



Level 2: Essentials of Surf Ski Instructor Criteria

Overview: Fundamentally, we expect that participants should have the paddling skills, technical knowledge, rescue ability, teaching ability, group management, and interpersonal skills commensurate with this level of certification prior to presenting themselves for evaluation as Instructor Candidates at an Instructor Certification Exam (ICE).

Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC):

ACA courses are open to all individuals who acknowledge the ability to perform the following essential eligibility criteria.

1. Breathe independently (i.e., not require medical devices to sustain breathing)
2. Independently maintain sealed airway passages while under water
3. Independently hold head upright without neck / head support
4. Manage personal care independently or with assistance of a companion
5. Manage personal mobility independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance
6. Follow instructions and effectively communicate independently or with assistance of a companion
7. Independently turn from face-down to face-up and remain floating face up while wearing a properly fitted life jacket*
8. Get on / off or in / out of a paddlecraft independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance*
9. Independently get out and from under a capsized paddlecraft*
10. Remount or reenter the paddlecraft following deep water capsize independently or with a reasonable amount of assistance*
11. Maintain a safe body position while attempting skills, activities and rescues listed in the appropriate Course Outline, and have the ability to recognize and identify to others when such efforts would be unsafe given your personal situation*

** To participate in adaptive programs, participants must acknowledge only the first six EEC listed above. Entry-level adaptive programs will involve teaching and practicing EEC #7-11.*

Course Prerequisites: Completion of the appropriate level skills course, assessment course, or equivalent skills.

Course Duration: Combined IDW and ICE - Minimum 3 days (24 hours)

Course Location / Venue: Protected water near shore with:

- Winds less than 9 knots (10 miles/hr or 16 km/hr)
- Waves up to 1 foot (0.3 meters)
- Current up to 1 knot



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Class Ratio: 5 Instructor Candidates: 1 Instructor Trainer; with an additional instructor or qualified assistant the ratio can be 10 : 2

Succeeding courses:

Level 3: Fundamentals of Open Water Surfski

Level 4: Essentials of Downwind Surfski

Level 5: *Advanced Open Water and Downwind Surfski Paddling (under development)*

The following is a list of the criteria used to evaluate Instructor Candidates. The content covered and sequence of evaluation should be adjusted to best fit the participant's needs, class location and time allowance.

General Requirements for all Instructor Certifications:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Meet the appropriate essential eligibility criteria
- Successfully complete an Instructor Certification Workshop (IDW and ICE)
- Be a full ACA member
- Upon successful completion, register with the Safety Education and Instruction Council
- Have and maintain First Aid and age appropriate CPR
- Demonstrate a general knowledge of paddlesports and the ACA
- Demonstrate the ability to appropriately perform and teach all of the following material unassisted in the appropriate venue
- Instructors are expected to be able to demonstrate, teach, and model everything on the official ACA skills course and assessment course outlines which correspond to their level/craft.

Demonstrate knowledge and ability to efficiently/effectively plan and implement appropriate instructional sessions and assessments for a different learning styles and ability levels, to include:

- Differentiation of instruction based on the individual learner (student centered)
- Use of an appropriate skills progression when teaching complex skill sets
- Selection of appropriate teaching venue based on ability and desired outcomes
- Focus on core principals rather than specific technique
- Provides appropriate, specific and meaningful feedback

Maintenance Requirements:

- Teach at least two courses that meet ACA standards within the four-year certification period and report the results to the National Office
- Complete an Instructor Update, at the highest level of certification, during the four-year certification period
- Maintain ACA membership and SEIC registration annually

Level 2: Essentials of Surf Ski Instructor Requirements:

- 1) Demonstrate a knowledge of ACA Paperwork:
 - How to register and report a course (with and without insurance)
 - An understanding of the ACA Waiver and Release of Liability



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- 2) Demonstrate a knowledge of:
 - Teaching theory
 - Learning theory
 - Effective methods of providing feedback
- 3) Demonstrate the following:
 - Positive interpersonal skills
 - Appropriate group management skills (including leadership and judgment)
 - Ability to choose an appropriate venue / class site
- 4) The ability to teach and model the basic paddle strokes and maneuvers effectively. This includes:
 - Forward stroke, to propel the surfski straight forward
 - Reverse/back stroke, to stop and reverse
 - Forward sweeps, to turn and/or spin the surfski
 - Draw (In and out of water), to move the surfski sideways evenly
 - Slap brace to avoid capsize
- 5) Demonstrate the ability to safely, effectively and efficiently perform, assess, and teach rescue techniques in a variety of sea states, wind conditions, wind directions and tidal current up to and including the Level 2: Essentials of Surf Ski course venue:
 - Controlled capsize and exit the surfski comfortably
 - Swim rescue: swim self and surfski to shore
 - Self-Rescue (Remount) with and without assistance
 - Side by side assisted rescue
 - Swimmer rescue: (push/pull/carry) a swimmer
 - Unresponsive or injured paddler rescue
- 6) Demonstrate knowledge of, and ability to teach, the following effectively:
 - Safety issues and hazards of surfski paddling
 - Weather and tide conditions important to the surfski paddler
 - Cold water shock, hypothermia and hyperthermia; prevention and treatment
 - Management of equipment and hydration/nutrition
 - Good body positioning
 - Proper surfski “fit” and surfski selection
 - Surfski design, materials, and outfitting (footwell, bulkhead, etc.)
 - Surfski equipment, including leashes, boats, and paddles (including wing paddles)
 - The roots, history, and model elements of Surfski
 - Signaling and communication devices including VHF radios, Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), flares or mirrors
 - Boat traffic safe practice, maps, charts, float plan
 - Rudder repair and safety equipment for added security (Repair kit, etc.)
 - Surfski contact towing techniques
- 7) Demonstrate leadership, group management skills, experience and judgment necessary to be a safe, effective instructor.