

Certification Pathway/Assessment Guidelines

Level 5 River Kayak Skills Award

Applying for Assessment

Before applying to attend a Level 5 Kayak Skills Assessment, a candidate must:

1. Have completed an RSR 3 Training Course and obtained an RSR 3 Certificate.
2. Have attended an approved Level 5 Kayak Skills Training Programme within the 24 months period preceding a selected assessment date.
3. Possess a current and approved First Aid Certificate. (for example, REC Level 3).
4. Be at least 18 years of age.
5. Be a current member of Canoeing Ireland.

Assessment

- The Level 5 Kayak Skills Assessment will take place over one day and must include a river trip on a minimum of Grade IV difficulty over a distance a 4-8 Kms.

A Level 5 Kayak Skills candidate would be expected to:

- Demonstrate all techniques and skills at a standard necessary to deal competently with conditions likely to be encountered on Grade IV & advanced white-water rivers.
- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of safety precautions and procedures to be adopted while with a group on Grade IV & advanced white-water rivers.
- Deal efficiently with rescue situations likely to occur on Grade IV & advanced white-water rivers.
- Demonstrate the necessary skills to communicate effectively with other group members on Grade IV & advanced white-water rivers.
- Demonstrate a constant awareness of other group members, their location on the river and within the group.
- Demonstrate an ability to assess a group's competence to deal with conditions likely to be encountered on Grade IV & advanced white-water rivers.
- Demonstrate an ability to command trust from a group of peers while on rivers of Grade IV & advanced white water.
- Demonstrate a sufficient knowledge of the river's environs.
- Demonstrate an ability to read white water to a high standard.
- Present a suitable and correctly fitted out kayak and other appropriate equipment (see Level 5 Kayak Skills Equipment List below). It would be expected that a candidate's equipment be of a standard consistent with the responsibilities of being part of a group undertaking a trip on a Grade IV & advanced white-water river. Equipment should be always readily accessible.

Assessment Guidelines

- A Level 5 Kayak Skills Award can only be assessed by a registered member of the Level 5 Kayak Skills Assessor Panel.
- It is recommended that the award is assessed by an Instructor other than the Instructor who has run the training course leading to assessment.
- The assessment ratio is a maximum of 4 assessees:1 assessor with a minimum of 2 assesses: 1 assessor.
- Clear guidelines should be given in writing should a candidate fail an assessment as to the areas which need to be improved upon.
- Candidates cannot depend on any assistance (material or practical) during an assessment.
- No other award or qualification can be assessed during a Level 5 Kayak Skills Assessment.

The format of the Level 5 Kayak Skills Assessment will include assessment of a candidate's:

- Personal kayaking skills.
- Ability to demonstrate white water and deep-water rescue techniques.
- Knowledge, both oral and practical, of advanced white-water techniques, skills and rescues.
- Knowledge, both oral and practical, of First Aid and AR as applied in a high-grade river environment.
- Interview with assessors.
- Equipment List required for assessment.