

Certification Pathway/Assessment Guidelines

Level 5 Sea Kayak Skills Award

Applying for Assessment

1. Have completed an Advanced Coastal Navigation Course and obtained an ACN Certificate.
2. Have attended an approved Level 5 Sea Kayak Skills Training Programme within the 24 month period preceding a selected assessment date (extensions can be applied for).
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 Sea Kayak Skills Assessment will take place over 1 day (including a night navigation) in moderate seas (Douglas Sea Scale). All personal skills must be assessed under these conditions.

A Level 5 Sea Kayak Skills candidate would be expected to:

- Demonstrate an efficient and effective forward paddling technique.
- Demonstrate an ability to manoeuvre and control a kayak in a variety of different situations. (These skills are the same as those outlined in the level 4 sea kayak skills award but displayed in moderate/rough seas.)
- Pack a sea kayak with suitable equipment for an overnight camp in preparation for a two-day journey.
- Navigate a sea kayak in hours of darkness.
- Access flares easily and be conversant with the procedures for firing them.
- Demonstrate an ability to keep a compass course on open water and make good a course across a tide stream using transits.
- Demonstrate an ability to take bearings on known features.
- Demonstrate an ability to plan from a chart an alternative route to a safe landing whilst afloat on a journey, in the event of a change in weather or emergency, taking into consideration tidal streams.
- Demonstrate the ability to effect successful landings and launchings in a variety of situations. The ability to handle a kayak competently in 1-2 metres of surf including the full range of turning manoeuvres and rolling in either breaking waves, tide races or overfalls.

- Capsize and exit from a kayak followed by a successful solo re entry and retreat to calmer water to bail out. Rafted assistance may be given to empty out the kayak.
- Demonstrate an Eskimo Roll after capsizing to the left and to the right and be able to roll on both sides.
- Tow a capsized casualty and kayak from an area of disturbed water into a calmer area for a rescue using single or multiple tows. The participant should be aware of the need for flexibility in towing and be able to drop and pick up the tow with ease.
- Show sufficient leadership skills under a variety of situations.
- Repairing a holed kayak whilst afloat.
- Produce spare paddles whilst afloat.
- Towing an incapacitated person (e.g. dislocated shoulder).
- Safely landing an injured paddler.
- Demonstrate an approved method of resuscitation.
- Produce whistle, emergency food, and bivvy bag or preferably KISU whilst afloat.
- Deal with likely emergency situations or incidents.
- Exercise peer group control/management and show concern for the general welfare of other peer group members.

Assessment Guidelines

- A Level 5 Sea Kayak Skills Award can only be assessed by a registered member of the Level 5 Sea Kayak Skills Assessor Panel.
- It is recommended that the award is assessed by an Instructor other than the Instructor who ran the training course leading to assessment.
- The assessment ratio: 1 assessor with a minimum of 2 assessees and maximum of 3 assessees.
- 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 the course of an assessment.
- No other award or qualification can be assessed during a Level 5 Sea Kayak Skills Assessment.