

4 Star Surf Leader Syllabus

Aim

Successful performance at this level indicates that the candidate has sufficient personal skills and the ability to manage a group of surf paddlers and to judge the conditions and the standard of the group and make appropriate decisions. The emphasis is on the application of skills in a surf environment, requiring the paddler to perform appropriate and effective manoeuvres in moderate surf. The British Canoeing 4 Star Surf Leader is assessed managing a group of paddlers with a ratio of 1 to 6 in Moderate Surf environments.

The British Canoeing 4 Star Leader Award is a leadership award and not a coaching award.

Following assessment British Canoeing 4 Star Leaders must have in place civil liability insurance (included in comprehensive Home Nation membership), knowledge of Child Protection guidelines and good practice including checks where necessary and maintain evidence of currency.

Moderate Surf Definition

Area: Sections of sandy beaches free from significant hazard (e.g. rocks and strong rips) and with easy access.

Character: Gentle, sloping and spilling waves, preferably peeling. Not pitching or dumping.

Height: Wave height should be no more than double overhead when seated in a kayak in the trough of the wave (head high for a stand up surfer).

(Extracted from Terms of Reference)

Training and Assessment Courses

To achieve British Canoeing 4 Star Surf Leader candidates are required to attend British Canoeing 4 Star Surf Leader Training. This involves at least 2 days of formal training in personal skills, leadership, and safety and rescue. Training is valid for 3 years, during this time, and upon completion of the assessment prerequisites, candidates can then put themselves forward for assessment. Assessments are normally run over 2 days.

Related British Canoeing Policies

See 'Reasonable Adjustments for Paddlesports Awards and Coaching' for details about how providers can make adjustments for paddlers with specific disabilities

See 'British Canoeing Appeals Procedure' for details of how candidates can go about making an appeal or complaint about the conduct of a British Canoeing Star Award

See 'APL Guidance Notes' for details of how to apply for accredited prior learning. APL is mainly used to allow individuals access to a British Canoeing qualification where they do not hold the specific prerequisite for that award, but have equitable prior learning

Useful Information

Please refer to the British Canoeing 4 Star Surf Leader Training and Assessment Notes and the British Canoeing Star Award Guidance Notes for further information.

Training Prerequisites

British Canoeing 3 Star Surf standard is the appropriate level of performance for paddlers to begin working towards the British Canoeing 4 Star Surf Leader.

Assessment Prerequisites

- Home Nation British Canoeing 4 Star Surf Leadership Registration (LR)
- Valid (within 3 years) British Canoeing recognised 2 day first aid award (if first aid training was completed prior to 31/12/11, a recognised 8 hour first aid course is acceptable)
- Previous experience: a minimum of 20 sessions in moderate surf conditions to include 3 different breaks from at least 2 different geographical areas e.g. the south west and the north east. Experience should also include the management of other paddlers in the surf environment
- Valid (within 3 years) British Canoeing 4 Star Surf Leader Training

Candidates must be aged 16 or over at the time of assessment. Candidates under the age of 18 can take the award, but cannot be deemed responsible for leadership by law until they turn 18.

Craft

Candidates can present themselves for assessment in any suitable craft. However they should be aware that elements of the syllabus are difficult to complete in boats with more general design characteristics.

Equipment

Candidates should have personal and group equipment appropriate for the remit of the award and relevant to the assessment environment.

Trainer and Assessor

British Canoeing 4 Star Surf Leader Provider.

Assessment Venue

Moderate Surf.

Technical Syllabus

It is expected that candidates are able to perform all skills on both sides, and in both directions on a wave, as appropriate.

Part A – Personal Paddling Skills

- A.1 Paddle out
- A.2 Take off
- A.3 Carving bottom turns
- A.4 Top turns
- A.5 Diagonal runs of varying heights
- A.6 Carved exit from the wave
- A.7 Rolling

Part B – Rescue Skills

- B.1 Deep-water rescue
- B.2 Towing
- B.3 Swimming
- B.4 Shepherding
- B.5 Carries

Part C – Safety, Leadership & Group Skills

The following skills will be assessed for use with both experienced and inexperienced advanced environment paddlers:

- C.1 Skilful application of leadership principles (e.g. C.L.A.P.)
- C.2 Appropriate leadership strategies, judgement and decision-making
- C.3 Safety awareness and risk management
- C.4 Exercise appropriate group control and management and show concern for the general welfare of other group members
- C.5 Demonstrate the capability to manage a range of incidents
- C.6 Provide guidance through top tips and handy hints

Part D – Theory

- D.1 Surf specific rescue equipment
- D.2 Tides, weather and bathymetry
- D.3 Etiquette
- D.4 Planning, group awareness and the safety framework
- D.5 Wellbeing, health and first aid
- D.6 Environment
- D.7 General knowledge