

Paddle-Ability Workshop Training Programme



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Session	Time	Session Outline
Introduction	5 minutes	Check everyone is in the right room venue. Remember
		to tell the group about the venue and where the
		emergency exits and toilets are.
		This session offers you the opportunity to introduce
		yourself and give the group a short piece about your
		experience in paddlesport and working with paddlers with
		a disability. Use this session to set the scene and
		introduce the workshop and what its aims and objectives
		are for.
Session 1:	5 minutes	Content:
Aims and		Develop an understanding around the challenges
Objectives		faced by paddlers with a disability in terms of
		accessing sport.
		Develop an understanding of how our sport can be
		made more appealing to paddlers with a disability.
		Develop communication techniques.
		Introduction to range of impairments.
		Start to consider how to plan and run sessions for
		paddlers with a disability.
		Purpose:
		Ensure expectations are met.
		Discussion points:
		Invite attendees to introduce themselves; where
		they are from, what they wish to gain from the
		workshop and what experience they have of
		working with paddlers with a disability.



Describe to the group what the aims of the session
are and what is going to be covered during the
session.
Now is a good time to carry out some sort of ice
breaker activity.

Notes:

Many people have a misconception or lack of knowledge or understanding what disability is, how many people are affected and how broad the spectrum of disability is. This section offers the tutor the opportunity to highlight the range of impairments there are out there, beyond the perception of the wheelchair user. Many clubs and centres become hung up on wheelchair access without considering how they can provide excellent opportunities beyond this for people with a range of other impairments.

This section will also probably highlight to attendees that they may well be working with paddlers with a disability without knowing it, especially when we start to talk about mental health and long term illness such as Cancer, Epilepsy and Arthritis.

This section also helps the attendee to understand the types of people who are going to be taking part in their session.

Session 2:	5 minutes	Content:
Disability in		Disability infographic:
the Society		Number of people in the population who have a
		disability.
		How many people are affected by which
		impairment groups (visual, learning, physical
		(ambulant), physical (wheelchair user), hearing,
		mental health, behavioural).
		Statistics on hidden disability.
		Age spread.



 Where they are, e.g. work, education, unemployed.

Purpose:

To give attendees an idea of the disability market, the spread of impairments and how there are probably people that they come in regular contact with but have no idea have a disability.

Also to challenge their perceptions of people with a disability as being wheelchair users.

Discussion Points:

- Highlight to the group that the prevalence of disability increases with age and how this fits well with our participant profile, as well as the potential it offers us to grow interest in our sport. This is also relevant where you might have a participant who has acquired an impairment or long term health condition.
- Challenging perceptions: Ask the group what image falls into their brain when you use the term 'disability'.
 - Likelihood is that is the symbol for wheelchair user.

 This is an opportunity to explain that disability goes so much further beyond wheelchair users.
- Talk around what people consider is disability, people may be surprised to hear that Diabetes and Cancer are considered under this umbrella.
- To help attendees identify with the number of people affected by disability around them.

Tutor Reading:

- Document A. EFDS Talk to Me Principles in Action
- Document B. EFDS Supporting Me to Be Active



		Document C. Sport England Mapping Disability	
Session 3:	5 minutes	Content:	
Disability in		Infographic about people with disabilities participating in	
Sport		sport:	
		General participation levels.	
		Impairment specific information around participation	
		levels.	
		Paddlesport participation figures.	
		Purpose:	
		To give attendees an idea of the under representation of	
		disability in sport but also to say that in our sport we	
		know paddlers with a disability do not necessarily tell us.	
		Discussion Points:	
		The key here is to highlight that there is a real under-	
		representation in terms of people with a disability taking	
		part in physical exercise but that, at the same time, these	
		people clearly do want to take part in more, we just need	
		to support them to find that opportunity.	
		In this workshop we can look at some ways of making	
		paddlesport more accessible.	
		Tutor Reading:	
		Document A. EFDS Talk to Me Principles in Action	
		Document B. EFDS Supporting Me to be Active	
		Document C. Sport England Mapping Disability	
Session 4:	5 minutes	This is a great opportunity to use a change of media and	
Sociability		to give the group a change from them and yourself	
Film		talking. Explain that the film comes from the British	
		Canoeing Paddle-Ability series of 4 films. Explain that	
		this film talks about some paddlers' experience with	
		paddlesport, what they get from it and why they love	



		it. After the film, ask the group if they have any thoughts;
		hopefully they might comment that those shown in the
		film "did not look like they had a disability". Does
		anything else challenge their perceptions of disability?
		What about long term health conditions?
Session 5:	5 minutes	Content:
Accessing		Initial quick group discussion around what they think the
our Sport		top three barriers paddlers with a disability might face in
		terms of getting involved with sport.
		Consideration of the family and friends of paddlers with a
		disability and how they can join in/assist.
		Purpose:
		Opportunity for participants to take part in small
		discussion groups/interesting to compare with
		perceptions towards end of workshop.
		Everyone is welcome to paddle, ask questions and listen.
		Let's give individuals the best paddlesport experience.
		Discussion Points:
		Move around while the groups are discussing this. Listen
		to what their thoughts are? This will help you to gauge
		their experiences of working with paddlers with a
		disability and if they have a particularly polarised opinion.
		Tutor Reading:
		Document A. EFDS Talk to Me Principles in Action
		Document B. EFDS. Supporting Me to be Active
		Document D. British Canoeing Awarding Body
		Paddle-Ability Research
Session 6:	5 minutes	Content:
Barriers		List of barriers.



		Communications Film	
Session 8:	5 minutes	English Federation of Disability Sport: Inclusive	
		customer service.	
		well looked after. You can link this back to general good	
		are more likely to come back for more if they have been	
		While the group are doing this activity, in addition people	
		in the first place.	
		disability but we need to be getting them through the door	
		It is great having all the tools to coach paddlers with a	
		Discussion Points:	
		to more paddlers with a disability.	
		Allow for group to understand what they can do to appeal	
		Purpose:	
limit barriers		organisations could mitigate against these.	
How can we		In small groups they discuss how they and their	
Session 7:	10 minutes	Content:	
		Paddle-Ability Research	
		Document D. British Canoeing Awarding Body	
		Document B. EFDS Supporting Me to be Active	
		Document A. EFDS Talk to Me Principles in Action	
		Tutor Reading:	
		access to equipment.	
		Also highlight that these might be perceived barriers, e.g.	
		group have come up with. Pull out any key differences.	
		It is not unusual that these are the same as those that the	
		Discussion Points:	
		paddlers with a disability accessing our sport.	
		Purpose: To demonstrate to the group what the barriers are for	



		This is a great film to show if you have the time, or you
		can signpost the group to the film, advising that they
		watch it at a later date.
Session 9:	5 minutes	Content:
Accessible		The group work in pairs to discuss their journey to today's
Facilities		venue or from their home to their own club or centre;
		How accessible was that trip? How easy is it? What
		might be the challenges that someone without their own
		transport face?
		Purpose:
		Attendees conceptualise that getting to the activity is a
		challenge in itself.
		How can we make everyone's experience better?
		Pre-information.
		Expectations.
		Who else will be there?
		 Let us know how we can offer support.
		Toilet facilities.
		Discussion Points:
		Those attending the training may not find getting around
		their lives all that complicated. This activity allows
		attendees to consider the range of challenges faced by
		paddlers with a disability, from getting out of bed to
		physically getting into a building. This helps us to
		highlight how important it is to ensure that participants
		have as much information as possible in advance and
		that their experience at the session is key to whether or
		not they engage with the sport again.
		Tutor Reading:



		Document D. British Canoeing Awarding Body
		Paddle-Ability Research
		Document E. EFDS Access for All Opening Doors
		Consideration and discussions based around both
		manual handling and assistance. Asking, listening and
		then provide the support required.
Session 10:	5 minutes	Content:
Terminology		Exercise on what language we use when talking about
		people with a disability, give the group the language
		cards. Ask the group to sort through the cards into
		appropriate, inappropriate and unsure.
		Purpose:
		Let the group work together to understand appropriate
		and inappropriate language.
		Discussion Points:
		Has appropriate language changed with time – is this
		still likely to change?
		Understanding that some people with a disability
		might use inappropriate language when talking about
		themselves.
		As you move around the group you will get a grasp for
		their understanding of this language use is. If you are
		happy with how the group have reacted to this, there
		is no need to go through all the terminology, just pick
		out a few key words and discuss with the
		group. Handicap, Spastic and Retard are good
		examples, particularly since they are still used
		extensively in some other parts of the world.
		Activity Resources:
		Session 10. Activity - Terminology
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		Decree of EEDO Division 1	
		Document F. EFDS Disability Language and Etiquette	
Break	5 minutes	If you have not already done so, this is a good time	
		to set up the room for Session 14	
		These activities are set up in a way that allows coaches	
		to consider the challenges they might face working with	
		people who have a range of impairments. The key focus	
		of this session should be for the coaches to break down	
		what the challenges people have and how they, as	
		coaches, would ensure that they best include and	
		support that individual. Set up the activities around the	
		room. Once the group come back in from their break,	
		quickly explain each of the activities and then send them	
		off in pairs or threes to try them out.	
Session 11:	10 minutes	Card 1 - Hearing Impairment	
How		Content:	
Disability		The key thing that participants should get from this	
Affects		exercise is understanding where they should	
Different		stand/position themselves when communicating with	
People:		people with hearing impairments and how accurate and	
8 activities		appropriate demonstrations are key. Also discuss how	
are set up		they might ensure that they can remain in communication	
around the		with individuals once out on the water.	
room and, in		Activity:	
groups,		One person tried to communicate with other wearing ear	
participants		defenders:	
move around		Standing behind them	
the room		With a piece of paper in front of mouth	
trying them		Standing in front of them	
out.		Discussion Points:	
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Ask the participants how they might change to work with people affected by hearing loss. They should be thinking about where they might stand and how they are disseminating information. There is water sports specific sign language developed by the National Children's Society for the Deaf. However, will this really be needed in all cases? How are they going to ensure that they can maintain communication with participants once they are out on the water?

Current Resources:

Session 11. Activity Cards – How Disability Affects
 Different People

Activity Resources:

- Ear defenders.
- 5 minutes

Card with instructions on.

Card 2 - Visual Impairment

Content:

Give the group a quick demonstration of the traditional guiding position. In this activity, those taking part should start to develop understanding of the depth of verbal queue that they would need to give someone. Attendees should also consider how they felt and, in turn, how people attending their sessions might feel.

Activity:

One partner guides their blindfolded partner round the building.

Discussion Points:



Ask participants how they felt wearing the blindfold? Did they feel more or less vulnerable than normal, how might this affect their confidence. Talk about the need to introduce people and letting people know if you just need to step away to get something. Ask course attendees if they have any other thoughts, how might they communicate movement and changes to technique?

Current Resources:

Session 11. Activity Cards – How Disability Affects
 Different People

Activity Resources:

5 minutes

- Blinds
- Card with instructions

Card 3 - Visual Impairment

Content:

Using the goggles, coaches should consider how an individual's field of vision may be limited, and that while someone might be registered blind this does not necessarily mean that that person has no field of vision at all.

Activity:

Try on the goggles: carry out the tasks with each of the goggles:

- Copying a list.
- Pouring a glass of water.

Discussion Points:

How easy would it be to put on equipment, carry a boat, paddle?



It is important to raise that visual impairments are very varied and may affect different individuals in very different ways. Particular points to raise would be: how someone with a limited central field of vision might look at something 'from the side', the considerations for lighting and how marking specific colours might make it easier for an individual to identify you, as well as further considerations when talking in a group setting.

Current Resources:

Session 11. Activity Cards – How Disability Affects
 Different People

Activity Resources:

5 minutes

- Simulation goggles for limited peripheral, only peripheral, macular degeneration, cataracts.
- Bottle of water and cup.
- Instructions and list card for participants to copy.

Card 4 - Physical, Manual Dexterity

Content:

Focus the participants on how having limited manual dexterity might affect the person's ability to take part in paddlesport, equally discuss how this might be affected by fatigue and/or weather conditions.

Activity:

Using the tongs, gloves or your non-dominant hand to carry out the following:

- Write your name.
- Untie/take off your shoes.
- Pick up beads and put in a pot.

Discussion Points:



Highlight that this activity is to get people to start thinking about the challenges of paddling with limited dexterity, if they are struggling to carry out these tasks, how is paddling going to affect this? What could the impact of cold and fatigue be?

Current Resources:

Session 11. Activity Cards – How Disability Affects
 Different People

5 minutes

Activity Resources:

- Instructions
- Tongs
- Gloves
- Beads in pot

Card 5 - Physical

Content:

This activity is great because it highlights how challenging it can be to use a slide board.

Note: In reality, it is advisable that only people who have slide board training, through their physio or other support, use slide boards.

Activity:

Transfer from one chair to another without using your legs. Also try transferring down onto a stool and then again down to the ground.

It should be highlighted to attendees that only paddlers who have had training in using a slide board would normally be using one. Do use this as an opportunity to discuss where you might stand as a coach to assist someone using a slide board into a boat. Also discuss



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other things you could use such as matting and small plastic steps. As well as other solutions for getting in and out of boats (e.g. beach entry).

Current Resources:

Session 11. Activity Cards – How Disability Affects
 Different People

Activity Resources:

Instructions

Card 6 - Balancing

Content:

Coordination and mobility.

Poor coordination problems may result in poor balance, clumsiness, dropping or bumping into things.

Activity:

Carry out the following activities, keeping your hands by your side and balancing a bean bag on your head:

- Walking
- Hopping
- Jumping

5 minutes

Sitting down/standing up

Discussion Points:

How did you feel about the activity?

What were the challenges?

What implications might balance and coordination issues have on your coaching?

Card 7 - Autistic Spectrum

Content:



Autistic people can find that they are bombarded with sensory stimulus. This activity helps course attendees understand how hard it can be to concentrate when there are lots of things distracting them.

Activity:

One person carries out activities while other in group distracts them.

How did you feel trying to concentrate on something while there were so many other messages going on around you?

How might you as the coach change your style to support an autistic paddler?

Discussion Points:

This is great for helping people to understand how challenging it can be for an individual to focus on what a coach is asking them to do when they are being bombarded with multiple stimuli (a good example is the Chris Packham documentary

5 minutes

https://vimeo.com/252876361 where he talks about what he is experiencing when he is walking in the forest). How might a coach adapt how they are giving instructions to reduce this?

Current Resources:

Session 11. Activity Cards – How Disability Affects
 Different People

Activity Resources:

Instructions

Card 8 - Learning Disabilities

Content:



		A olythogographic attended boyy they found the costivity
		Ask those who attended how they found the activity,
		some will find processing the text easier, some the
		colours of the text. Are there any colours that are
		particularly difficult to process?
		Activity:
		From the cards read out aloud, the colour of the text not
		the words, and then the words not the text.
		Discussion Points:
		Ask the participants which they found easier/harder. This
		is a good exercise in showing that people find processing
		different types of information more or less easy. This is
		an opportunity to point out how we present what, and
		how much, information can make things easier or harder
		for an individual.
		Current Resources:
		Session 11. Activity Cards – How Disability Affects
		Different People
		Activity Resources:
		Instructions and text.
Session 13:	20 minutes	Boats
Equipment		Content:
		Attendees split into small groups, each group is given a
		selection of photographs of boats and discuss which
		boats they might use for which groups and why.
		Purpose:
		Participants identify what equipment they already have
		and how they can utilise that to support their work with
		paddlers with a disability. They should discuss the pros
		and cons of each of the boats.
		Discussion Points:
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Some of the points but not exhaustive, let the group share their stories or experiences too:

Card 1: Single Sit on Top; great for getting people started, easy to get in and out, stable, using leg straps and back support can make the boat more accessible for people with spinal injuries. Just need to ensure participants do not get cold.

Card 2: Touring Kayak; stable, easy to get to go in a straight line, can offer better support for an amputee or someone with limited use of their core. Risk of fear of entrapment for new paddlers.

Card 3: Katakanu, other similar options can be included in this (e.g. rafted open boats and bell boats), can get multiple people in the same craft, people can engage more or less dependent on skill and ability, in this example you can also use the middle area. This film gives a good example of where the Katakanu has been used by paddlers with a disability for an expedition.

https://www.facebook.com/matt.blackwell.9066/videos/10 157281320990298/

Card 4: Inflatable; we have great stories from paddlers with a disability using this type of craft because they could carry them on the bus (this person was unable to drive), or even couples using one as it was easier for the non-disabled partner to carry the boat on their own.

Card 5: Two-person Sit on Top; this has the benefits of the Sit on Top and being a two-person craft.

Card 6: Open Boat; can put a bean bag in the bottom, participants higher up from the water, can raft to other craft.



	Card 7: Va'a; outrigger boat used in Paracanoe
	competition. Benefits of the outrigger can be discussed
	here, this is also a chance to talk about inflatable
	outriggers that are available as well as other options.
	Current Resources:
	Session 13. Activity Cards – Boats
	Activity Resources:
	Cards
15 minutes	Paddles and Grips
	Content:
	Attendees split into small groups, each group is given a
	selection of photographs of boats and discuss which
	boats they might use for which groups and why.
	Purpose:
	Participants identify what equipment they already have
	and how they can utilise that to support their work with
	paddlers with a disability.
	Discussion Points:
	Card 1: Wrist Attachment; the element that attaches to
	the wrist slides in and out of the element that is attached
	to the paddle; what are the challenges with this?
	Card 2: Hand Attachment; discuss how this can be
	replicated with 'off the shelf' items? What might be the
	challenges with this item?
	Card 3: Boat/Paddle Attachment; this is great for
	someone who might have limited core stability, but what
	are the range of motion impacts of the piece of
	equipment. It can also be used to 'paddle' with the feet
	for someone who has limited upper limb capacity.



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		Card 4: Canoe Paddle-Attachment; this works well for
		an individual who only has use of one arm, a 'homemade'
		version can also be created with Velcro straps.
		Card 5: Praddle; good item for someone who might
		struggle with a whole paddle. Flip flop or table tennis bat
		can be used as an alternative.
		Card 6: Oval Shaft; paddlers can 'feel' how they need to
		hold the paddle, lots of 'homemade' alternatives to this.
		The group will probably come back with lots of examples
		that they have seen/used.
		Card 7: Variable Shaft; varying the shaft for the needs of
		the paddler, e.g. if they struggle to understand rotating
		the paddle shaft.
		Cards 8 and 9: Children's paddles; looking at paddles
		that are appropriate for the size of the child but also
		considering the size and weight of paddles.
		Current Resources:
		Session 13. Activity Cards – Paddles
	10 minutes	Other Equipment
		Content:
		Attendees split into small groups, each group is given a
		selection of photographs of boats and discuss which
		boats they might use for which groups and why.
		Purpose:
		Participants identify what equipment they already have
		and how they can utilise that to support their work with
		paddlers with a disability.
		Discussion Points:



		Card 1: Easy Grip; helps secure hand to paddle,
		dependent on how tightly it is strapped on a hand can
		pull out like a pogie, cheap and easy to access.
		Card 2: Hoist; great piece of kit for the right place.
		However, most of the people that coaches will see will be
		far more comfortable self-transferring. Discuss the cost
		of maintaining the hoist and what it feels like being
		transferred by hoist.
		Card 3: Foam Block; really useful to pad out stumps or
		add in extra support for individuals.
		Card 4: Gaffer tape; for use with foam blocks but also
		can be used to make hand supports and for attaching
		guides onto paddles.
		Card 5: Personal Flotation Device; talk about the
		different PFDs around and what would be a good/bad
		example for use, e.g. over the head is going to be
		challenging for an autistic person.
		Card 6: Slide boards, as discussed in previous section.
		Current Resources:
		Session 13. Activity Cards – Scenarios
		Activity Resources:
		Adaptive seat
		Different Breathing Apparatus
		Hoist
		Hand grip
		Gaffer tape
		• Foam
Section 13:	15 minutes	Content:
Planning a		Working in small groups, you need to plan part of a
Session		session for a person who has arrived at your
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	



club/setting. You will be given some details about their needs. You need to discuss any implications or considerations and decide what you need to do.

Purpose:

Participants have the opportunity to put everything they have learned in the session into practice.

Discussion Points:

The key message that should come out of all of these scenarios is discussion with the individual about what they want to achieve and what kind of activity they want to take part in.

Scenario 1: Visual Impairment; the group should think about what information they are giving to the individual in advance, as well as what the limitations of the individual's field of vision. They might discuss how they are going to communicate information, such as paddle placement, before they get onto the water and maybe look at a progression of boats from tandem to individual.

Scenario 2: Hearing Impairment; this person has got in contact because they wanted to paddle. Together the group should consider this, they should discuss how they are going to communicate with the individual. NCDS have some water sports related sign language:

https://www.signbsl.com/sign/water-sport, although highlight that Makaton signs and images could also be an option.

Scenario 3: Learning Disabilities; discussion should include the best forms of communication with the individual, their capacity to understand instruction and



how the coach will break down activities and instructions to support that individual.

Scenario 4: Wheelchair user; is this a family that want to paddle together? Considerations should be made around transferring and pressure sores, as well as session length to avoid circulation related issues.

Scenario 5: Older couple; assumption would be that the couple want to do this as an alternative to walking. Considerations around medication, session length, managing illness and mobility.

Scenario 6: Mental health; session introduction, potential outcomes, confidence of paddlers, weather you are putting people in a craft on their own or as a group? **Scenario 7:** What are the triggers for people in the group, how can this fit into a bigger development (since it is part of a programme), craft allocation.

Scenario 8: Epilepsy; considerations around Epilepsy can be found here: https://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/go-canoeing/disability-canoeing/paddling-with-epilepsy

Current Resources:

 Session 13. Activity Cards – Scenarios Activity Resources:

Instruction cards

- Visual Impairment group.
- Hearing Impairment individual with parent.
- Adult with learning disabilities with carer.
- Parent who is a wheelchair user with two children.
- Older couple, one has Arthritis, the other Diabetes.
- Young person with Epilepsy.
- Group of young men from a mental health group.



		Group of young people from a school for children with
		behavioural problems.
Session 14:	10 minutes	Content:
Conclusion		Coach the individual, not the disability.