

## **Leadership Awards – Frequently Asked Questions**

A section of frequently asked questions is included here. Most of this information (and more) is available in the **'Leadership Awards Announcement'** The **'Leadership Provider Requirements'** also offer further details for potential Providers. These are available to download from the British Canoeing Awarding Body website from 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020. We recommend that you read the Announcement prior to these FAQs.

### **When are the revised awards going live?**

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### **Where can I find more information about the new awards?**

Information is available on the British Canoeing Awarding Body and the National Association Delivery Centre websites.

### **How do the new Leadership Awards suite differ from the current Leadership Awards?**

There are significant differences in the learning journey, as well as an increased number of disciplines available. The new qualification suite is based around the use of sound leadership principles and our educational philosophy.

The Leadership Awards are now direct entry, candidates can select the qualification most suited to their activity and their experience.

The Leadership Award training is optional, allowing candidates to have ownership about the preparation they need prior to assessment.

### **Are there new Leadership Awards available?**

There are brand new disciplines, including Paddlesport Touring Leader, SUP Inland Open Water Leader, SUP Coastal Leader and Stadium White Water Leader.

The Sea Kayak Leader and Advanced Sea Kayak Leader will have non tidal and tidal options.

The Rafting Qualifications will be aligned with the Leadership suite and the British Canoeing Education Philosophy.

### **How do the changes affect the qualification pathway?**

They don't really. The Leadership Awards suite is still aimed at those looking to lead groups in sheltered water environments through to advanced water conditions.

### **Who are the Leadership Awards targeted at?**

The awards are aimed at anyone looking to lead on sheltered, moderate or advanced environments. The awards can be used by clubs, centres, organisations, guiding companies, etc. to support their leading activity.

### **What are the options for someone leading multi-craft trips?**

The Paddlesport Leader and Paddlesport Touring Leader are ideal for clubs, centres and organisations who go on multi-craft trips and journeys.

### **What formal training is required?**

There is no requirement for formal British Canoeing Leadership training before assessment.

Candidates will be responsible for making decisions about what preparation they need prior to assessment. Optional British Canoeing Leadership Training courses will be available for each discipline for those who wish to access them.

British Canoeing recognises that there is a wealth of experience within clubs and centres and candidates can choose how they develop their skills, checking their developments against the 'Assessment Guidance'. This explains in detail the standard required, and provides a useful supplementary resource to help Leaders in their preparation. There is also a digital self-profile tool and skills checklist that can be used to help Leaders evaluate if they are ready to put themselves forward for assessment.

Candidates may also wish to consider asking a third party to check their readiness for assessment; a British Canoeing Leadership Provider is well placed to offer this opportunity and, again, the Assessment Guidance and Skills Checklist can be used as a guide.

### **What leadership skills are required?**

During assessment, candidates will need to show that they have the ability to lead a safe, enjoyable, quality journey based on the group's needs, abilities and aspirations, and within the stated environments. This will include skilful application of leadership principles and strategies, judgement and decision making, safety awareness and risk management.

### **How will the Award be assessed?**

Candidates' leadership, personal and safety and rescue skills will be assessed in the upper limit of the relevant environment.

Assessment courses will normally run over 1 day. However, this will depend on the course ratios and logistics relating to access to suitable environments.

## What are the prerequisites for the Leadership Awards?

Leaders will require:

- Valid (within 3 years) British Canoeing recognised First Aid award, appropriate for the qualification
- Valid (within 3 years) Safeguarding Training
- Full National Association Membership

At the point of assessment, Leaders must be aged 16 or over, or aged 18 or over for Advanced Water options.

For the following Leadership Awards, the relevant safety prerequisite is required:

- **Canoe White Water Leader:** White Water Safety and Rescue (or equivalent)
- **Advanced Canoe White Water Leader:** White Water Safety and Rescue Training (or equivalent)
- **Sea Kayak Leader (non-tidal and tidal):** Coastal Navigation and Tidal Planning (or equivalent)
- **Advanced Sea Kayak Leader (non-tidal and tidal):** Open Water Navigation and Tidal Planning (or equivalent)
- **Stand Up Paddleboard Coastal Leader:** Coastal Navigation and Tidal Planning (or equivalent)
- **Advanced Surf Kayak Leader:** Advanced Surf Safety and Rescue Training
- **White Water Leader:** White Water Safety and Rescue Training (or equivalent)
- **Advanced White Water Leader:** Advanced White Water Safety and Rescue Training (or equivalent)

*Leaders wishing to pursue a qualification with a remit in advanced conditions do not need to complete the relevant Moderate Water Leadership Award as a prerequisite.*

### **Can under 18s access the Leadership Awards?**

Yes. Leaders need to be aged 16 or over at the time of assessment (18 for Advanced Water options).

Candidates under the age of 18 can take the awards, but cannot be deemed responsible for leadership by law until they turn 18.

### **Will candidates need to register for their Leadership Award?**

Yes, candidates will register with their National Association ahead of assessment. We would recommend that candidates complete their registration at least 2 weeks prior to their assessment, or as soon as they meet all the prerequisites.

### **If I have currently completed my Leadership Award training, what should I do?**

Candidates currently working through the Leadership Award can choose to complete the Leadership Award this year, or slot into the new awards scheme from the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

- **Canoe Leader** – There will be two pathways available, Canoe White Water Leader and Canoe Open Water Leader. Anyone who has completed their Canoe Leader training and still requires both environments can be assessed over a two-day period and, if successful, certificated.
- **Advanced Canoe Leader**– There will be two pathways available, Advanced Canoe White Water Leader and Advanced Canoe Open Water Leader. Anyone who has completed their Advanced Canoe Leader training and still requires both environments can be assessed over a two-day period and, if successful, certificated.
- **White Water Kayak Leader** – Anyone who has undertaken the White Water Kayak Leader training and wishes to complete their assessment will undertake the White Water Leader assessment.

- **Advanced White Water Kayak Leader** – Anyone who has undertaken the Advanced White Water Kayak Leader training and wishes to complete their assessment will undertake the Advanced White Water Leader assessment.
- **White Water OC1 Leader** – Anyone who has undertaken the White Water OC1 Leader training and wishes to complete their assessment will undertake the White Water Leader assessment.
- **Advanced White Water OC1 Leader** – Anyone who has undertaken the Advanced White Water OC1 Leader training and wishes to complete their assessment will undertake the Advanced White Water Leader assessment.

**If I have already have a 4 Star, 5 Star or Leadership Award, do I need to do the new Leadership Award to remain current?**

No. As long as the Leadership Award still meets the requirements of your leading and you hold National Association membership, a valid First Aid certificate and, from September 2020, current Safeguarding training and evidence of Continual Professional Development.

**What are the ratios for assessment?**

- Assessment courses working on a 1:1 or 1:2 ratio can be run over one day.
- Assessment courses working on a 1:3 or 1:4 ratio must be run over two days.
- Modular courses can be run following the principle above.

We see the benefit of a more flexible approach to assessments. Lower ratios will provide opportunities for single day assessments and allow agility in organisation assessments depending on the environmental conditions.

**Does the White Water Leader Award cover artificial white water stadiums?**

This will depend on the artificial white water stadium but yes, many stadiums recognise the White Water Leader. From January 2021, those who only operate on stadiums will have the option of the Stadium White Water Leader Award.

**For the Sea Kayak Leader award, there are now tidal and non-tidal pathways. Will these have separate assessments?**

There will be separate assessments for non-tidal and tidal, in both moderate and advanced environments.

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

AALA/AALS will be informed of the changes to the qualification and advised on how we recommend they should be used within the industry.

**I hold Leadership or Guiding qualifications from another organisation, can I transfer?**

British Canoeing recognises and values qualifications from other organisations and would encourage the use of direct entry to assessment if the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience is held.

**I want to become a Provider of the new Awards**

Full details are available on the National Association websites, including recruitment information and application processes.

British Canoeing welcomes applications from experienced Leaders and Guides from various communities and other organisations. We encourage applications from women and other under-represented groups.