

Tutor Update

September 2025

Summary:

This September 2025 Tutor Update from Paddle Scotland highlights four key updates:

- ***Paddlesport Leader (PSL) & Paddlesport Touring Leader (PSTL) Single Craft Options:***

As of October 1, 2025, single craft (canoe, kayak, or SUP) assessment options will be available for these awards, offering more flexibility alongside existing multi-craft pathways. This aims to recognise specialism, increase accessibility, and provide choice for candidates. Tutors can deliver either format but are encouraged to offer multi-craft training initially. Tutors must still be proficient in all craft for recruitment and moderation. [Further information](#) (pages 2 - 3).

- ***External Quality Assurer (EQA) Visits:***

From October 1, 2025, British Canoeing Awarding Body (BCAB) will extend their EQA short-notice visits to include "Drop-ins" for all awards across Home Nations. This change is not due to quality concerns but to allow EQAs to be more responsive to course cancellations. Tutors should continue to deliver courses as normal, knowing a drop-in could occur. [Further information](#) (pages 3 - 4).

- ***New Paddle Scotland Website 'Provider Updates' Feature:***

The new Paddle Scotland website now includes a 'News for Providers' section under 'Resources for Course Providers' and a filter function in the general 'News' area for Provider Updates. This aims to ensure tutors can easily find important updates, as email updates can sometimes be missed or go to spam. Email updates will continue, but the website provides a reliable archive. [Further information](#) (pages 4 - 5).

- ***British Canoeing Awarding Body (BCAB) Rebranding:***

Over autumn and winter, BCAB will rebrand to Paddle UK Awarding Body, with completion aimed for March 2026. This aligns with the broader Paddle UK rebrand and aims to be more inclusive of all paddlesport disciplines. The website content will be streamlined, and digital library/eLearning resources will move to a dedicated space on the main Paddle UK website. [Further information](#) (pages 5 - 6).

Paddlesport Leader (PSL) & Paddlesport Touring Leader (PSTL) - Single Craft Options Now Available

As of the 1st October 2025, Paddle Scotland will be offering **single craft options** for both Paddlesport Leader and Paddlesport Touring Leader awards.

This means that paddlers who wish to specialise in a single craft - whether canoe, kayak, or SUP - will be able to complete their assessment in their chosen discipline. This option sits alongside the existing multi-craft pathways, giving you and candidates more flexibility to tailor leadership journeys to individuals paddling interests and goals.

Why?

Recognise Specialism - This is being introduced based on requests from our paddling community, addressing a demand from individuals and organisations who usually operate and / or specialise within a single discipline.

Increase Accessibility - The change is aimed at supporting voluntary groups and commercial operators who primarily offer kayak or canoe activities or do not have access to multiple craft, providing a focused leadership award for touring environments.

Provide Flexibility - This gives candidates a choice between single craft and multi-craft pathways allowing leaders to be recognised for their specific areas of interest and expertise.

What this means for you as a Tutor and what you need to know:

- You can deliver training and assessment in either single craft or multi-craft formats, depending on your learners' needs. Paddle Scotland does recommend that training for these awards should continue to be offered as multi-craft, as this approach prepares aspirant leaders to make an informed choice about whether to specialise in single craft or to continue with the broader multi-craft pathway. However, it is your decision based on your clients.
- Candidates will still need to meet the same leadership standards, but only with their chosen craft (if opting for single craft).
- Course Authorisations in Just Go remain the same.
- **Training Credentials** will remain generic, therefore, please add a brief note in the training course notes whether the training was single craft (and which craft) or multi-craft. Also, be mindful of checking with assessment candidates that

they feel ready to do the assessment based on the training they have completed.

- When adding candidates in **assessment courses**, there will be the options for single craft or multi-craft (as per Paddlesport Instructor).
 - **Important Note:** Tutors of these awards will still be required to be able to offer and deliver multi-craft. Therefore, you will need to be able to demonstrate and maintain your skills in **all craft** (canoe, kayak and SUP) for recruitment, orientations, and moderations.
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External Quality Assurer (EQA) Visits

British Canoeing Awarding Body (BCAB) have informed us that as of 1st October 2025, they will be extending their External Quality Assurance (EQA) short-notice visits to include 'Drop-ins' for regulated and non-regulated awards. This is across all Home Nations.

Historically, BCAB conducted short-notice field visits, providing 48 hours' notice to the Delivery Centre that a quality assurance visit would be carried out; this has been extended to include 'drop-in' visits for regulated and non-regulated awards and qualifications.

Why?

BCAB EQA visits are to ensure Delivery Centres (such as Paddle Scotland) are providing high-quality, consistent, and safe paddlesport qualifications and awards that meet national standards and OfQual regulations. We have been assured that **this change is not a result of any quality assurance concerns**. Rather it is to allow their External Quality Assurers to be more responsive to last-minute course cancellations due to environmental factors or low learner numbers.

What this means for you as a Tutor and what you need to know:

- The purpose is not intended to catch tutors / providers out. We know you are already working to the required standards. This is in the event an EQA comes to Scotland for an EQA visit and due to unforeseen circumstances (such as weather or low numbers) the course does not run. It is also an opportunity to show the awarding body your good work and celebrate your good practice.

- An EQA may drop in, rather than on pre-scheduled dates. You should continue to plan and deliver courses and assessments as normal, knowing that a quality assurance visit could take place at any time.
 - Drop-ins are about maintaining consistency and providing encouragement, not adding pressure. They are intended to provide a quick snapshot of a training or assessment session as part of a quality assurance review and, if applicable, a sample of assessment decisions made. Some of the focus of their visits will include:
 - Coaching, personal skills, and rescues, and
 - Communication with candidates
 - Drop-ins are designed to be as smooth as possible and not interfere unnecessarily with course delivery / assessment.
 - Having an EQA present should give both you and your learners confidence that courses are delivered to the highest standard.
 - If an EQA attends your course, they will introduce themselves and explain their role before observing. They are approachable and available for questions, feedback, and guidance.
 - Should any concerns arise during a drop-in, the EQA may extend their visit for further investigation.
 - EQA's will report back all visits to the Delivery Centre Manager.
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New Paddle Scotland website to include 'Provider Updates'

Paddle Scotland has recently launched their new website. A 'search' function has been incorporated to simplify information retrieval and also a '[Resources for Course Providers](#)' page. The Resources for Course Providers page can be found under the 'Courses' tab.

On this page we have added 'News for Providers', we will aim to add Tutor / Provider Updates to this section to reduce the loss of updates in emails and spam.

There is also a 'Filter' function in the general 'News' area specifically for Provider Updates. This is also to help you find news and updates.

Why?

Feedback has suggested that Tutor Updates can get lost in spam / junk folders and / or in the volume of emails received. By adding Tutor / Provider Updates to our website we are able to support and ensure Tutors / Providers can see and find important and relevant updates. This also supports our ethos of openness and transparency, ensuring consistent messaging and communication with our workforce and the paddling community.

What this means for you as a Tutor and what you need to know:

- Tutor Updates will still be emailed out, however, this enables you to check the website regularly for any updates you may have missed.
- You will be able to check back through news items to confirm updates.
- Should changes be made that impact a previous communication this will be updated on the website page.
- This is a new initiative, starting from now, therefore historical / previous updates will not be added.
- Please be reminded you are responsible for keeping your professional development and knowledge up-to-date.

British Canoeing Awarding Body (BCAB) rebranding update and website

Over the autumn and winter, the British Canoeing Awarding Body will be working on its rebrand to **Paddle UK Awarding Body** to better align with the growing diversity of paddlesport disciplines, with an aim to get this completed by March 2026. The content of the website will be streamlined, and the digital library and eLearning resources will be relocated to a separate, dedicated space on the [Paddle UK website](#).

Why?

In March 2024, British Canoeing officially changed its name to Paddle UK. Alongside this, the home nation associations also adopted new names consistent with the rebrand (Paddle Scotland, Paddle Cymru, Paddle Northern Ireland, etc.).

To better reflect the wide range of paddlesport qualifications and awards, the awarding body, formerly British Canoeing Awarding Body, is undergoing a phased rebranding to become **Paddle UK Awarding Body**. This change acknowledges that "canoeing" no longer fully encompasses the breadth of the sport and ensures full inclusivity.

What this means for you as a Tutor and what you need to know:

- The content of the website will be streamlined, and the digital library and eLearning resources will be relocated to a separate, dedicated space on the main [Paddle UK website](#).
- This will be aimed to be done by **March 2026**.
- A working group has been established and Delivery Centres will be kept informed and provided the necessary information to update our own websites.