

Sea Kayak Leader Syllabus

Aim

Successful performance at this level indicates that a candidate has the personal skill level and leadership ability required to lead a group of paddlers, on short (6 to 8 miles, of at least 3 hours' paddling), single or multi-day journeys in a moderate tidal water environment with winds not exceeding Beaufort force 4. The British Canoeing Sea Kayak Leader has the skills and judgement to select appropriate environments for paddlers with a range of experience.

The British Canoeing Sea Kayak Leader Award is a leadership award and not a coaching award.

Following assessment, British Canoeing Sea Kayak Leaders must have in place civil liability insurance (included in comprehensive National Association membership), knowledge of Child Protection guidelines and good practice including checks where necessary and maintain evidence of currency.

Moderate Tidal Water/Sea Definition

A stretch of coastline with some areas where it is not easy to land but there will always be straight forward land points a maximum of two nautical miles apart. Crossings not exceeding two nautical miles. Up to 2 Knots of tide (but not involving tide race or overfalls). Wind strengths do not exceed Beaufort force 4. Launching and landing through surf (up to 1 metre, trough to crest height).

(Extracted from British Canoeing Environmental Definitions and Deployment Guidance for Instructors, Coaches and Leaders)

NB: Wind scales and sea states used here are as advised by the Met Office.

Training and Assessment Courses

To achieve British Canoeing Sea Kayak Leader, candidates are required to attend British Canoeing Sea Kayak Leader Training. This involves at least 2 days' of formal training in personal skills, leadership, and safety and rescue. Some training courses

also include the prerequisite British Canoeing Coastal Navigation and Tidal Planning course (extending the programme by an additional day). Training is valid for 3 years, during this time, and upon completion of the assessment prerequisites, candidates can then put themselves forward for assessment. Assessments are normally run over 2 days.

Related British Canoeing Policies

See 'Reasonable Adjustments for Paddlesports Awards and Coaching' for details about how Providers can make adjustments for paddlers with specific disabilities.

See 'British Canoeing Appeals Procedure' for details of how candidates can make an appeal or complaint concerning the content or outcome of a British Canoeing Leadership Award.

See 'APL Guidance Notes' for details of how to apply for accredited prior learning. APL is mainly used to allow individuals access to a British Canoeing qualification where they do not hold the specific prerequisite for that award, but have equitable prior learning.

Useful Information

Please refer to the British Canoeing Sea Leader Training and Assessment Notes.

Training Prerequisites

- British Canoeing Coastal Sea Kayak Award or 3 Star Sea Kayak standards are the appropriate levels of performance for paddlers to begin working towards the British Canoeing Sea Kayak Leader;
- British Canoeing Coastal Navigation and Tidal Planning course or similar RYA course (for acceptable RYA alternatives see 'Using RYA Awards to APL British Canoeing Navigation and Tidal Planning Courses' available on the National Association websites). Some British Sea Kayak Leader Training courses include the British Canoeing Coastal Navigation and Tidal Planning course.

Assessment Prerequisites

- British Canoeing Sea Kayak Leadership Registration (LR);
- Valid (within 3 years) British Canoeing recognised 2 day first aid;
- Previous experience: provide documented evidence of 24 sea trips (minimum 4 hours duration). During at least 5 of these trips the candidate must assume an assistant leader role. The extensive range of sea kayak journeys should include a variety of coastlines, sea states, sea areas, periods of limited visibility and darkness, tidal waters up to 3 knots, wind up to and including Beaufort force 5, crossings not exceeding 2 nautical miles, and camping from a kayak;
- Valid (within 3 years) British Canoeing Sea Kayak Leader Training.

Candidates must be aged 16 or over at the time of assessment. Candidates under the age of 18 can take the award, but cannot be deemed responsible for leadership by law until they turn 18.

VHF Radio Requirements

All candidates are required to carry a VHF radio. The provider will assess radio protocol and that UK residents are aware of licencing requirements.

Craft

The British Canoeing Sea Kayak Leader Award is designed for sea kayakers and the award must be undertaken in a sea kayak. A modern sea kayak could be described as a directionally stable closed cockpit kayak that is designed for the demands of open sea conditions, with internal buoyancy created by watertight bulkheads accessed through waterproof hatches. If the kayak is fitted with a rudder, it must be disabled for the duration of the assessment.

Equipment

Candidates should have personal and group equipment appropriate for the remit of the award and relevant to the assessment environment.

Trainer and Assessor

British Canoeing Sea Kayak Leader Provider.

Assessment Venue

The choice of venue should give the opportunity for:

- Periods of no less than sea state 3-4 (or a tidal flow creating similar conditions);
- A rocky coastline with available landings at least every 1-2 miles and areas where it is not easy to land;
- Launching and landing through small surf, less than 1 metre (trough to crest height).

Technical Syllabus

The candidate is required to perform all skills in moderate water conditions, on both sides (unless otherwise stated).

Part A – Personal Paddling Skills

A.1 Lifting, carrying, launching and landing

A.2 Efficient and effective sea paddling skills:

- Forward paddling;
- Reversing and stopping;
- Maintaining direction;
- Changing direction;
- Moving sideways;
- Supporting.

A.3 Rolling in rough water (on one side only)

A.4 Practical Navigation on the water and in poor visibility

Part B – Rescue Skills

B.1 Have knowledge of, and demonstrate skilful application of, appropriate rescue skills

- B.2 Self-rescue
- B.3 Be conversant with different methods of towing

Part C – Safety, Leadership and Group Skills

- C.1 Skilful application of leadership principles
- C.2 Appropriate leadership strategies, judgement and decision making
- C.3 Safety awareness and risk management
- C.4 Exercise appropriate group control and management and show concern for the general welfare of other group members
- C.5 Demonstrate the capability to manage a range of incidents
- C.6 Provide guidance through top tips and handy hints

Part D – Theory

- D.1 Equipment and design
- D.2 Safety (includes Coastguard and rescue services)
- D.3 Weather
- D.4 Wellbeing, health and first aid
- D.5 Access
- D.6 Environment
- D.7 Planning
- D.8 Group awareness and management
- D.9 General knowledge
- D.10 Navigation
- D.11 Collision regulations and signals
- D.12 Leadership responsibilities
- D.13 Water features and hazards