

# BCU FOUNDATION MODULES

The BCU Foundation Modules are available to support coaches' development and knowledge in specialist areas. There are no prerequisites to any of the modules; they are open to anyone interested in the topic areas, although they are targeted at coaches. Most of the modules are 3 hours in length, with the exception of Strength and Conditioning at 6 hours.

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# COACHING THE MIND

## LEVEL / TIME:

This 3-hour module is aimed at Level 1 and 2 coaches.

## INTRODUCTION:

To introduce coaches to the role of mental skills in paddlesport development and performance and to relate the area of mental skills training to coaching and paddler development and provide some working definitions.

- Introduce the concept of mental skills training to coaches in the paddlesport environment
- Introduce the basic concepts of imagery training
- Introduce the basic concepts of concentration training and styles
- Introduce the basic concepts of optimal arousal and arousal control strategies

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop participants should be able to:

- Understand the place and value of mental skills training in paddlesport
- Understand processes and practices necessary to develop mental skills
- Describe applications of imagery in paddlesport training and performance arenas
- Understand multi sensory nature of imagery and internal/external perspectives
- Experience exercises in imagery training
- Understand the various styles of attentional focus and the appropriateness to paddlesport situations
- Experience exercises in concentration training
- Understand the concept of optimal arousal and its application within paddlesport
- Explore strategies for lowering arousal and practice a basic relaxation technique
- Explore strategies for raising arousal and practice a basic 'psyching up' technique

# COACHING YOUNG PADDLERS

## LEVEL / TIME:

This 3-hour module is aimed at Level 1 and 2 coaches.

## INTRODUCTION:

This module has been introduced in recognition of the hundreds of thousands of young people who are instructed by BCU coaches every year and the importance of providing the best support and help to meet their needs. It is designed to help coaches who may work with young people aiming at Olympic success or those providing someone's very first experience in paddlesport. It aims to help coaches deliver sessions in a way that meet young paddlers needs, so that they want to come back for more and that they help young paddlers to be the best they can be, whatever their ability or aspirations.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this workshop participants should be able to:

- Describe the benefits of adapting practice and behaviour to meet the needs of young people
- Plan and deliver coaching sessions to maximize learning and enjoyment
- Recognise young peoples needs based on their physical, social and psychological development
- Recognise the diversity of Paddlesport and the benefits to young people
- List the BCU, and Home Nation Association youth initiatives and have discussed methods and issues relating to implementation at their club/centre
- Apply good practice when coaching young people

# FITNESS FOR PADDLESPORTS

## **LEVEL / TIME:**

This 3-hour module is aimed at Level 1 and 2 coaches.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

This module is designed to introduce competition and recreational coaches to the key concepts of fitness – training, nutrition and physiology. It is intended as a standalone module such that paddlers and coaches can attend with no prior knowledge of sports science should be able to attend and access all the delivered material.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of this workshop participants should be able to:

- Provide the details of a normal balanced diet
- Explain the links between diet and performance
- Discuss conditioning training for their paddlesport discipline(s)
- Identify the benefits of strength training for canoe and kayak
- Describe the reasons behind planning for and regularly monitoring fitness programmes for paddlers

# FUNDAMENTALS OF MOVEMENT IN PADDLESPOK

## LEVEL / TIME:

This 4 hour practical workshop has been developed for paddling or non-paddling coaches working with paddlers in their first few years of paddling activity. The workshop can be tailored to suit coaches from Level 1 through to Level 5 from any discipline.

## INTRODUCTION:

This workshop aims to help ensure that paddlers develop quality skills during their formative years by expanding coaches:

- understanding about what is required to add quality to performance
- observation and analysing skills
- ability to use appropriate games, activities and practices to develop performance

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this workshop participants should be able to:

- Understand the 3 concepts that underpin the Fundamentals of Movement in Paddlesport (Balance, Coordination and Agility)
- Understand the link between FUNdamentals of Movement in Paddlesport and the four concepts of Fundamental Paddlesport Skills. (Active Posture, Connectivity, Power Transfer and Feel)
- Understanding the application of three concepts through observation/performance of a variety of Fundamental Movement skills and Discipline Specific skills
- Observe and evaluate performance in relation to three concepts at Novice(Cognitive), Practising(Associative) and Skilled(Autonomous)
- Develop practices to improve observed areas in relation to the three concepts

# FUNDAMENTAL PADDLESPORT SKILLS

## LEVEL / TIME:

This 3-hour practical workshop has been developed for paddling or non-paddling coaches working with paddlers in their first few years of paddling activity. The workshop can be tailored to suit coaches from Level 1 through to Level 5 from any discipline.

## INTRODUCTION:

This workshop aims to help ensure that paddlers develop quality skills during their formative years by expanding coaches:

- understanding about what is required to add quality to performance
- observation skills
- ability to use appropriate games, activities and practices to develop performance

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this workshop participants should be able to:

- Understand the four concepts that underpin quality paddlesport skills (Active posture, connectivity, power and feel)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the four concepts through performance of a variety of discipline specific skills
- Observe and evaluate performance in relation to the four concepts
- Develop practices to improve observed areas of weakness

# MENTORING FOR PADDLESPOUT COACHES

## LEVEL / TIME:

This 3-hour module is aimed at Level 1 and 2 coaches wishing to develop their mentoring skills, so they can help with the development of other coaches.

## INTRODUCTION:

The module intends to equip coaches with a definition of modern mentoring. Identifying its principles, elements of best practice and the vocabulary which current mentor education embraces.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this workshop participants should be able to:

- Mentoring is a skill and therefore can be learnt
- Effective mentoring has a process with a definite form
- There are rewards and challenges when taking on the role of the mentor
- The need to identify a clear vocabulary for accurate mentoring
- Where in their own coaching relationships could they explore practical opportunities to develop their mentoring skills

## NOTES:

Becoming a mentor is challenging and rewarding in equal measures. It is challenging because you are actively involved in the professional development of the coach and the long-term improvement of paddlesport coaching. There is therefore a responsibility to be as knowledgeable and enthusiastic about recent developments in coaching and coach education. It is rewarding because as a mentor you will have opportunities to articulate your own perspective, views and beliefs about coaching to another coach effectively reflecting on your own thinking and practice. As the mentor to another coach you will inevitably become involved with their delivery of coaching, touching along the way on personal and professional activities associated with the coaches development. This interaction will stimulate your own understanding of coaching, bringing professional activity and debate into the process. In conclusion there is a profit for both parties engaged in a mentoring process and it should be appreciated that this is an exciting and demanding context in which a coach can develop professionally.

# OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND PADDLESPOORT

## LEVEL / TIME:

This 3-hour module is aimed at Level 1 and 2 coaches.

## INTRODUCTION:

What is coaching in the outdoors? Many definitions exist but general agreement within research and literature suggests that outdoor education is:

- Education in the outdoors
- Education for the outdoors
- The use of resources outdoors to meet educational goals

This module is designed to introduce Paddlesport coaches to the key concepts of coaching in the outdoors.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this workshop participants should be able to:

- Consider the role of paddlesport in outdoor education
- Appreciate the importance of current research to support our work as coaches
- Raise the importance of setting clear outcomes to meet our goals in outdoor education
- Identify how we might categorise goals so that we can develop better strategies to meet them
- Develop your own ways forward to incorporate the key ideas from this presentation into paddlesport coaching relating to the individual, group or environment



# PADDLE-ABILITY

## **LEVEL / TIME:**

This 3-hour classroom-based workshop has been developed for Level 1 Coaches and Club Volunteers who have contact with Disabled members/participants.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The aim of the module is to modify attendees' perceptions of people with disabilities; their attitude towards this sector of the population, and; to consider how they may adjust their coaching / approach to be more inclusive. The following learning outcomes are considered to fulfil this aim.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of this workshop participants should be able to:

- Understand how disabled people may view themselves in society and those factors that may prevent them from fully participating in paddle sport.
- Establish basic communications skills with people with disabilities
- Apply existing coaching skills to meet the needs of participants with disabilities
- Select equipment and make minor modifications to it, so as to make paddle sport more inclusive
- Describe the Health and Safety issues when working with people with disabilities
- Use appropriate terminology
- List the range of disabilities that may be encountered
- Describe how the Equality Act (2010) affects paddle sport organisations

# PERFORMANCE PLANNING FOR PADDLESPORT COACHES

## LEVEL / TIME:

This 3-hour module is aimed at Level 1 and 2 coaches wishing to develop their ability to improve a performers' development.

## INTRODUCTION:

This module intends to develop a vocabulary in coaches to understand how to articulate a three-phase breakdown of the performers needs. Firstly the accurate breakdown of the type of paddling in focus, secondly complete a performance profile of a paddler and thirdly to the construction of a development plan to move the paddler accurately forward in the desired context. This ambition is not a narrow one and might be based purely on a desire to be a 'better' paddler physically, skilfully or mentally or it may have competitive intentions. For instance it could be based on a future holiday trip for which fitness is an issue, a first attempt at a slalom event or the Exe decent or it may be that the jump to the next class of water needs a stronger mental attitude, which at the moment is lacking. The detail will be closely aligned to chapters 2 and 18 of the coaching handbook.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of this workshop participants should be able to:

- The accurate science based description of the activity in focus i.e. DW long distance, 24-hour aerobic and endurance event
- Terminology in the context of physiological profiling
- Terminology in the context of skill based profiling
- Terminology in the context of psychological or mental profiling
- Periodisation and its application in improving performance
- Some of the age and gender issues when improving performers
- The key issue of prioritisation or targeting weakness's

## NOTES:

The ability of a coach to accurately profile a paddler and then using a judgment based on priority and ambition to create a development plan underpinned by training and sports science principles is invaluable to the coaching world. This module will identify the basic vocabulary necessary to complete the above. Using sports science and accurate terminology based on current best practice. The level of this module is intended to be the initial attempt of a coach to assess and plan for development of a paddler. The emphasis in this short module is to describe the type of activity involved in accurately; assessing the profile of the performer matched against the activity and develop a coherent development plan or schedule to allow for improvement. This is the initial step in organising performance development.

# STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING

## LEVEL / TIME:

This module is scheduled to be a full day course and as such runs for 6 hours.

## INTRODUCTION:

This module is designed to introduce the basic movements of strength and conditioning. It is designed to support coaches from all disciplines of paddlesport and is to be used by BCU coaches in support of paddlesport coaching. Following full participation in this workshop attendees should feel confident that they can run safe and effective sessions designed to give paddlers a really solid foundation in strength and conditioning.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

On completion of this workshop participants should be able to do the following:

- Have an understanding of what is meant by the term 'strength and conditioning' and be able to respond to others concerns regarding the safety of this activity for young athletes.
- Understand how a full body approach to strength and conditioning is likely to be of greatest benefit to paddlers.
- Understand the potential benefits of resistance training for the young/beginner paddler.
- Understand and be able to coach good form in a range of fundamental strength and conditioning movements.
- Be able to organize these exercises into an effective session.
- Be able to promote an effective and safe coaching environment.
- Understand where the information contained in this workshop fits into the bigger picture of a paddler's overall development.

## NOTES:

Whilst this module provides information about activities that often happen in a gym setting it is not an industry-recognised fitness instructing qualification. It is hoped that participants will move on to the BCU Level 2 Strength and Conditioning course (currently under development) which is to include an industry recognised qualification.

# SWIMMING POOLS AND PADDLESPORTS

## LEVEL / TIME:

This 3-hour module is aimed at Level 1 and 2 coaches currently using or wishing to make use of swimming pools for paddlesport sessions

## INTRODUCTION:

This module aims to offer practical advice and guidance for gaining access to swimming pools, and for getting the most out of pool sessions. It is designed to equip coaches with a good working knowledge of paddlesport activities taking place within a swimming pool environment.

The module includes a practical, on-the-water element.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this workshop participants should:

- Understand access issues related to swimming pool use for paddlesport
- Be aware of risk assessment and health and safety guidelines
- Be aware of BCU Guidelines for use of swimming pools
- Recognise potential staffing issues when working with pool managers and lifeguards
- Understand safeguarding considerations for children and vulnerable adults participating in this environment
- Have a working knowledge of paddlesport equipment and its use within swimming pools
- Be familiar with a range of Paddlesport activities which can be practiced in swimming pools (e.g. rolling clinics, games, canoe polo and Cross Stream Challenge)

**NOTES:** The content of the practical session will vary depending on participant's previous knowledge and background. As a minimum this session will give an overview of how to safely and effectively run Cross Stream Challenge, rolling clinics, canoe polo and other games. Participants will be given the able to discuss with the tutor if they have a preference for the focus of this session.