

British Canoeing Stadium Raft Guide Award – Syllabus

Aim

The British Canoeing Stadium Raft Guide Award is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 who would like to take groups of people white water rafting on a manmade artificial site such as CIWW, Nottingham, Lee Valley, etc.

The British Canoeing Stadium Raft Guide Award enables the candidate to then guide on the section of water they are assessed on, under the guidance of that stadium.

On passing the assessment, it is the responsibility of the Guide to ensure that their Rescue/ First Aid qualifications are kept valid, within the guidelines of the provider of their Award.

It is also advised that the Guide ensures their Continual Professional Development (CPD) of such skills with regular practice.

Training and Assessment Courses

To achieve the British Canoeing Stadium Raft Guide Award, candidates should ensure they take an active role in deciding the appropriate preparation, training and experience, prior to presenting for assessment. British Canoeing offer Stadium Raft Guide Award training to support candidates in developing the required skills.

Alternatively, candidates can opt for more bespoke training opportunities, such as in-house training, shadowing other Raft Guides, etc., to develop the required skills.

Upon completion of the assessment prerequisites, candidates can then put themselves forward for assessment. Assessments are usually a minimum of 3 hours (half day).

Related British Canoeing Policies

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

See 'APL Guidance Notes' for details on how to apply for Accredited Prior Learning (APL). 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 equivalent prior learning.

See 'British Canoeing Reasonable Adjustments Policy' for details on how Providers can make adjustments for paddlers with specific disabilities.

Useful Information

Please refer to the 'Stadium Raft Guide Award Training Notes' 'Stadium Raft Guide Award Assessment Notes' for further information.

Training Prerequisites

At the point of training, candidates do not need to complete a LR form, have a first aid qualification or have National Association membership.

Assessment Prerequisites

- National Association membership
- Current First Aid certificate (16 hours) with CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation)
- Logbook of evidence of a minimum of 20 hours' guiding on the section of water they are to be assessed on. This may be more if the Guide does not have any transferable skills from another white water discipline.

Candidates must be 18 years or over at the time of assessment.

Craft

A raft that is safe and fit for purpose for the remit of the award and the assessment tasks.

Equipment

The candidate should have a CE recognised Helmet (no large peaks) and a CE recognised Buoyancy Aid.

The guide should carry on their person a flip line, whistle, knife and watch as a minimum requirement. This may be added onto depending on the Stadium's individual requirements.

A First Aid kit and throwline will be relevant to each Stadium as in their own operating procedures.

Trainer and Assessor

A Level 4 or 5 Guide or nominated experienced staff member are able to run training for Stadium Raft Guides. Assessments must be run by a Level 4 or 5 guide.

Assessment Venue

Assessment must take place at a British Canoeing Quality Marked Centre, where the Centre is recognised to run a commercial raft guide operation and has either a resident Level 4 or 5 guide or has a confirmed Level 4 or 5 guide technical advisor.

Technical Syllabus

Further technical information on the areas listed below can be found in the British Canoeing Stadium Raft Guide Award Training Notes.

Guide Equipment

The guide should carry the minimum equipment required for the session.

Client Care

Client interaction

Demonstrate the ability to talk to clients and build and maintain rapport throughout the session.

Safety brief to demonstrate

Introductions, medicals, PPE checks, raft introduction and seating positions, paddle brief and how to use under commands, client safety in and out of raft, flip drill understanding.

Client safety

On land - manual handling and approaching the water.

Whilst on water - appropriate usage of high-sides/ overs, get downs, lean-ins to ensure clients remain safe. There should also be quick rescues and swimmer recovery when required.

Technical Skills - Raft Guide

Guide posture. (Sitting position) to maintain core strength and personal safety.

Efficient use of strokes to correct boat angle - pry, draw and sweep/power.

Client stroke work. Appropriate use of clients to manoeuvre the raft to avoid (or deliberately) bounce off obstacles as required.

Be able to perform forward and backward ferry glides showing good control of angle and momentum.

Demonstrate the ability to break in and out with control and good judgement, (avoiding aggressive dipping of tubes).

There should be clear use of momentum and angle to drive through waves/ holes as required for the desired exit and future water.

Wave/ hole surfing (if section of water allows) showing good evidence of client safety with get downs, overs and paddle positioning.

Use of effective positioning and signals within the flotilla.

Rescue Skills

Flip drill

2 minute flip drill. (Swim 10m to the raft, get in raft, flip raft, climb on raft, headcount, re-flip, climb back into upright raft). This may be completed using the flip line.

Safe and effective swimming in moving water

During the assessment the candidate should demonstrate the ability to swim into/out of eddies and manage their own safety in the river enabling the candidate to demonstrate defensive and aggressive swimming skills relative to the grade of water they are being assessed on. (Utilising 3 eddies as a minimum with their guide paddle.)

The ability to execute a throw-line rescue

This should highlight dynamic casualty rescue (feet or rope), rope managed in hands at all times not on the floor, good selection of eddy's for casualty rescue and good casualty communication.

Theory

An understanding of what material rafts are made of.

Raft pressures (on the water and for storage off the water).

How weather can affect a session.

Etiquette on the water for the section they are being assessed on.

For further advice on the assessed content, see the British Canoeing Stadium Raft Guide Training Notes and Assessment Notes.