

ENDORSEMENTS TO BCU COACHING AWARDS

A range of endorsements to basic coaching levels are possible for coaches wishing to extend their coaching skills into areas of coach education and beyond the standard range of paddler education. In particular, the following are regarded as endorsements:

- Any level of Assessor Status
- Assessor Trainer
- Canoe Safety Test Trainer/ Assessor
- Aquatic First Aid Trainer
- BCU Approved White Water Safety Provider
- Coaching Processes Deliverer
- Injury Prevention Provider / Moving and Handling Provider
- Contracted Provider.

Coaches should be aware that such endorsements are awarded on a 'use it or freeze it' basis. While in some cases additional courses and training may be required to be eligible for a particular endorsement, once given they are maintained by continued involvement in the specific area of training and assessment in question and by ensuring that the revalidation / updating requirements relating to it are maintained. Should you find yourself unable to continue using a particular endorsement and unable to maintain 'currency' the status will be frozen pending an opportunity to complete an updating action plan agreed with the appropriate National Association and / or programme co-ordinator.

1. Any level of Assessor Status:

Specific Assessor grades are required to assess 4 & 5 Star awards and all coach education courses. Assessor grades are discipline specific, i.e. an Assessor can only train or assess for qualifications which they themselves hold, and except for grade 1, the status applies only to the discipline for which they have been endorsed. (It should be noted that all coach education courses must be overseen by a BCU Approved Contracted Course Provider).

To become an assessor one must first attend an assessor training day. These are provided Nationally and regionally and are provided on demand. Dates are published within CoDe magazine. Full details of the Assessor grading System are available in the Coaching Service Leaflet ~~C.B. 552/99~~. Once completed a period of time shadowing practising assessor and gaining log book evidence of involvement in the assessment process is required.

2. Assessor Trainer

The training of assessor is undertaken by a small team of assessor trainers who are appointed by the Coaching Service. Each trainer, themselves attending training and revalidation to keep up to date with developments. The Coaching Service will from time to time advertise for coaches willing to take on the remit of training assessors.

3. Canoe Safety Test Trainer/ Assessor

A Canoe Lifeguard Trainer or a Canoeing Safety Test Assessor can train and assess up to 8 candidates. A Level 2 Coach with three years experience or a Level 3 Coach can be appointed as a Canoeing Safety Test Assessor after they have directed two Canoeing Safety Tests (including each of the training modules and the assessment) under the supervision of a qualified assessor.

4. Aquatic First Aid Trainer

A level 1 Aquatic First Aid Assessor can train and assess up to 8 candidates. A Level 2 coach who has held the qualification for three years or more, or a holder of a higher award, can be appointed as a Level 1 Aquatic First Aid Assessor if they;

1. Hold a 16 hour First Aid Certificate, such as the BCU Aquatic First Aid Level 2
2. Can demonstrate that they regularly update their first aid skills, and



3. Have attended an Aquatic First Aid Assessors course.

First Aid Trainers from other organisations wishing to be registered to run the Aquatic First Aid Level 1 course should make enquiries through the BCU office.



5. BCU Approved White Water Safety Provider

To become a trainer / Course Director of the BCU Approved White Water Safety Course you should be a Level 4 Coach, or higher. You will need to attend a validation course and be approved as a Course Provider by the BCU Coaching Service. Validation courses are provided from time to time, when demand requires, by the BCU Coaching Service. Interested parties should contact their National Association.

6. Coaching Processes Deliverer

All Coaching Processes courses are headed up by a Course Director. To become a Coaching Processes Director you must either be a Level 5 Coach with a background in, or experience of sports psychology or you may have an appropriate background in FE / HE sports science or sports psychology. C.P. Course Directors are responsible for the running and administration of the course. They may however appoint contributing tutors who would normally be other Coach Level 5's that have experience of observing at least one Coaching Processes course. Again tutors who do not fill this criterion (such as Sports Psychologists from another sport) may be invited by the Course Director to assist.

Application to assist C.P. Course Directors or to become a Course Director should be made via the UK Director Of Coaching. The ratio of students to staff should be, as a guideline, 6:1.

7. Injury Prevention in Paddlesport (Risk Assessment and Safe Handling)

Moving and Handling Course

A set of European based Regulations came into force on 1 January 1993 and as part of these regulations guidelines for conducting Manual Handling Operations were developed. In Civil Law there is a Duty of Care towards students and others who paddle. This includes loss, harm, damage and injury. Coaches are charged with the care of paddlers, and as such, coaches need to identify where there is a risk of the 'duty' being neglected or abused. To this end all canoeists need to raise their awareness of Manual Handling and that damage can occur to joints and muscles, particularly when they are moving or lifting people or any equipment that is related to the sport of Paddlesport. The principle of Manual Handling within Paddlesport should be introduced at all levels. In addition, Risk Assessments of how to prevent harm and injury to paddlers should be undertaken. This is now included as a necessary part of revalidation.

The BCU Coaching Service has undertaken to educate its coaches, particularly those responsible for the training of other coaches in lifting, handling and risk assessment procedures via a cascade approach. Our aim is to educate all current coaches in 'current best practice' so as to ensure that those entering the sport are aware of all relevant manual handling issues and that they themselves adopt current best practice at all times.

In this way it is envisaged that the need to run the 'Injury Prevention In Paddlesport Course' in its present format will come to an end, however, Coaches / tutors wishing to become Injury Prevention / Moving and Handling Tutors should have a background in health and safety, risk assessment or physiotherapy. Application should be made your National Association.

8. Contracted Provider

A Contracted Course Provider is responsible for all aspects of BCU Courses. To be a Contracted Course Provider, candidates should be at least a Level 4 Coach/ A4 Assessor and have attended a re-validating Contracted Course Provider Workshop, and Manual Handling/Injury Prevention Course. All Contracted Course Providers would be required to signed a Providers Contract in order to deliver coaching courses.

Application to become a Contracted Provider should be made to the UK Director Of Coaching or National Association Coaching Development Officer.

9. Becoming a BCU Lifeguard Trainer / Assessor

The BCU Lifeguards administer a range of Lifeguard Trainer / Assessor levels. To provide an advanced qualification for those wishing to train and assess BCU Lifeguard Qualifications. Details of these endorsements can be found in the BCU Lifeguards Tests and Awards Synopsis.