

Personal Performance Awards – Frequently Asked Questions

A section of frequently asked questions is included here. The **‘Personal Performance Awards Provider Requirements’** offers further details for potential providers. These are available to download from the British Canoeing Awarding Body website, along with the award content.

The questions are split into general FAQs, Provider and Aspirant Provider FAQs and Candidate FAQs.

When did the awards go live?

From 2nd January 2019, paddlers and providers have been able to take part in these awards.

How do the changes affect the qualification pathway?

They don't really. The Personal Performance Awards will no longer be linked to the Coaching and Leadership qualifications as prerequisites but the awards can be used as the recommended level to progress through qualifications and awards. See [Appendix 1](#) for further information.

Are the awards equivalent to the existing Star Awards?

The new awards are very different in terms of content and purpose. The awards have been designed for the paddler's development and engagement in the sport. Providers will approach and facilitate the awards that reflect the ethos of supporting paddlers and empowering individuals. As the awards do not directly link to Coaching and Leadership qualifications, it is encouraged that formal assessments are not conducted and that a formative approach is used that develops an individual's progress.

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

AALA/AALS have been informed of the changes to the awards and advised on how we recommend they could be used within the industry.

British Canoeing Awarding Body recognises that deployers (clubs and centres) will benefit from understanding the level of Personal Performance Award that is suitable for deploying the Paddlesport Instructors, in a different craft not stated on the candidate's Paddlesport Instructor certificate.

Craft	Award title
Canoe	Canoe Award
Kayak/Sit on top	White Water Award Touring Award Sea Kayak Award Surf Kayak Award
Stand up Paddleboard	SUP Sheltered Water Award

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

Provider and Aspirant Provider FAQs

What is the knock on effect to our current Personal Performance Award Providers?

The requirements for new Providers are different to what was required of the existing Personal Performance Awards workforce. The changes in the awards are different enough that we can consider them to be 'new' awards.

- All providers will need to complete an eLearning package to be able to deliver the new awards.
- New awards are focused around ‘supporting the paddler’.
- Award delivery is available for Instructors, Coaches, Leaders, Raft Guides and Bell Boat Helms.

What are the requirements to becoming a Provider?

Please see the British Canoeing ‘**Personal Performance Awards Provider Requirements**’ for full details. British Canoeing Instructors, Coaches, Leaders, Raft Guides and Bell Boat Helms are able deliver the Personal Performance Awards.

Consideration has been given to how appropriate training, standardisation and assessment of these awards can be carried out. A specific **eLearning package** is available for potential Providers to access, reducing the need to travel, and enable the provider to access the package in their own time.

Aspirant Providers must have completed the PPA eLearning package, hold the relevant role/qualification, have a current First Aid qualification, a safeguarding certificate dated in the last 3 years and appropriate CPD on record prior to being given a **recommendation** from an approved provider in the relevant award.

How can I work towards becoming a Provider?

Qualification holders that can work towards becoming a Provider must have completed the Personal Performance Award eLearning package, hold the relevant role/qualification, have a current First Aid qualification, Safeguarding training in the last 3 years and appropriate CPD on record, prior to being given a final recommendation from a current status/roles that can deliver the relevant award.

What are the candidate to Provider ratios?

Ratios will depend on the award being delivered, as well as the environmental context. All Instructors, Coaches and Leaders are encouraged to make themselves aware of the suggested ratios when working in such environments. For confirmation, please refer to the Environmental Definitions and Deployment Guidance for

Instructors, Coaches and Leaders document.

<https://www.britishcanoeingawarding.org.uk/guidance-documents/>

What is the certification process?

Certification for the Paddle Start and Paddle Discover Awards will be administered through the [Go Paddling website](#).

All other award certificates will be administered through your Membership Portal.

Candidate FAQs

How do the changes affect current Star Award holders?

They don't. Any Star Awards taken with British Canoeing Awarding Body will remain recognised.

Since January 2019, the awards have been a recognition of the paddler's achievements and have no formal link to British Canoeing Awarding Body Coaching or Leadership awards. Although not a requirement, the awards provide appropriate milestones and acknowledgement of personal skills and understanding, setting the paddler up appropriately for British Canoeing Awarding Body Coaching and Leadership qualifications. Please see [Appendix 1](#) for the Personal Performance Awards link to Coaching and Leadership qualifications.

Do existing Star Award holders need to do the NEW Personal Performance Awards to stay current?

No. Any Star Award taken with British Canoeing Awarding Body will always remain recognised. The Personal Performance Awards could be used to refresh your skills or development in another area.

What craft can I undertake the Personal Performance Awards in?

The Personal Performance Awards give you the option to progress in the craft you want to. The Paddle Awards can be taken in any craft as they are designed for someone new to paddling, giving the option to try out a range of craft.

For the Discipline Specific Awards, these vary on the craft you may use depending on the environment that the activity takes place in. The awards are designed for development and an individual is encouraged to make informed decisions on the craft, paddle and equipment they choose, appropriate for the discipline and environment.

Do I have to take the award in two craft?

No. Each award is craft specific, you will not need to paddle a variety of craft to gain any award.

Will undertaking the Personal Performance Awards update my CPD?

The Personal Performance Awards will be recognised as CPD and can be used in this way. Full details of CPD value are available from your Delivery Centre.

What are the prerequisites to the Personal Performance Awards?

There are no entry requirements for any of the awards. Providers should check paddlers' suitability, as well as having appropriate mechanisms for anyone under 18.

How long does each of the Personal Performance Awards take?

There is no set or stipulated time for any of the Personal Performance Awards, this is very much individual and we would see paddlers developing at their own pace with the support of an Instructor, Coach or Leader.

What are the candidate fees for the Personal Performance Awards?

The fees are currently as follows:

- Paddle Start Award is free.
- The Paddle Discover Award is £6.24.
- The Paddle Explore Award costs £8.32 each, with a 25% discount for members at £6.24 each.
- The Discipline Specific Awards are £20.80 each, with a 50% discount for members at £10.40.

Appendix 1. Link to Coaching and Leadership Qualifications

Although not a requirement, the awards provide appropriate milestones and acknowledgement of personal skills, setting up the paddler appropriately for British Canoeing Coaching and Leadership qualifications.

British Canoeing Qualification	NEW Personal Performance Award
Paddlesport Leader	Touring Award/Canoe Award/SUP Sheltered Water Award/Sea Kayak Award/White Water Award/Surf Kayak Award/Racing Explore Award/Flat Water Freestyle Award/Polo Explore Award/Slalom Explore Award/Wild Water Racing Explore Award
Paddlesport Touring Leader	Open Water Touring Award/Progressive Canoe Award/ Coastal Sea Kayak Award/Progressive White Water Award/Progressive Surf Kayak Award/Racing Perform Award/Freestyle Award/Polo Perform Award/Slalom Perform Award/Wild Water Racing Perform Award
White Water Leader	Progressive White Water Award
Stadium White Water Leader	Progressive White Water Award
Sea Kayak Leader (non-tidal & tidal)	Coastal Sea Kayak Award
Surf Kayak Leader	Progressive Surf Kayak Award
Canoe Open Water Leader	Progressive Canoe Award
Canoe White Water Leader	Progressive Canoe Award
Advanced White Water Leader	Advanced White Water Award
Advanced Sea Kayak Leader (non-tidal & tidal)	Advanced Sea Kayak Award
Advanced Surf Kayak Leader	Advanced Surf Kayak Award
Advanced Canoe Open Water Leader	Advanced Canoe Award
Advanced Canoe White Water Leader	Advanced Canoe Award

Paddlesport Instructor		Touring Award/Canoe Award/SUP Sheltered Water Award/Sea Kayak Award/White Water Award/Surf Kayak Award/Racing Explore Award/Flat Water Freestyle Award/Polo Explore Award/Slalom Explore Award/Wild Water Explore Award
Stand Up Paddleboard Instructor		SUP Sheltered Water Award
Coach Award (SW) – Sheltered Water (MW) – Moderate Water (AW) – Advanced Water	Kayak Coach (SW)	Touring Award/ Sea Kayak Award/White Water Award/Surf Kayak Award/Racing Explore Award/Flat Water Freestyle Award/Polo Explore Award/Slalom Explore Award/Wild Water Racing Explore Award
	Canoe Coach (SW)	Canoe Award / Touring Award
	Canoe & Kayak Coach (SW)	Touring Award/Canoe Award/ Sea Kayak Award/White Water Award/Surf Kayak Award/Racing Explore Award/Flat Water Freestyle Award/Polo Explore Award/Slalom Explore Award/Wild Water Racing Explore Award
	Freestyle Coach	Freestyle Award
	Polo Coach	Polo Perform Award
	Racing Coach	Racing Perform Award
	Slalom Coach	Slalom Perform Award
	Wild Water Coach	Wild Water Racing Perform Award
	Surf Kayak Coach (MW)	Progressive Surf Kayak Award
	Surf Kayak Coach (AW)	Advanced Surf Kayak Award
	Open Water Canoe Coach (MW)	Progressive Canoe Award

	Open Water Canoe Coach (AW)	Advanced Canoe Award
	Sea Kayak Coach (MW)	Coastal Sea Kayak Award
	Sea Kayak Coach (AW)	Advanced Sea Kayak Award
	Stand Up Paddleboard Coach (Sheltered Water)	SUP Sheltered Water Award
	Stand Up Paddleboard Coach (White Water)	SUP White Water Award
	White Water Canoe Coach (MW)	Progressive Canoe Award
	White Water Canoe Coach (AW)	Advanced Canoe Award
	White Water Kayak Coach (MW)	Progressive White Water Award
	White Water Kayak Coach (AW)	Advanced White Water Award

Note: This list does not replace the leadership qualification requirement for the White Water/Sea/Surf or Canoe coaching qualifications.