

Deploying British Canoeing Paddlesport Instructors - advice within Girlguiding UK

The Paddlesport Instructor award is designed as an entry level instructional award for centres, clubs and organisations, which need taster activities delivering.

As such it is an ideal award for those introducing taster sessions, supporting activities on large scale camps or activity events.

Paddlers may gain the Paddlesport Instructor Award from the age of 14.

When first qualified, Paddlesport Instructors may have little or no experience of working with groups and will need considerable support from their deploying organisation. As they become more experienced, then they could be deployed to run sessions on their own.

Where a Paddlesport Instructor is to be deployed to run sessions on their own then the following should be confirmed:

- The Instructor needs to have demonstrated competence at running sessions
- They should hold a first aid certificate, which includes drowning and hypothermia
- They should have undergone appropriate safeguarding checks
- They should have undertaken appropriate safeguarding training
- They must be over the age of 18.

It should be noted that Paddlesport Instructors are still only able to work on Very Sheltered Water when working independently.

Managing Paddlesport Instructors at large scale events

Where large numbers of Girlguiding members are to be on the water at once then a number of Paddlesport Instructors may be deployed to deliver these sessions. The person in charge of the event must consider the following within their risk assessment when deploying paddlesport instructors:

- The environment that they are operating in
- The weather conditions on the day
- The experience of the Paddlesport Instructors
- The age and maturity of the Paddlesport Instructors
- Any on water support that may be available if there are any issues during the sessions.