

# **Certification Pathway/Assessment Guidelines**

## ***Level 1 Kayak Instructorship Award***

### **Applying to Attend an Assessment**

Prior to applying to attend a Level 1 Kayak Instructor Assessment, a candidate must:

1. Have maintained your registration as a Level I Kayak Instructor Trainee.
2. Hold the Level 3 River Kayak Skills Award.
3. Be at least 16 years of age.
4. Have unrestricted access to a fully equipped kayak, personal equipment, and additional equipment as listed for a Level 1 Kayak Instructor Assessment.
5. Have attended an approved Kayak Level 1 Instructor Training Course or Programme within the 24 months preceding a selected assessment date.
6. Completed an approved First Aid training Course (REC 2 or equivalent).
7. Attended a Sport Ireland approved Child Protection Awareness Workshop.
8. Completed your Garda vetting process.
9. Be a member of Canoeing Ireland.
10. Be recommended for assessment by a registered Canoeing Ireland Level 3 Instructor.
11. Submit a completed Level 1 Kayak Instructor Logbook accompanied by a Level 1 Kayak Instructor Assessment application to a registered Canoeing Ireland Instructor Assessor at least 2 weeks prior to a selected assessment date.

### **Other logbook requirements:**

1. At least 30 hours of on the water instructional experience under the supervision of at least two currently registered Level 2 Canoeing Ireland Instructors or higher.
  - a) At least 15 hours must be logged in closed cockpit kayaks, the other 15 may be logged in sit on top kayaks.

## **Format of the Assessment**

1. During a Level 1 Kayak Instructor Assessment, candidates must satisfy an assessor that they are competent to provide safe and enjoyable introductory sessions to a beginner group.
2. During assessment, a candidate's personal canoeing skills and First Aid may be assessed. It would be expected that a candidate would have maintained a skills level equivalent to that of the Level 3 Kayak Skills Award and where possible improved on this.

## **A candidate will be expected to:**

1. Draw up a lesson plan lasting up to two hours and to organise an introductory session for a novice/basic level group on water of Grade I difficulty or in a Sheltered Tidal Area.
2. Teach any stroke, technique, or rescue applicable to flat water as outlined in the Level 1 Kayak Skills Syllabus.
3. Prepare a self-appraisal of the lesson plan/water session.
4. Demonstrate techniques and skills as required by the Level 3 Kayak Skills Award, if requested to do so.
5. Demonstrate an ability to carry out the following rescues efficiently and effectively: Self-Rescue, X or Assisted X-Rescue, Unconscious Casualty and Eskimo Rescue.
6. Demonstrate an ability to roll competently without any prior set-up.
7. Demonstrate an effective method of towing an empty kayak, a kayak with a participant who has a minor injury or illness, a kayak with a participant who has a major injury or illness.
8. Present a suitable kayak correctly fitted out for instruction and with other appropriate personal equipment (See 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. Examination of equipment will form an important part of the overall assessment.
9. Demonstrate effective group control, group rapport, and instructional ability.
10. Demonstrate an ability to deal competently with a basic First Aid scenario which may include but is not limited to: the cause/effect/treatment of Shock, Hypothermia, EAR, and CPR.
11. Answer questions on aspects of canoeing covered during the Level I Kayak Instructor Training Course.
12. Attend an individual debrief, where the candidate will present their self-appraisal and receive feedback.

## Assessment Guidelines

1. A Level 1 Kayak Instructor Qualification can only be assessed by a member of the Level 1 Kayak Instructor Qualification Assessor Panel.
2. It is recommended that the Level 1 Kayak Instructor Qualification is assessed by an Instructor other than the Instructor who has run the training course leading to the assessment.
3. Clear guidelines should be given in writing should a candidate fail the assessment as to the area/areas they need to improve on.
4. Candidates cannot depend on any assistance (material or practical) during the assessment.
5. No other award may be assessed at the same time as the Level 1 Kayak Instructor Assessment.
6. The candidate/assessor ratio should be maximum of 2:1.
7. A Level 1 Kayak Instructor under 18 years must be accompanied on the water by another qualified and registered adult Instructor. In this case each instructor may take up to 6 students on the water.
8. The Level 1 Kayak Instructor award is valid for 3 years. To maintain this award the instructor is required to attend further training or CPD/workshops within the three-year period.