

Paddle-Ability Accreditation

Information and Guidance

Paddle-Ability Accreditation is a bolt on to the British Canoeing Activity Quality Mark. It is used to recognise organisations providing high quality opportunities for disabled people.

Why Paddle-Ability Accreditation?

Disabled people want to be able to make a choice about where they access our sport and to do this they want to know where they can find the best opportunities and activities for them. To do this they want to have as much information as possible about a provider, so they know what to expect and where they will feel comfortable and welcomed. An easy way for us to highlight organisations where disabled people will be able to find this is through recognising providers as Paddle-Ability accredited.

What's in it for us?

Being recognised as a Paddle-Ability provider actively promotes your organisation as offering activity to disabled people, offering additional opportunity to grow footfall. British Canoeing will also identify your organisation as being a priority for support in terms of developing your Paddle-Ability programme and will actively work with you to promote your activity for disabled people. Recognising the importance of activity provision for disabled people will also help your organisation applying for funding for provision, equipment and facilities

Ok, what's the process?

We accredit organisations with Paddle-Ability status at the same time as your Activity Quality Mark visit; this is done by a Quality Mark Officer.

What are the criteria?

Many organisations already fulfil the criteria for Paddle-Ability accreditation without knowing it. We understand that organisations offer a range of activities, in varying locations and formats. Paddle-Ability accreditation offers criteria that is flexible and allows for both inclusive and specific activity for disabled people. Organisations who are awarded Paddle-Ability status will:

- Provide a quality and inclusive coaching programme
- Have a Paddle-Ability action plan.
- Have an appointed a Paddle-Ability lead.
- Have made contact with at least one local disability group/organisation.
- Run at least one interclub Paddle-Ability event or competition per year

- Provide inclusive opportunities for disabled people to achieve awards for discipline specific and or BCU personal performance i.e. Paddlepower, Star Tests or Leadership and Volunteering awards.
- Use appropriate equipment to allow for disabled paddlers needs.
- Have one Coach has attended the Foundation Paddle-Ability Module within the last three years. At least one other person should be action planned to attend so there are eventually at least 2 members of staff should be trained in this area.
- Have completed the British Canoeing Access Checklist.

Next Steps:

If you would like to know more about Paddle-Ability accreditation or would like to start the process contact your regional Canoeing Development Officer.