



### **The British Canoeing Scheme looks so different. What happened to the old awards?**

The following awards / certifications have either been replaced or renamed:

#### **UKCC Level 1 Coach**

The UKCC Level 1 Coach award is replaced by the NEW [Paddlesport Instructor award](#).

The NEW [Paddlesport Instructor award](#) is aimed at taster / starter sessions and short journeys in very sheltered water environments, within the safety management systems of clubs / centres or other organisations. The training course content has changed to reflect developments in this area of the British Canoeing scheme.

It is an ideal course for instructors seeking to work, for example, in multi-activity outdoor centres. It is also an excellent course for Club instructors offering introductory taster sessions, in a variety of craft, on very sheltered water.

The Paddlesport Instructor award is NOT a prerequisite for anyone seeking to gain a [British Canoeing Coach award](#).

Candidates can also enter the British Canoeing scheme directly at the level of Coach / Discipline-specific Leader (e.g. sea kayaking).

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/paddlesport-instructor](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/paddlesport-instructor)

#### **UKCC Level 2 Coach**

The UKCC Level 2 Coach award is replaced by the NEW [Sheltered Water Coach award](#).

The NEW [Sheltered Water Coach award](#) is ideal for anyone introducing and developing paddlesport skills in a variety of craft, in sheltered water.

The training course content reflects developments in the British Canoeing coaching process and comprises:

NEW [Core Coach Training](#) (2 days) plus NEW [Sheltered Water Coach Training](#) (2 days)

Following a post-training period of consolidation, and with completion of post-training course tasks, candidates can attend a 1-day NEW [Sheltered Water Coach Assessment](#) - in either canoe or kayak, or in both craft.

The overall aim of the NEW [Sheltered Water Coach award](#) is similar to the UKCC Level 2 Coach award; the principal changes are in training course content.

Candidates can enter the British Canoeing coaching scheme directly at this level, with sufficient sheltered water paddling experience (see British Canoeing guidance notes) - there is NO NEED to complete the Paddlesport Instructor to attend [Core / Sheltered Water Coach training](#).

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award)

## **UKCC Moderate Water Endorsement (Sea Kayak)**

Moderate Water Endorsement (Sea Kayak) is replaced by the NEW [Sea Kayak Coach award](#).

The overall aim of the award remains the same: to introduce and develop sea kayaking skills in a moderate water coastal environment.

Prerequisites to attend the NEW [Sea Kayak Coach Training course](#) include successful completion of the [Sea Kayak Leader](#) (moderate water) award.

The training course content reflects developments in the British Canoeing coaching process and comprises: NEW [Core Coach Training](#) (2 days) plus NEW [Sea Kayak Coach Training](#) (2 days)

Following a post-training period of consolidation, and with completion of post-training course tasks, candidates can attend a 1-day NEW [Sea Kayak Coach Assessment](#).

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award)

## **4 Star / 5 Star Sea Kayak Leader**

The names of these leadership awards have changed. The new names (since 2018) are:

- [Sea Kayak Leader](#) (formerly named 4 Star Leader)
- [Advanced Sea Kayak Leader](#) (formerly named 5 Star Leader)

The training course content, and assessment format, remains substantially unchanged.

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/sea-kayak-leader](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/sea-kayak-leader)

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/advanced-sea-kayak-leader](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/advanced-sea-kayak-leader)

## **Are my old awards / certifications recognised by British Canoeing?**

Yes. Level 1 Coach, Level 2 Coach & Moderate Water Endorsement certifications will continue to be recognised by British Canoeing.

Award holders should follow current coach update guidelines to maintain certification recognition. Currently there are no revalidation requirements for holders of British Canoeing leadership awards.

## **What else has changed?**

The UKCC Level 3 Coach award is now called the Performance Coach award.

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/performance-coach](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/performance-coach)

## **The British Canoeing Coaching / Leading Philosophy:**

The underlying philosophy of the British Canoeing coaching scheme has evolved and developed over time, and especially through the recent awards review.

The British Canoeing Awarding website is a source of useful information and resources for anyone interested in furthering their understanding of these developments:

[www.britishcanoeingawarding.org.uk](http://www.britishcanoeingawarding.org.uk)

## What are the NEW 2018 / 2019 British Canoeing awards all about?

### NEW Paddlesport Leader

The NEW [Paddlesport Leader award](#) is aimed at paddlers taking on formal leadership responsibilities in sheltered water environments and aims to support Leaders to run safe, quality, enjoyable trips based on their group's needs and aspirations.

If you wish to attend a British Canoeing Sea Kayak Leader (moderate water) training course, there is NO NEED to complete the NEW Paddlesport Leader award. This is a separate award suitable for leaders operating on sheltered water.

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/paddlesport-leader-award-1](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/paddlesport-leader-award-1)

### NEW Core Coach Training

The Coach Awards are designed for people who aim to coach paddlers seeking to gain / improve paddlesport skills within a chosen discipline. This includes coaching beginners new to the sport, and paddlers looking to develop their skills in a specific environment. The coach is able to plan, deliver and review progressive sessions safely, effectively and independently.

The Core Coach Training will explore different approaches to coaching, understanding and enabling learning, and some core coaching skills. You will be supported in evolving your personal coaching development plan to enable you to take your learning into practice after the course.

The syllabus is based on the knowledge, understanding and skills that the coaches need to ensure the athletes/learners in their care are appropriately provided for.

This includes:

- assessing athlete/learner performance and needs
- designing and delivering progressive practice/training sessions to meet these needs
- managing safety
- creating an enjoyable motivating learning environment
- skills to support your own personal learning and professional development

This 2-day training course will take place in a sheltered water environment, in a variety of paddlesport craft. There are no British Canoeing skills prerequisites to attend this course.

You will need to hold full British Canoeing membership to attend Core Coach Training.

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award)

### NEW Sheltered Water Coach Training

### NEW Sea Kayak Coach Training

NEW [Sheltered Water Coach Training](#) & NEW [Sea Kayak Coach Training](#) courses focus on HOW to coach the discipline specific skills and WHAT you will be coaching - in sheltered water or moderate water environments, according to the remit of the course.

The training course explores how to coach technical and tactical skills. The course will help coaches plan and deliver safe, enjoyable, progressive coaching sessions and explore specifics to help coaches coach some typical athletes/learners relevant to you/your discipline.

For more information, please read the [British Canoeing Coach Award Course Guide](#):  
[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award#course-content](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award#course-content)

## **British Canoeing uses the terms Sheltered Water, Moderate Water & Advanced Water - What are the differences?**

### **Sheltered Water Definition:**

The British Canoeing environmental definition of 'Sheltered Water' is described below.  
British Canoeing 'Sheltered Water' courses will remain within this remit.

Ungraded sections of slow moving rivers, where the group could paddle upstream against the flow (not involving the shooting of, or playing on, weirs or running rapids).

Areas of open water (e.g. lakes and lochs), where paddlers are no more than 200 metres offshore and the wind strength does not exceed Beaufort Force 3, avoiding the group being swept/blown out of the safe working area.

Slow moving estuaries (less than 0.5 Knots)

### **Examples:**

Small enclosed bays, enclosed harbours where there is minimal possibility of being blown offshore, defined beaches with easy places to land throughout, no tide races, overfalls or surf.

### **Note:**

The definition implies normal conditions; care is advised when water / air temperatures are low.

### **Moderate Water Definition:**

The British Canoeing environmental definition of 'Moderate Water' is described below.  
British Canoeing 'Moderate Water' courses will remain within this remit.

### **Sea:**

A stretch of coastline with some areas where it is not easy to land, but with straightforward landing points a maximum of two nautical miles apart.

Crossings not exceeding two nautical miles.

Up to 2 Knots of tide (but not involving tide race or overfalls).

Wind strengths do not exceed Beaufort Force 4.

Launching and landing through surf (up to 1 metre, trough to crest height).

### **Advanced Water Definition:**

The British Canoeing environmental definition of 'Advanced Water' is described below.  
British Canoeing 'Advanced Water' courses will remain within this remit.

### **Sea:**

Any journey on the sea where tidal races, overfalls or open crossings may be encountered and which cannot be avoided.

Sections of coastline where landings may not be possible or are difficult.

Sea state 4 / winds above Beaufort Force 4

Launching and landing through surf (up to 1.5 metres trough to crest height).

## What are the new Personal Performance Awards about? What happened to 3 Star?

There are three NEW Personal Performance awards for sea kayakers, providing a measurement of personal skill development. They are NOT prerequisites for any Leader or Coach awards.

The 3 Star award no longer exists; the new awards offer alternative options for sea kayakers.



The Sea Awards are designed for paddlers looking for recognition of their skills for a safe day out on the sea. So whether you're new to paddling on the sea or looking to progress to coastal or advanced sea environments, there's something for everyone!

The Sea Awards are great milestones to track your progression and skill development.

Awards can be taken in either tidal or non-tidal environments allowing greater access for paddlers using locations that have little or no tidal movements but has the appropriate wind conditions.



### Sea Kayak

#### Sea Kayak Award

The Sea Kayak Award focuses on your paddling and decision making skills for a safe and enjoyable day out on the sea in winds up to force 3 and/or tides up to 1 knots, using sea kayaks or sit on tops in tidal or non-tidal environments.

Effective forward paddling, negotiating confined spaces and maintaining and changing direction are all part of the award as well as developing an understanding of the surroundings and environment we use.

### Sea Kayak

#### Advanced Sea Kayak Award

The Advanced Sea Kayak Award focuses on paddling on the sea in winds over force 4 and/or tides over 2 knots. Using sea kayaks in tidal or non-tidal environments, where you may make open crossings in excess of 2Nm as well as travelling along the coastline.

Developing a comprehensive understanding of your surroundings and creating a consistent and blended use of skills to be in control in advanced conditions.

### Sea Kayak

#### Coastal Sea Kayak Award

The Coastal Sea Kayak Award helps you develop your ability to apply your paddling and decision making skills to a safe day out on the sea in winds up to force 4 and/or tides up to 2 knots, using sea kayaks or specific sit on tops in tidal or non-tidal environments.

Using blended skills to be in control throughout the whole day, developing your efficient forward paddling, maintaining and changing direction, as well as safety considerations and rescues.

Although not prerequisites, these awards provide appropriate acknowledgement of personal skills for paddlers wanting to attend Coaching & Leadership qualifications. Achieving these awards ahead of the relevant qualification will enable you to focus on the course content, rather than being concerned with your personal skills.

**Sea Kayak Award:** Kayak Coach (Sheltered Water) or Canoe & Kayak Coach (Sheltered Water)  
Coastal Sea Kayak Award: Sea Kayak Coach (Moderate Water) or Sea Kayak Leader  
**Advanced Sea Kayak Award:** Advanced Sea Kayak Leader, Sea Kayak Coach (Advanced Water) or the Performance Sea Kayak Coach

## What is the current pathway to becoming a British Canoeing Sea Kayak Coach?



### **I want to become a Sheltered Water Coach / Sea Kayak Coach - do I have to complete the Paddlesport Instructor award first?**

No. There is NO NEED to complete the NEW Paddlesport Instructor course before attending any British Canoeing Coach training courses.

The only prerequisite to attend Core Coach Training is: Full British Canoeing membership. There are no other prerequisites to attend NEW Sheltered Water Coach Training.

Candidates should be confident and proficient in either kayak or canoe on sheltered water.

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award)

### **I simply want to learn more about the coaching philosophy / practice of the British Canoeing coaching scheme - can I attend the Core Coach Training course?**

Yes. There are no skills prerequisites - you simply need the ability to paddle a canoe or kayak competently on sheltered water.

British Canoeing will formally recognise your course attendance if you are current full member of the National Governing Body (British Canoeing, Canoe Wales, Canoe Scotland or CANI).

### **I want to become a British Canoeing Sea Kayak Coach - do I have to complete the Sea Kayak Leader award first?**

Yes. The British Sea Kayak Leader award is required to take responsibility for groups in moderate sea conditions. This leadership award is a prerequisite for attending Sea Kayak Coach Training.

You can attend Core Coach Training before completing the Sea Kayak Leader award. You must hold the Sea Kayak Leader award before attending Sea Kayak Coach Training.

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award)

### **I already completed UKCC Level 2 Coach Training in the previous British Coaching scheme - can I go directly to the Sheltered Water Coach Assessment?**

Yes. Past completion of Level 2 Coach Training (within the last 3 years) is acceptable to proceed to the NEW Sheltered Water Coach assessment.

You should be familiar with the new training course content.

### **I already completed UKCC Moderate Water Endorsement (sea kayak) Training in the previous British Canoeing scheme - can I go directly to the Sea Kayak Coach Assessment?**

Yes. Past completion of Moderate Water (sea kayak) Training (within the last 3 years) is acceptable to proceed to the NEW Sea Kayak Coach Assessment - if you are familiar with the new training course content.

You will need to have completed the Sea Kayak Leader award.

### **Is much work required between Coach Training & Coach Assessment (in any discipline)?**

That depends on you - your personal paddling, leading and coaching experience.

After four days of NEW Core / Discipline-Specific Coach Training you will likely have a lot of new ideas and principles with which to experiment.

Most candidates will take several months or a year between training and assessment; again, that depends on you.

There is an e-Learning Module that reinforces the coaching input of the training courses. There is also an Assessment Discussion Task:

It is important that you are able to design coaching activities that meet the needs of the paddlers you are coaching. As you gain more and more experience you will start to build your repertoire of progressions that you will then be able to use to adapt to different individual circumstances.

This assessment discussion task aims to help you through this process and opens up an opportunity for you to discuss and share your thinking with your assessor.

You need to prepare this task before you attend your assessment.

Further details are provided in the NEW Coach Award Assessment Day Pack.

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award#downloads](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/courses/coach-award#downloads)

### **I am an experienced paddlesports coach / instructor, with experience / certifications in another scheme - can I miss out the training course and go directly to British Canoeing Coach / Leader assessments?**

British Canoeing recognises that many aspirant coaches, leaders and providers and those wishing to transfer from other award systems or other countries may bring relevant experiences and qualifications to their role from other sports, countries and learning opportunities, and offers an Accredited Prior Learning (APL) service.

Follow the link for guidance on the application process:

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/coaching-leadership/guidance-resources/accredited-prior-learning](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/coaching-leadership/guidance-resources/accredited-prior-learning)

## **I hold the Advanced Sea Kayak Leader award - can I directly attend the Advanced Sea Kayak Coach Training course?**

Yes. You will need to first attend Core Coach Training, and have full British Canoeing membership.

## **What about other disciplines - for example white water kayaking, open canoeing, surf?**

Core Coach Training is a generic course that all paddlers are welcome /required to attend. There are Discipline-specific Coach Training and Assessment courses in a wide variety of paddlesport activities.

## **Do I have to be a British Canoeing member? Do I have to register to attend a course? How much are the British Canoeing fees?**

The fees directly payable to British Canoeing depend on the course you are attending.

The information below is correct in 2019; you should check the National Governing Body information for current fees.

### **British Canoeing membership:**

You MUST have full current membership of your Home Nation to attend the following courses: NEW Core Coach Training, NEW Sheltered Water Coach Training, NEW Sea Kayak Coach Training, Sea Kayak Leader Assessment

There is NO NEED to have British Canoeing membership to attend:

Sea Kayak Award / Coastal Sea Kayak Award Training & Assessment, Sea Kayak Leader Training, Coastal Navigation & Tidal Planning

### **Registration:**

There is NO NEED to register with British Canoeing to attend any Leader / Coach Training course.

You MUST register with your Home Nation to attend any Leader / Coach Assessment courses. Follow this link for the latest registration information for Sea Kayak Leader Assessment:

[www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/coaching-leadership/guidance-resources/registration-guidance](http://www.britishcanoeing.org.uk/coaching-leadership/guidance-resources/registration-guidance)

### **Coastal Navigation & Tidal Planning Training:**

There is a certificate fee for this course, payable to British Canoeing.

Most providers will collect funds as part of the overall course fee, or at the time of the course. Current fees can be found at the relevant NGB website.

## **I want to attend a NEW British Canoeing Coach / Leader Training / Assessment course. What do I do next?**

- Read the relevant British Canoeing course documents
- Check that you hold any relevant prerequisites - including British Canoeing membership
- Select a course date and contact your chosen course provider

Assessment courses - register with British Canoeing / pay any required registration fees

Any questions? Contact your chosen course provider or British Canoeing for further advice.