

Lead, Session and Assistant Coaches

Lead and Session Coaches

Lead and Session Coaches take responsibility for the coaching of a specific group. Large groups may be assigned more than one Coach.

Lead and Session Coaches should meet the following British Canoeing requirements:

- Appropriately qualified and experienced to coach at the session venue.
- Hold current club and British Canoeing membership.
- Hold a current First Aid qualification.
- Have attended a Safeguarding course.
- Where required, have completed a DBS check.

A **Lead Coach** role is much more than organising a once a week session. The following list indicates many of the roles of a Lead Coach:

- Provide relevant information about the club, the sport of canoe slalom, session arrangements to all paddlers in assigned group.
- Be familiar with relevant club documents and make available to assigned paddlers as necessary.
- Plan and deliver a regular programme of sessions for assigned group.
- Keep an accurate and up-to-date attendance register.
- Plan and deliver extra sessions to complement the regular session programme, e.g. land based training, sessions at other venues including white water opportunities, pool sessions.
- Liaise with other coaches for extra training/coaching opportunities.
- Provide race support.
- Assist paddlers with goal setting, training plans, reviews.
- Provide opportunities for paddler and parent education.
- Encourage and support adult/older junior paddlers and parents to take Assistant Coach roles.
- Provide feedback to the club Coaching Officer and assist with club coaching planning.
- Liaise if required with British Canoeing coaching staff.
- Take a responsibility for the care and correct storage of club equipment.

A **Session Coach** has fewer commitments to a group and only takes on some of the roles of a Lead Coach.

Assistant Coach

An Assistant Coach may support a Lead Coach with one or more of the roles detailed above. Assistant Coaches may be adult/older junior paddlers or parents. Assistant Coaches cannot take full responsibility for running junior sessions but may do so with adult groups with the consent of the session participants.

It is beneficial if an Assistant Coach meets some/all of the British Canoeing Coach requirements detailed above. The role of the Assistant Coach at junior sessions must be carefully considered if no DBS check has been completed or a Safeguarding course has not been attended.

An Assistant Coach may be boat or bank based.

Assistant Coaches should be encouraged to progress towards Session or Lead Coach status.

Coaching Ratios

For Sessions at Stone when the river is at low levels (below step 2)

Group size up to 8

If possible a minimum of two coaches (1 lead/session + 1 assistant) should be deployed for all sessions. If a lead/session coach operates alone then the minimum ratio shall be 1:8.

Group size up to 12, ratio 2:12 (1 lead/session + 1 assistant)

Group size up to 16, ratio 3:16 (1 lead/session + 2 assistant)

For sessions at Stone when the river is at higher levels (above step 2) and for all sessions away from Stone, the Lead Coach must determine the appropriate ratios with full consideration of British Canoeing Terms of Reference (see https://f58619eed67ecf47f9c5-69635130c45beb2524d5bafa9c042fe0.ssl.cf3.rackcdn.com/documents/British-Canoeing-TERMS-OF-REFERENCE-V5-0-Jan-2107_170401_214151.pdf)

Coach Development

Stafford and Stone Canoe Club encourages coach development and has a funding policy to support all actively involved coaches to gain and renew qualifications. Details available from club committee.