

# Certification Pathway/Assessment Guidelines

## *Level 5 Canoe Skills Award*

### Applying for Assessment

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

1. Have completed an RSR 3 Training Course and obtained an RSR 3 Certificate.
2. Attend an approved Level 5 Canoe Skills training programme with the 24 months 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. Member of Canoeing Ireland.

### Assessment

- The Level 5 Canoe Skills Assessment will take place over one day and must include a river trip on a minimum of Grade III difficulty over a distance a 3-5 miles

### **A Level 5 Canoe Skills candidate would be expected to:**

- Demonstrate all techniques/skills at a skills level higher than that required for the Level 4 Canoe Skills Award and of a standard comparable with the techniques/skills necessary to paddle competently on water of Grade II to III+.
- Demonstrate a thorough of knowledge of safety precautions and procedures to be adopted while paddling with a group on water of Grade III+.
- Demonstrate an ability to assess any group's competence to deal with conditions likely to be encountered on water of Grade III+.
- Demonstrate an ability to command trust from a group of peers.
- Demonstrate the necessary communications skills on water of Grade III+.
- Deal with rescue situations that are likely to occur on water of Grade III+.
- Be capable of knowing where on the river a group is at any time and have 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 canoe and other appropriate personal equipment (See Level 5 Canoe Skills List of Equipment). It would be expected that a candidate's equipment would be of a standard consistent with the responsibilities of paddling with others on Grade III+ rivers.

### Assessment Guidelines

- A Level 5 Canoe Skills Award can only be assessed by a member of the Level 5 Canoe Skills Assessment Panel
- It is recommended that the Level 5 Canoe Skills Award is assessed by an Instructor other than the Instructor who has run the training course leading to the assessment.
- The candidate/assessor ratio should be a maximum of 4:2
- Clear guidelines will be given in writing should a candidate fail an assessment as to the areas that they need to improve on.
- Candidates cannot depend on any assistance (material or practical) during the course of the assessment.
- No other award may be assessed at the same time as the Level 5 Canoe Skills Award.

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

- Personal Canoeing 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.