



## National Coasteering Charter

promoting safe coasteering

### NCC Guide Award Training and Assessment Syllabus

**Version 12 1st January 2025**

#### **Aim**

Successful performance at this level indicates that a candidate has the personal skill level and leadership ability required to lead a group of coasteerers. The NCC Coasteering Guide has the skills and judgement to select the appropriate environments for their group which includes clients with little or no coasteering experience.

Following a successful assessment, the NCC Coasteering Guide must have in place, or work for, a company/organisation that has appropriate insurance and safety management systems if they are employed/deployed to guide coasteering. In addition, they **must** also be approved to work at the specific coasteering site, either by the company's internal coasteering advisor or by an appropriately recognised external Technical Expert before being deployed. Please also note that if guiding Under 18's then there may be additional legal obligations (e.g. AALA / Safeguarding) that need to be in place.

#### **The Guided Coasteering Environment**

A stretch of coastline which may include some areas where it is not easy to access, however access and egress could be safeguarded with some basic spotting and group management. Swell size and conditions on the route being used for the assessment would be in line with the stated SOP's and Risk Assessments provided by the candidate as part of the pre-assessment evidence that the assessor leading the day will ask for.

#### **Training and Assessment Courses**

##### **Training**

To achieve the NCC Guide Award, candidates are required to attend some formal training, whether run in-house, run by a coasteering technical expert, or delivered by an NCC Coasteering Guide Award Provider. NCC Guide Award Training courses should take the form of at least 2 days of training in personal skills, leadership/group management, and safety and rescue.

Training Course Notes are available on the NCC Website.

Course ratios: A maximum of 8 candidates can be trained by one trainer. If the number of candidates goes beyond this, to a maximum of 12, then a second NCC Guide Award Provider will need to be employed to support the training.



## National Coasteering Charter

promoting safe coasteering

Following the completion of a training course, an assessment would normally be completed within 3 years.

### Consolidation period

A period of time between training and assessment will be suggested to each trainee guide as part of the feedback process from the training course. During this time, the trainee guide is expected to gain logged experience assisting and part leading groups. Ideally, this will be at a variety of sites, with a mix of groups in a range of conditions, working with different guides.

### Assessment

Assessments are normally delivered over 1 day with a maximum of 2 candidates being assessed (minimum 6 hours contact time). They are assessed whilst leading a real group of participants, against the criteria written in the NCC Guide Award Assessment Notes. If certain areas of the criteria are not seen during the lead session, additional safety and rescue scenarios will be required to be proven. This can be either by a professional conversation or a practical application of a scenario.

### Related NCC Policies

See the 'NCC Coasteering Guide Appeals Procedure' for details of how candidates can make an appeal or complaint concerning the content or outcome of the NCC Coasteering Guide Assessment.

### Useful Information

Please refer to the relevant NCC Coasteering Guide Training or Assessment Notes.

### Training Prerequisites

- A willingness to learn and a commitment to continued improvement are essential attributes for participants.
- Be an individual member of the NCC and have registered for the award  
**(note: This is NOT required if the candidate is U18)**
- Evidence of logged coasteering familiarisation of at least 10 water hours
- Due to the nature of the course, running most often over a period of 2 days, some prior knowledge of swell, waves, tide, wind, and first aid would be beneficial, as not all of these subjects will be covered in enough detail on the training course for most novices. If there is a lack of knowledge in any subjects, it will be identified as an action point to work on, given as feedback for the consolidation period.



## National Coasteering Charter

promoting safe coasteering

### Recommended training (not a prerequisite, but useful to have)

- A 2-day First Aid Certificate
- Beach lifeguard Qualification
- RLSS NWSMP (Coastal Waterways)
- Coastal Navigation and Tidal Planning
- RYA Day Skipper
- White water Safety & Rescue course
- Environment awareness - the WiSE Course

Candidates can attend training from the age of 16 providing the Provider can meet any legal obligations in relation to AALA and/or Safeguarding Policy to enable them to work with U18's. Candidates under the age of 18 cannot currently join the NCC so this pre requisite will be waived until they attend assessment (once they turn 18) and then they will need to join the NCC and register for the Guide Award (as per assessment pre requisites).

### Assessment Prerequisites

#### Be able to provide clear documented evidence of-

- Completion of a NCC Guide Training Course within the previous 3 years or; Logged evidence of Coasteering Specific Training with a Coasteering Provider
- Evidence of the minimum of 30 hours coasteering experience. During at least 24 of these hours the candidate should evidence a mixture of roles such as; assisting experienced guides, leading under supervision and leading peer groups.
- Coasteering experience in a variety of coasteering venues within at least 2 NCC Regions. Coasteering experience should be evidenced in different swell, tidal conditions and group types as well as venues that are varied in their geology and coastal geography.
- A recognised face to face 2-day first aid or valid Beach Lifeguard Qualification
- **Individual Membership** of the NCC (please note, company membership does not provide this)
- Registration for the NCC Guide Award
- Be 18 years old or older

***Note: If you are in any doubt please contact your provider for further information and clarification.***



## **National Coasteering Charter** promoting safe coasteering

### **Equipment at assessment**

Candidates should present themselves at the assessment with personal and group leadership equipment appropriate and relevant to the assessment environment and inline with the minimum requirements stated in the 'Safety Advice for Coasteering Guides' document

### **Assessment Day**

The assessment is competency-based, assessed over the whole process of leading a group coasteering from start to finish as a solo guide. The choice of venue made by the candidate should give the opportunity for a range of conditions and or sea features.

The assessment report will indicate the sea conditions under which the assessment occurred, assessments can be completed in calm conditions. The deployer would be responsible for assessing the competency of the candidate to deliver coasteering within the local site and conditions.

### **Assessment group**

The size of the group should be not less than 3 and no more than 8 as well as being inline with the Standard Operating Procedure that the candidate is working to. The group should represent a suitable 'novice' group for the venue. Where the candidates SOP's state the use of an assistant there must be the opportunity provided on the assessment to assess the guide in a 'solo lead' capacity as well as working with the assistant.

### **Technical Syllabus**

The candidate is required to perform all skills comfortably, with confidence in their own ability, in the sea conditions present on the assessment.

#### **Part A – Personal Coasteering Skills**

#### **Part C – Safety, Leadership and Group Skills**

#### **Part B – Rescue Skills**

#### **Part D – Theory**

#### **Part E - Environment**