

Technical Advice Guidance for Paddlesport

These five points offer guidance to anyone considering offering paddlesport technical advice or to a business/organisation employing (paid or unpaid) someone for their paddlesport technical advice.

1 Knowledge, Skills and Experience (Competence)

Paddlesport offers a diverse range of environments, disciplines & associated equipment and it is very unlikely that one person can cover a full multitude of activities.

Technical Advisors: Consider your own competence to be able to provide accurate and current advice and ensure you meet the employer's needs.

Employers of Technical Advisors: Confirm your nominated Technical Advisors competence to provide accurate and current advice in line with your needs.

Note: No BCAB Qualifications or Awards formally cover providing paddlesport technical advice.

[Technical Advisors Guidance document from Adventure Activities Licensing Authority](#)

2 Insurance Cover

Providing formal paddlesport technical advice is not covered by the British Canoeing insurance policy. It is recommended that anyone providing technical advice would need appropriate professional indemnity insurance cover.

Technical Advisors: Ensure you have sufficient insurance cover for providing paddlesport technical advice.

Employers of Technical Advisors: Confirm your nominated Technical Advisor has appropriate professional indemnity insurance cover.

3 Checking Paddlesport Equipment

British Canoeing Awarding Body does not provide sufficient training for anyone to check paddlesport equipment beyond its normal use. Extending the life span of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), for example buoyancy aids and helmets, is beyond the scope of any training provided for British Canoeing Awarding Body Coaches and Leaders.

Technical Advisors: Consider your own competence to be able to check paddlesport equipment and seek additional training where necessary.

Employers of Technical Advisors: Confirm your nominated Technical Advisors competence to check paddlesport equipment in line with your needs.

4 Record Keeping

The provision or receipt of technical advice is best recorded. This provides both clarity and accuracy of the advice provided.

Technical Advisors: Consider providing written evidence for all technical advice given.

Employers of Technical Advisors: Request written evidence of all technical advice given, for both clarification and avoidance of any misunderstandings.

5 Understanding Limitations

Developing an open and honest approach between the Technical Advisor and employer is essential. It is important to understand limitations and know when to elevate to a more competent person.

Technical Advisors: Consider your own competence to be able to provide accurate and current advice and ensure you meet the employer's needs - understand your limits.

Employers of Technical Advisors: Confirm your nominated Technical Advisors competence to provide accurate and current advice, in line with your needs.