

Certification Pathway/Assessment Guidelines

Level 4 Canoe Instructorship Award

Applying to attend Assessment

Before applying to attend a Level 4 Kayak Instructor Assessment, a candidate must:

1. Have maintained registration as a Level 4 Canoe Instructor trainee.
2. Hold a Level 3 Canoe Instructor Qualification.
3. Hold the Level 5 Canoe Skills award.
4. Be at least 18 years of age.
5. Have unrestricted access to a suitable Canoe, personal equipment and additional equipment as listed for the Level 5 Canoe Skills award.
6. Have attended an approved Level 4 Canoe Instructor Training Course or Programme as organised by the Canoeing Ireland within the 24 months period preceding a selected assessment date.
7. Possess a current Canoeing Ireland approved First Aid Certificate (REC 3 or equivalent).
8. Have completed a Sport Ireland approved Child Protection Awareness Workshop.
9. Completed your Garda vetting process.
10. Be a member of Canoeing Ireland
11. Returned to the Canoeing Ireland Office a completed Level 4 Canoe Instructor Logbook accompanied by all the pre -assessment requirements and a Level 4 Canoe Instructor Assessment application no later than three weeks prior to a selected assessment date.

Other logbook requirements:

1. Recorded in a Level 4 Canoe Instructor Logbook, following the completion of a Level 4 Canoe Instructor Training Course at least 25 hours on the river of instructional experience under the supervision of at least two registered Level 4 Canoe Instructors
2. Recorded as part of the 25 hours supervised instructional experience on at least three different river trips details of assisting in the preparation of a group for a Level 4 Canoe Skills Assessment. This group must consist of at least three participants.
3. Assist on two Level 4 Canoe Skills Training Courses.
4. Assist on two Level 4 Canoe Skills Assessments
5. Assist on two RSR 3 courses.
6. Participate in Five Canoeing Ireland Competitions or hold two level 3 skills awards in other disciplines or hold a Level 4 Skills award in another discipline.
7. Be recommended for assessment by a registered Level 3 Instructor.

Format of a Level 4 Canoe Instructor Assessment

The Level 4 Canoe Instructor Assessment will take place over one day and must include a river trip on Grade III/IV difficulty over a distance of 4-8 kilometres.

1. During the Level 4 Canoe Instructor Assessment candidates must satisfy the assessors that they are mature, responsible, and competent to instruct, lead and control a group on water of Grade III/IV difficulty. In addition to teaching and personal kayaking ability, candidates must also demonstrate that they are sufficiently mature and responsible to manage a group.
2. During the period of the Level 4 Canoe Instructor Assessment personal kayaking skills and application of first aid may be assessed. It would be expected that a candidate would at least have maintained a skills level equivalent to that of the Level 5 Kayak Skills and where possible improved on this.

A candidate will be expected to:

1. Present a suitable Canoe correctly fitted out for instruction and other appropriate personal equipment (See Instructor List of Equipment). It would be expected that a candidate's equipment would be of a standard consistent with the responsibilities likely to be encountered by a Level 4 Instructor. Examination of equipment will form part of the overall assessment.
2. Organise and lead a group of intermediate level paddlers on a river trip of Grade III difficulty over a distance of 4-8 kilometres.
3. During the river trip teach any stroke, technique or rescue applicable to Grade III+ water while demonstrating effective group control, group rapport, and instructional ability. In addition, teach any skills such as Poling, Lining and Tracking etc that would aid Navigation of advanced white water.
4. Be able to demonstrate white water and deep-water rescue techniques on Grade III/IV water
5. Have knowledge, both theoretical and practical, of advanced white-water techniques, skills, and rescues.
6. Have knowledge, both oral and practical, of First Aid and CPR as applied in a high-grade river environment.
7. Have maintained a skills level equivalent to that of the Level 5 Canoe Skills.

Assessment Guidelines

- A Level 4 Canoe Instructor Qualification can only be assessed by members of the Level 4 Canoe Instructor Assessor Panel
- Clear guidelines should be given in writing should a candidate fail an assessment as to the areas that need to be improved on.
- Candidates cannot depend on any assistance (material or practical) during an assessment.
- No other award may be assessed at the same time as the Level 4 Canoe Instructor Qualification.
- The candidate/assessor ratio should be a maximum of 4:2.
- A Level 4 Canoe Instructor Assessment must be assessed by a minimum of two members of the Level 4 Canoe Instructor Assessor Panel.
- The Award will remain valid as long as a CPD is attended every three years.