

## **Coach Award - Frequently Asked Questions**

A section of frequently asked questions is included here. Most of this information (and more) is in the 'Coach Award Course Guide' and 'Coach Award 2018 Updates'. The 'Coach Award Tutor and Assessor Notes' also offer further details for potential providers. These are available to download from the British Canoeing website from July 2017. We recommend that you read the Coach Award Course Guide, prior to these FAQs.

### **When are the Coach Awards being launched?**

1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. Details will be available on the Home Nation Association websites.

### **Who is the Coach Award targeted at?**

The qualifications are targeted at coaches whose core function is to coach paddlesport skills (technical, tactical, physical and psychological). This will include coaching beginners new to the sport, or paddlers looking to develop their skills in the given discipline/environment. This is likely to include Coaches working in competition and non-competition clubs, outdoor education centres, activity centres, schools, Go Canoeing, DofE, youth groups and uniform groups.

### **What is the Coach qualified to do?**

British Canoeing recommends that the Coach Award qualifications are suitable for coaches to work independently within appropriate safety management systems. Each qualification is framed around defined environments where the coach is likely to be operating. The qualification will support the coach to be able to work with paddlers who are interested in developing their discipline skills in these (or easier) environments.

### **How does the Coach Award differ from the current Level 2?**

The changes aim to provide an improved pathway for discipline specialists in both the competition and non-competition disciplines. This should provide more choice for coaches to target training and development to their particular coaching role. The formal prerequisites are being reduced, there will be direct entry routes and the pathway through training and assessment has changed.

Assessment standards (and remits) remain comparable to the corresponding/current Level 2 and Moderate/ Advanced Water Endorsement.

### **How do the qualification pathway options differ from the current system?**

From 2018, unqualified coaches will have the option of direct entry into a Coach Award alongside the other current options.

The current Level 2 Coaching Pathway is very similar to the proposed Canoe and Kayak (Sheltered Water) Coach awards; although direct entry for unqualified coaches is an option.

The disciplines of Freestyle, Polo, Racing, Slalom and Wild Water Racing now have direct access to a Discipline Specific training and assessment. Previously they would need to complete Level 1 and Level 2 before accessing a Discipline Support Module or specialising at Level 3.

Coaches aspiring to be specialist coaches in Open Canoe, Sea, Surf and White Water Kayak now have direct access to a Discipline Specific qualification. Previously they would need to complete Level 1 and Level 2 before being able to specialise at Level 3 or Moderate/Advanced Water Endorsement.

### **What changes will be made to the other Coaching Qualifications?**

No changes are being made to our Level 1 award although it is to be rebranded as '*Paddlesport Instructor*'. This qualification will remain the recommended option for all coaches and instructors whose main focus of work is delivering introductory paddlesport sessions. An Instructor who holds both *Paddlesport Leader* and *Paddlesport Instructor* is well placed to fulfil their coaching duties with more autonomy. We expect this combination to be the main route followed by instructors working in the activity centre market.

A discipline specific Coach may choose to complete their Paddlesport Instructor if they wanted more support in running introductory paddlesport sessions.

No changes are being made to our Level 3 award, although it is to be rebranded as '*Performance [insert discipline] Coach*'. The Level 3 training course prerequisites have been reviewed in light of the restructured Coach Awards.

### **What are the prerequisites?**

These are detailed in the Coach Award Course Guide.

### **If a candidate is about to start their Level 2 training, should they wait to do the Coach Award?**

Not if they are looking for training or a qualification to coach Canoe and/or Kayak in a sheltered water environment. Coaches who complete the Level 2 training in the current system will be able to progress straight to the Canoe and/or Kayak (Sheltered Water) assessment.

If the coach doesn't normally coach in the Sheltered Water environment they may wish to wait until January 2018 to access more discipline specific training. However, if they do complete their Level 2 training this year their ongoing journey to a discipline specific training/assessment will be quicker and shorter as they won't need to complete the Core Coach Training.

### **How does a coach who does/did Level 2 training prior to the end of 2017 progress to assessment?**

Coaches who complete Level 2 training in the current system will be able to progress straight to Canoe and/or Kayak (Sheltered Water) assessment. The training can be at any point in the past, the expiry is not considered. Coaches who have completed the Level 2 (UKCC) Training will also have the option of progressing to any of the other Discipline Specific Training courses (if they hold the other prerequisites).

### **How does a coach who does/did their Moderate or Advanced Water training prior to the end of 2017 progress to assessment?**

Coaches who complete Moderate or Advanced Water Endorsement training will be able to progress towards a Coach Award assessment (in the same discipline). They will not be required to complete the Core Coach Training or Discipline Specific training, but may have other assessment prerequisites

to complete. The Moderate or Advanced Water Endorsement training expiry date will not be considered ahead of the Coach Award assessment.

### **Do coaches with an existing qualification need to do the Coach Award to remain current?**

No. Any qualification or award taken with British Canoeing will always remain useable as long as the award still meets the demands of the coaching role and the British Canoeing Terms of Reference. The Core and Discipline Specific Coach Training courses can be accessed as stand-alone CPD modules and are recommended for coaches looking for an update in current best practice.

### **Can qualified British Canoeing Coaches bypass the Core Coach Training?**

The Core Coach Training can be by-passed by anyone who has completed the current Level 2 training or assessment, Moderate/Advanced Water Endorsement training or assessment, or Level 3 Core training.

### **How do coaches with qualifications achieved prior to UKCC join the pathway?**

Any coach qualified prior to UKCC awards can access the Core Coach Training; this syllabus should provide a host of up-to-date information and would be recommended as either a stand-alone CPD module or to update on content ahead of progressing to Discipline Specific Training or Assessment.

A Level 3 Coach (pre-UKCC) could by-pass the Discipline Specific Training and proceed to assessment (in the same discipline as their Level 3) if they wished. Both qualifications have the same remit.

A Level 2 or Level 3 Coach (pre-UKCC) who wished to gain a qualification in a different discipline would follow the pathway through Core Coach Training and Discipline Specific Training and onto assessment. Due to the discipline specific nature this should not feel like repetition.

Level 2 Transfer Courses will stop at the end of 2017.

### **What if the coach wants to qualify in a range of disciplines, do they need to keep repeating the Core Coaching Module?**

No. A coach does not need to repeat the Core Coach Training if they wish to qualify in an additional discipline. If it has been some time since the Coach completed the Core Coaching Module, we would highly recommend that the coach considers repeating the Core Coach Training to build on knowledge, gain extra support. It is particularly useful if the Coach has not got other support mechanisms in place.

### **How will the Coach Awards be assessed?**

To achieve the Coach Award qualification, the coach will need to successfully complete a mainly practical assessment. This will include assessment of practical Coaching and Safety and Rescue Skills; supplemented with professional discussion and questioning.

**What standard of personal skills are required?**

We strongly recommend that all coaches following boat-based qualification pathways ensure that their personal skills are well-practiced when they attend Discipline Specific Training courses. This allows the coach to focus on developing their 'coaching', rather than 'paddling' skills.

There is a skills checklist in the Coach Award Course Guide to help Coaches following the Sheltered Water options to review their skills. This is based on the standard required at assessment, when they will need to show efficient and effective personal skills to facilitate safe, quality, enjoyable coaching sessions in sheltered water.

**Can under 18s access the Coach Award training or assessment?**

Young people who are interested in getting involved in coaching can access training (there are no age limits). Coaches must be aged 16 or over at the time of assessment (18, for Advanced Water Options). Note that coaches under the age of 18 can take the award, but cannot be deemed responsible for others by law until they turn 18.

**What are the requirements to becoming a Provider of the training or assessment?**

Please see the British Canoeing Coach Award Tutor and Assessor requirements.

**Why are the staffing ratios being reduced?**

Reduced staffing ratios have allowed us to condense the training course contact time and increase the quality of assessment. Increased quality of assessment has allowed us to remove many constraints in the coach's pathway to assessment and remove the requirement for the Assessment portfolio.

**What other British Canoeing Awards/Courses will the Coach Award holders be eligible to deliver?**

The provider requirements for other British Canoeing awards will be reviewed to add in qualifications linked to the Coach Award structure. This will include provider requirements for awards such as the Performance Awards (Star Awards and Paddlepower) and the Safety training courses (e.g. FSRT). Further details will be available by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

**Will the Coach Awards be UKCC endorsed?**

Yes, in all disciplines. Previously this only applied to the Sheltered Water options.

**Will the Coach Awards be regulated by OfQual?**

British Canoeing Awarding Body is regulated by OfQual. The Coach Awards will be on the register of regulated qualifications.