

# Paddle Australia Qualification Scheme

## Assessment Guidelines

### Sea Leader



## Qualification Definition

The holder of this award is qualified to guide groups of Sea Skills paddlers on activity and day based programs in sea kayaks in Sea conditions:

- Outside of estuaries, harbours, embayments or other sheltering reefs or islands
- Areas of exposed coastline that are simple, not involving overfalls or tidal races
- Difficult landings or open crossings may be included
- Maximum of 5 nautical miles from shore
- Wind conditions below Strong Wind Warning (26kn)
- Breaking (whitecapping) waves (sea) up to 1.0m
- Surf to 1.0m

## Skills

*All skills to be performed in Fresh Winds (17-21kn) at Sea. Surf related skills to be performed in 1.0m of surf*

<b>Prepare appropriate craft and equipment</b>	Throughout assessment participants use appropriate equipment for the environment. This equipment promotes personal safety and is prepared in a way to not impede on safety
<b>Secure craft for transport, secure equipment to craft</b>	Participants transport craft to and from venue, method is safe for craft and participant. (or able to demonstrate method they would use) Equipment placed on craft is secured in a manner that does not impede safety and is accessible when required
<b>Launch and land craft</b>	Participant launches and lands craft in surf in a safe repeatable manner without assistance. Safely demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Control on a wave</li><li>• Side surf</li><li>• Back surf</li></ul>
<b>Perform paddle strokes</b>	Demonstrate individual strokes to manoeuvre the craft: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Forward and reverse paddle</li><li>• Forward and reverse sweeps</li><li>• Draw strokes (feathered and sculling)</li><li>• Stern rudder</li><li>• Bow rudder</li><li>• Stopping</li><li>• Support using front and back of blade</li><li>• Leaning and edging</li><li>• Stroke combination</li></ul> For each stroke the minimum performance requirements are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Correct hand placement on paddle</li><li>• Sufficient wrist movement to enable correct blade placement</li><li>• Adequate paddle depth in water to achieve effective stroke</li><li>• Correct paddle blade angle throughout stroke</li><li>• Correct paddle entry and exit points with respect to craft and body</li></ul>

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	position
<b>Form into and disperse from a raft</b>	A raft is formed in a timely manner (no wasted time) and promotes safety to all involved
<b>Perform self and buddy rescues</b>	<p>Self rescue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swim 50m in paddling gear</li> <li>• Paddle float re-entry</li> <li>• Roll (one side)</li> <li>• Re-enter and roll (one side)</li> </ul> <p>Buddy rescue (rescues are performed as rescuee and rescuer):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T rescue</li> <li>• Wedge rescue</li> <li>• Scoop rescue</li> </ul> <p>Rescues are performed in a timely manner (no time wasted) and promotes safety to all involved and is deemed to work in all conditions</p>
<b>Accept a tow</b>	<p>Calm is maintained.</p> <p>Craft kept in a straight line while towed.</p> <p>Craft kept stable and balanced</p>
<b>Perform a tow</b>	<p>Demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single tow</li> <li>• In-line tow</li> <li>• V tow</li> <li>• Short tow</li> <li>• Contact tow</li> </ul> <p>Tows are performed using quick release system that floats if disconnected.</p> <p>Tows are performed to promote safety to all.</p>
<b>Complete an activity</b>	Activity plan/brief is followed to meet time management requirements and activity goals. Plan is adjusted if and when required
<b>Maintain position in windy conditions</b>	<p>Perform upwind tail stall.</p> <p>Use Transit bearing to determine drift</p>
<b>Capsize and roll in surf</b>	<p>Participant to capsize craft while surfing a wave, roll is performed by either using momentum and power of wave or waiting until wave energy has dissipated and roll behind wave.</p> <p>Technique used must be safe and repeatable.</p>
<b>Rope work</b>	<p>Demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bowline</li> <li>• Fisherman's knot</li> <li>• Round turn and two half hitches</li> <li>• Clove hitch</li> <li>• Highwayman's hitch</li> <li>• Truckies hitch</li> </ul>
<b>Individual Situational</b>	Participant is able to monitor personal wellbeing as well as

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<b>Awareness</b>	environmental elements that may effect all participants
<b>Paddling Speed</b>	Able to maintain an average speed of 4kph for 1 hour
<b>Group Situational Awareness</b>	Group and environment are monitored to ensure activity remains safe and enjoyable for all participants. Monitoring may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fatigue</li><li>• Separation</li><li>• Sickness</li><li>• Engagement</li><li>• Tide</li><li>• Weather</li><li>• Other environmental influences</li></ul>

## Knowledge

*Group participants: Sea Skills paddlers*

<b>Knowledge and maintenance of craft</b>	Good knowledge of the features of a Sea Kayak. Must include but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction</li><li>• Material</li><li>• Water line</li><li>• Bow designs</li><li>• Rocker</li><li>• Grab handles</li><li>• Foot support</li><li>• Storage</li><li>• Deck lines</li><li>• Volume</li><li>• Cockpit</li><li>• Bulkheads</li><li>• Hull shapes</li><li>• Handling characteristics; tracking, edge behaviour</li></ul>
<b>Select and advise on appropriate equipment and clothing</b>	Clothing and equipment is selected with consideration of sun sense and other environmental influences Throughout assessment participants use appropriate equipment for the environment and are monitored and reminded of appropriate precautions. This equipment is prepared in a way to not impede on safety
<b>Store, operate and maintain appropriate safety and communication equipment</b>	Equipment to include but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lifejacket (level 50)</li><li>• Sufficient food and water</li><li>• Spray deck</li><li>• Spare paddle</li><li>• Mobile phone</li><li>• VHF radio</li><li>• Tow line</li></ul>

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- Sling/rescue ladder
- Pea-less whistle
- Safety knife
- First Aid kit
- Helmet(when in surf or around rocks)
- Hand pump
- Hands-free pump (foot or electric)
- Deck compass
- Paddle float

Able to show or explain simple repair kit and the purpose of contents

#### Navigational aids

Knowledge of but not limited to:

- Latitude and Longitude
- Measuring distance
- Scale
- Navigational markers: Lateral, cardinal and special markers
- Tidal flow arrows
- Paddling speed
- Effects of wind and tide
- Eddies
- Types of coast line
- Depth
- Position fixing; e.g. dead reckoning, 3 point fix
- Transits
- Aiming off
- Tides: High, Low, Spring, Neap, Tidal range, Rule of twelves, Secondary ports, 50/90 rule
- Able to complete a Navigation sheet

#### Interpret weather

Able to gain appropriate Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) weather forecasts (e.g. from MetEye) and warnings, and interpret how weather can influence and affect a paddling location.

Knowledge of, but not limited to:

- Winds
- Beaufort Scale
- Funnelling
- Fetch
- Effects of wind on paddling; windward, leeward
- Swell
- Seas
- Rebound
- Tidal currents
- Precipitation
- Sources of extended marine weather forecasts
- Telling signs of bad weather approaching

#### Plan an activity

Plan is developed to meet the activity goals and is appropriate for group, location and time limitation. Plan allows for all capabilities within the group and contains contingency plans

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	for equipment failure and emergency evacuation
Minimal environmental impact	Follows PA <a href="#">Minimal Impact Guidelines</a>
Maintain a log book	Understands the purpose and contents of a log book Knowledge and use of PA's <b>Paddle Log</b> app
Prepare a Float Plan	Understands the purpose and contents of a Float Plan Knowledge and use of PA's <b>Paddle Prep</b> app
Rules of Sea	Knowledge of but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give way rules</li> </ul>
Selection of launching and landing sites	Understands the issues when selecting an appropriate launching and landing site to be safe for the group
PA's role, membership structure, your rights and responsibilities	Understands PA's membership, structure and rights and responsibilities as a registered PA leader
PA's relevant guidelines and policies	Has knowledge of the safe conduct of recreational paddling as described in PA's <a href="#">Safety Guidelines</a>
Hazard identification and risk management	Able to identify risks and causal factors for a Flatwater activity and also able to identify management strategies to mitigate any risks. Risks may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separation</li> <li>• Drowning</li> <li>• Sunburn</li> <li>• Hypothermia</li> <li>• Hyperthermia</li> </ul>
Licensing, permits, legal matters	Able to give examples of any Licensing, Permits and other legal and behavioural laws and requirements that may be required for an activity

## Communication

Group participants: Sea Skills Paddlers

Establish and maintain an effective communication system within a group	Participant establishes a safe working system. Maintain group within communication distance. Communication is limited to Verbal, Whistle, Visual. Communicate in a positive manner within a paddling group to help establish and maintain an enjoyable, safe experience for all group members Deliver directions in a clear and concise manner
Conduct briefing	Brief must include but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purpose and duration of activity</li> <li>• Expected conditions</li> </ul>

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- Lifejacket fitting
- Appropriate clothing worn
- Correct posture
- Setting up the craft
- Launching and landing
- Strokes as required
- Limits
- Actions in the event of an emergency
- On water signals
- Capsize drill
- Warm up
- Group movement requirements
- Communication
- Foreseeable risks
- Participant experience

Brief is clear and concise, attention of the group is gained.  
Recollection could be tested.

#### Conduct debriefing

A debrief is conducted to suit the activity and group.  
Constructive feedback is provided

## Experience

#### Minimum log book requirement

In the previous three years:

- Ten Sea trips of a minimum of three hours duration
- Three Sea activities of at least three hours duration as an observer under training or as an assistant Leader
- Three Sea activities of at least three hours duration as Leader under observation of qualified Leader

## Leadership

*Group participants: Sea Skills Paddlers*

#### Manage the launching and landing of a group

Launch and land in surf to 1.0m  
Launch and landing promotes safety to all involved

#### Manage a group

Group is managed in a safe manner to meet activity goal; assistance and direction given if and when needed.  
Route is managed to promote safety to group

#### Manage multiple capsizes and emergencies

Rescues are managed to promote safety to all in group

#### Manage tows

Roles of the group is determined  
Good communication maintained  
Tows are managed to promote safety to all

## Assessment Documents

*The following documents should be produced and submitted to your Assessor prior to final assessment. Preferred format*

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for Project is PDF.

<b>Project</b>	<p>Plan a Sea paddle with a group of six paddlers with Sea Skills qualification in a location of your choice where your role is to plan the route and manage the group while on water. You are the Leader for all aspects of the trip but have an assistant with this qualification. The location must fit within the award definition above.</p> <p>Prepare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A hazard identification and risk management program for the trip</li><li>• A detailed navigation plan for the trip including main route, stops and contingencies</li><li>• An equipment list for the trip, taking into consideration sun sense and hypothermia precautions, and including equipment for group communication and rescue.</li><li>• A basic contingency plan in the event of environmental, human or equipment failure</li><li>• A list of permits and licenses for the trip</li><li>• A briefing in point form to be delivered prior to departure, to include route, group spacing, actions in the event of sickness, group split, capsize or other emergency.</li></ul> <p>Look at the Bureau of Meteorology site and choose a forecast for the location that will have an impact on your trip. Write down or print out that forecast. Analyze how the forecast conditions will affect your trip and outline any changes or precautions you might take</p>
<b>Assessment Record</b>	The completed Assessment Record for the award, signed by both Assessor and participant, preferably using the <b>Paddle Ed</b> app
<b>Log book</b>	A copy of your log book with verified entries supporting the <b>Minimum log book requirement</b> above