresher. It is optional.

How long is the new BCAB Level 1 Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor Award course?

The BCAB Level 1 Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor Award 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?

AAALA/AALS have been informed of the new BCAB SUP Instructor qualification and advised on how we recommend that it should be used within the industry.

Will the BCAB Level 1 Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor Award Qualification be regulated by Ofqual?

British Canoeing Awarding Body is regulated by Ofqual. The BCAB Level 1 Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor Award qualification will be on the register of regulated qualifications.

What are the requirements to becoming a Provider?

The Delivery Centres will be recruiting and training existing Paddlesport Instructor providers during 2022 in preparation for the launch of the new qualification in January 2023.

During 2023, Delivery Centres will be able to recruit and train new providers.

Once I become a BCAB Level 1 Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor, can I assess Personal Performance Awards?

Once qualified as a British Canoeing Awarding Body SUP 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 BCAB Level 1 Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor, can I deliver the Paddle Safer course?

Once qualified as a British Canoeing Awarding Body SUP 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.