



Site Specific Competencies

Version 12, July 2010

Introduction

Most of our coaches are BCU level 2. These are the general coaching awards for sheltered water, below the specialised moderate water awards at BCU level 3. There are a few BCU level 3 coaches, mostly inland kayak, but also OC, Sea and Surf. We now also have some UKCC L1 coaches, and hopefully soon some UKCC L2s.

The new and old schemes are not equivalent – it's likely that over time, UKCC L1 will become the most common coaching award in the club, and relatively few will progress to L2.

The new UKCC scheme has a clear need for documented site-specific training for UKCC L1 coaches, before they can gain an independent operation remit.

ACC has had some historic difficulty because we operate on water that can sometimes be harder than the basic remit of “sheltered water”, but most of our coaches do not have the means or opportunity to study for the expensive & ex-regional BCU L3 or new 4* and moderate water endorsements. We have historically informally recognised specific coaches as competent on our waters.

This scheme provides a documented site-specific training structure to address both issues.



ADUR CANOE CLUB

Brighton Road, Shoreham-by-sea, West Sussex, BN43 5LT

www.adurcanoeclub.org.uk

Background

The bare UKCC L1 has a limited remit and was initially looked on as similar to the BCU L1. It isn't. Although UKCC L1 is supposed to have additional input to gain a remit for independent operation, it is now becoming clear that the "basic" coach level probably will become UKCC L1 with documented Site Specific Training, First Aid, and CRB checks.

Award	Personal Competence	Coaching Skills	Safety	Remit for Operation
BCU L1	Old 2*	1 day course	CST, First Aid, CRB	On own - ponds
BCU L2	Old 3*	2d + 4hr ass.t	CST, First Aid, CRB	On own – sheltered water
BCU L3	Old 4*	L2+2d+2d ass.t	CST, First Aid, CRB	On own – moderate water
UKCC L1	New 2*	4d	CST/FSR	Under supervision – sheltered water.
UKCC L1 +	-	-	First Aid, CRB, Site Specific	On own – sheltered water
UKCC L2	New 3*	About 11d?	-	On own – sheltered water (row to be confirmed)
UKCC L2 +	New 4*	Moderate water endorsement	+Discipline specific extra course	On own – moderate water

UKCC L2 has a similar remit to a BCU L2, but can extend this with a selection of new 4* and water endorsement¹. Probably this combination will be the usual replacement for the BCU L3. UKCC L3 will be elite, replacing BCU L5.

BCU & UKCC awards "prove" competence to coach safely in certain conditions; they do not indicate *incompetence* in harder conditions, and the BCU have never said the awards are *necessary* to coach in whatever conditions, especially not to *lead* rather than *coach*. It's just that it's easy for other bodies to say "you must have". And indeed WSCC YS, owners of AOAC do say so in relation to the old awards - They're not yet updated for the UKCC. The BCU's ClubMark scheme also takes a more rigorous line than the BCU.

ACC has had some historic difficulty because we operate on water that can sometimes be harder than the basic remit of "sheltered water", but most of our coaches do not have the means, opportunity, or desire to study for the expensive & ex-regional BCU L3 or new 4* and moderate endorsement.

¹ These are however expensive (8 days of paid for training is required, typically around £1,000)



ADUR CANOE CLUB

Brighton Road, Shoreham-by-sea, West Sussex, BN43 5LT

www.adurcanoeclub.org.uk

Remits Recognised

Key to table below:

C=Can run coaching session & lead (BCU recognised)

S=As C, but needs Supplementary Training & Quals (BCU recognised)

L=Can lead, group don't need coaching for safety (BCU recognised)

X=Can run coaching session & lead, with ACC SST

Table of award remits at ACC

Award	Wadurs	Adur when flow is slow	In harbour	On beach when calm	Adur high & fast flow	Adur low fast flow	On beach when bit rough	Trips away on G2 ²	Trips along local beaches	Trips on sea	Surfing sessions
B L2	C	C	C	C	X	X	X		C ³		
B L3 IK	C	C	C	C	C	C	X	C	C		
B L3 Se	C	C	C	C	C	C	C		C	C	In SK
B L3T Su ⁴	C	C	C	C	X	X	C		C		C
B L3 Su	C	C	C	C	X	X	C		C		Small Surf
U L1	S	S	S	S	X	X	X		TBD		
U L2	C	C	C	C	X	X	X		C		
New 4* IK		L	L		L	L		L			

A blank means the award does not qualify the holder to operate unsupervised in the situation.

The above lists only new IK 4*. The other 4*s, and corresponding Moderate Water Endorsements, work in a similar fashion, raising the remit to the same as the old L3. The 5* is not discussed (only one (old) 5* in club coaches – Matt's OC). We also don't discuss old L1, placid water or the competition coach awards as nobody has them.

BCU remits suggest old and new L3 as suitable to supervise a club or centre. But new U L3s are unlikely, I think. Most likely new award is L2.

² We mean the BCU remit for these levels, which may include some G3 features. At present the BCU write this confusingly, we will follow the latest.

³ Local beaches meaning the shingle beaches with continuous landing potential.

⁴ L3T Surf has a remit to allow surf practice in small surf.



Canoe/Kayak Crossover

New UKCC L1 coaches are inherently kayak *and* canoe. For BCU coaches, the table above is for kayaks & assumes all paddlers are in kayaks. The canoe awards work in exactly the same way, except there are no sea & surf awards. In practice, sessions often mix kayaks and canoes, and the current coaches have at least minimum safety ability in each craft (the old CST wasn't specific, and the new FSR and L1 cover both craft). Of the club's existing BCU canoe coaches, all have enough kayaking experience to supervise kayaks. And perhaps to a lesser extent, the kayak coaches can supervise canoes⁵.

To maintain documentation of this, we write here all the OC coaches who can supervise kayaks, and all the kayak coaches who can supervise canoes. Note the term is supervise, not coach. The coach can direct the "other" craft and should be able to assure safety. They may decline to accept the craft on a specific occasion, and they may decline to offer coaching.

The following coaches are recognised to supervise the other craft, within their existing BCU and ACC remit, subject to the caveats below:

Coach	Award	Can supervise	At	Except
Jim Callender, Graham Devenish, Vanessa Devenish, Alex Devenish	B L2 C	Kayak	L2	-
Jerry Hansen, Dan Hamblin, Danny Gusterton, Hazel Hansen, Rob Bonner, Niall Read, Janet Brown, Cara Hamblin, Dave Winzer, Fiona Callender	B L2 IK or higher.	Canoe	L2	Not on the beach. Not in harbour on outgoing tide. Being particularly careful of winds.
Alison Davies, Adrian Jessop?, Andy Whitehead?	-	Awaiting training	-	-

If pre-qualified BCU coaches join the club as new members, they are not automatically added to the list, until they are actually approved by the committee.

Note: Cross-training rescue sessions were run by GR and CT in 2008 and 2009, but not documented.

⁵ Remember if the paddler is himself or herself competent they don't need supervision. However, if the group goes "round the harbour", self-rescue may not be possible, so the group needs rescue capability. On this basis both craft's coaches are accepted to supervise competent paddlers in closed cockpit canoes used without straps.



Site Specific Training to Allow UKCC L1 Coaches to Operate Unsupervised

The BCU write that if a L1 coach has suitable first aid, and CRB check, and documented site training, then they can operate unsupervised, although still normally within the context of an organisation (like ACC).

Local Conditions Between BCU L2 and L3 Remits

By some interpretations, a BCU level 2 can be seen as “out of remit” on our local waters at certain times. On the other hand, we do not reach the “moderate” level of difficulty. Most of our coaches have no interest in specialist white water, sea, etc awards, either L3 or 4*/MWE which are costly to achieve, and involve a lot of family-unfriendly travel⁶. We ensure the competence of our coaches in local conditions. This used to happen informally, now the Club Site Specific Competence scheme will document & if necessary add provide such competence.

This Document & Admin

The scheme is a set of check-lists. Not all coaches need to do all elements. Each coach will work through each element with a senior club coach⁷. It will be a mix of theory and practical work. It can be done 1:1 or in small groups. Preparatory reading is useful and can be done alone.

Each check-list will be signed off by the senior coach and kept in the coach’s logbook. The Committee will hold a list of those trained. There will be no specific expiry date to the recognition, but the Club Committee⁸ should review each case annually. No input will normally be needed from the coach for this – we are a small Club, Committee members will know of everyone’s annual contribution.

The first check-list acts as an index to the others. The check-lists are partly based on the club’s Risk Assessments, but things clearly within the normal remit of a Level 2 Coach (or UKCC L1) are omitted, some extras have been added, and specific attention is paid to canoe/kayak crossover. It is not the intention to verify basic competences already expected for a coach’s qualification.

⁶ It is not seen as appropriate to qualify these coaches as level 3 coaches (or 2008 4*), for white water kayak, canoe, surf kayaking or sea kayaking: The nearest white water or reliable surf beaches are nearly 200 miles away, and sea kayaking is a touring and navigating discipline usually performed in specialist craft. This would be an intolerable waste of time and money, and deterrent, as a pre-requisite for coaching at Shoreham. And in any case none of these level 3 awards covers all the hazards we may encounter here. Historically, persons qualifying as L3 rapidly lose interest in coaching at Shoreham.

⁷ The club committee will nominate these “senior” coaches. At present (summer 2010) we are fortunate to have BCU level 3s white water kayak, surf kayak, canoe, and sea. The nominated coaches need not be members, but must be locally experienced.

⁸ Can be deputised to a sub-committee or coaches meeting, preferably with two senior coaches present & access to club incident log.