

Certification Pathway/Assessment Guidelines

Flat Water Stand-Up Paddle (SUP) Boarding Instructorship Award

Applying to Attend an Assessment

Before applying to attend a Flat-Water SUP Board Instructor Assessment, a candidate must:

1. Hold the Flat-water SUP Skills Award
2. Be registered with the Canoeing Ireland Training Unit as a Trainee Instructor
3. Be at least 16 years of age at the time of course.
4. Have unrestricted access to a SUP Board, personal equipment, and additional equipment as listed for a FW SUP Boarding Instructor Training & Assessment Course.
5. Have attended an approved Flat Water SUP Instructor Training Course or Programme within the 24 months preceding a selected assessment date. (Extensions to training period can be applied for).
6. Completed your Garda vetting process.
7. Completed an approved First Aid training course (REC 3 or equivalent).
8. Attended a Sport Ireland approved Child Protection Awareness Workshop.
9. Be a member of Canoeing Ireland.
10. Submit a completed Flat Water SUP Instructor Logbook accompanied by a Flat Water SUP Instructor Assessment application to a registered Canoeing Ireland Instructor Assessor at least 2 weeks prior to a selected assessment date.

Additional logbook requirements:

1. Following attendance on a two-day Canoeing Ireland recognised SUP instructor training course; have logged 30 hours of self-evaluated instructional/guiding experience on SUP boards in a variety of environments.
 - a) A minimum of two of these sessions must be with a FW SUP instructor or with an instructor from another awarding body if the session is within the remit of the FW instructor award.

Format of Assessment

1. A FW SUP Instructor can only be trained & assessed by a Canoeing Ireland Instructor Developer who is a member of the FW SUP Board Instructor Training & Assessment Panel
2. The Assessor may assess no more than 3 candidates during an assessment.
3. The assessment will take place over the duration of one day or two separate sessions (in one day) involving a group of novice SUP participant.
4. During the SUP instructor assessment, the assessor must be satisfied that the candidate can provide a safe, fun learning experience for SUP participants.
5. The assessment result and feedback will be delivered in a review during which time the candidate may be asked to give an appraisal of the session. Specific personal improvement goals will be given through written feedback by the assessor in the event of an unsuccessful assessment.

A candidate will be expected to:

1. The candidate will be expected to plan a SUP session with respect to the expected weather conditions. The session plan should include techniques, knowledge, and games to be covered in a session lasting up to 2.5 hours along with a basic risk assessment of the session.
2. The candidate will also be expected to provide an assessment of the participant's skill level and evaluate the participant at the appropriate skills award standard, the candidate should then be able to develop a Skills session to coach the participants skills to the next level. This session should last up to 2 hours.
3. The successful candidate should be able to teach any technique from the Intro to SUP and Flatwater SUP skills syllabi.
4. A candidate will be expected to demonstrate an unconscious casualty rescue on a person floating face down in the water – clearing their airway and safely transferring the person to the most available safe exit point.
5. A candidate will be expected to demonstrate an effective method of towing another SUP board and paddler.
6. On the day of the assessment the candidate should present themselves in a prepared and professional manner – dressed appropriately for instructing SUP boarding on the water.
7. Demonstrate effective group control, group rapport and create an effective learning environment.

Assessment Guidelines

1. It is recommended that a Flat Water SUP Instructor Qualification is assessed by an instructor other than the instructor who runs the training course leading to assessment. Notwithstanding this, a Flat Water SUP Instructor Qualification can only be assessed by a registered member of the Flat Water SUP Instructor Assessor Panel.
2. Clear guidelines should be given in writing should a candidate fail an assessment as to the area/areas which need to be improved upon.
3. Candidates cannot depend on any assistance (material or practical) during an assessment.
4. No other award or qualification can be assessed during a Flat Water SUP Instructor Assessment.
5. The assessment candidate/assessor ratio is a maximum of 2:1.