Certification Pathway/Assessment Guidelines

Level 3 Sea Kayak Instructorship Award

Applying for an Assessment

Before applying to attend an Assessment, a candidate must:

1. Hold a Level 2 Kayak Instructor Qualification.
2. Hold the Canoeing Ireland Level 4 Sea Kayak Skills Award.
3. Be at least 18 years of age.
4. Have unrestricted access to a fully equipped Sea kayak, personal equipment and additional equipment as listed for a Level 3 Sea Kayak Instructor Assessment.
5. Have attended an approved Level 3 Sea Kayak Instructor Training Course or Programme within the 24 months period preceding a selected assessment date.
6. Possess a current and Canoeing Ireland approved First Aid Certificate (REC 3 or equivalent).
7. Have completed a Sport Ireland approved Safeguarding 1 Workshop.
8. Be a member of Canoeing Ireland.
9. Completed your garda vetting application.
10. Return a completed Level 3 Sea Instructor Logbook, with all the above pre assessment requirements fully detailed, to the Canoeing Ireland office no later than three weeks prior to the assessment date.

Other logbook requirements:

The logbook should reflect a wide range of sea kayaking experience during the training. details of canoeing activities prior to applying for the Sea Instructor Training Course should also be recorded.

1. Recorded in a Level 3 Sea Kayak Instructor Logbook, following the completion of a Level 3 Sea Kayak Instructor Training Course at least 25 hours of instructional experience on the sea in moving water conditions under the supervision of at least two registered Level 3 Sea Kayak Instructors.
2. Recorded as part of the 25 hours supervised instructional experience, on at least three different sea trips, details of assisting in the preparation of a group for a Level 3 Sea Kayak Skills Assessment. This group must consist of at least three participants.
3. Assist on two Level 3 Sea Kayak Skills Assessments.
4. Assist on two Essential Coastal Navigation Courses.
5. Be recommended for assessment by a registered Level 3 Sea Instructor.

© Canoeing Ireland 2025

Format of the Assessment

1. During the Level 3 Kayak Instructor Assessment candidates must satisfy the assessor that they are responsible and competent to instruct, lead and control a group on a coastal sea trip in smooth seas, level 3 conditions.
2. During the period of the Level 3 Sea Kayak Instructor Assessment personal kayaking skills and application of first aid may be assessed. It would be expected that a candidate would at least have maintained a skills level equivalent to that of the Level 4 Kayak Skills and where possible improved on this.

A candidate will be expected to:

1. Organise and lead an instructional session for beginners or intermediates over the course of a coastal sea trip.
2. Teach any stroke, technique or rescue applicable to water up to and including smooth seas as outlined in the Level 3 Sea Kayak Skills Award.
3. Demonstrate effective group control, group rapport, and instructional ability.
4. Demonstrate an ability to carry out the following rescues efficiently and effectively Self Rescue, X and/or Assisted -X Rescue, All-in-Rescue, Unconscious Casualty, Heel Hook Rescue, and T-and or H Rescue.
5. Demonstrate an ability to roll competently in moving water without any prior set-up.
6. Demonstrate all techniques and skills as required by Level 4 Sea Skills Award.
7. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of First Aid in the sea kayaking environment as well as a thorough working knowledge of the cause/effect/treatment of Shock, Hypothermia, EAR, CPR, and the treatment of an unconscious casualty.
8. Possess a sea kayak correctly fitted out for instruction and other appropriate personal equipment (See Sea Instructor 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 by a Sea Instructor. Examination of equipment will form part of the overall assessment.
9. Before setting off on the assessment trip the candidate will be required to produce a route summary for the day based on information gleaned from the chart, tide tables, pilot, and weather forecast. Participants may also be asked to complete a route plan for an area other than the assessment area.
10. Answer questions written or oral, on aspects of sea kayaking covered during the training course or in the support literature.
11. Attend a debrief with the Assessor.

© Canoeing Ireland 2025

Level 3 Sea Kayak Instructor Qualification Guidelines

1. It is recommended that Instructors other than the Instructor who has run the training course leading to the assessment assess a Level 3 Sea Kayak Instructor Qualification. Notwithstanding this, a Level 3 Kayak Instructor Qualification can only be assessed by members of the Level 3 Kayak Instructor Assessor Panel
2. Clear guidelines should be given in writing should a candidate fail an assessment as to the areas that need to be improved on.
3. Candidates cannot depend on any assistance (material or practical) during an assessment.
4. No other award may be assessed at the same time as the Level 3 Sea Kayak Instructor Qualification.
5. The candidate/assessor ratio should be a maximum of 6:2
6. A Level 3 Sea Kayak Instructor Assessment must be assessed by a minimum of two members of the Level 3 Kayak Instructor Assessor Panel.

© Canoeing Ireland 2025