

Freestyle Inspirer Programme

Introduction

The GB Freestyle 4 year plan and Development Pathway have for the first time laid out goals and a process to increase participation and provide a route for people to progress in freestyle through both competitive and recreational pathways.

Highlighting twin directions is exactly where 'Freestyle Inspirers' fit in as they will take on the key front end role of showing people just what a fantastic sport Freestyle Kayaking is and how far they can go with it.

We aim to take on 12 Inspirers across the UK

Are you passionate about paddling? Do you enjoy giving encouragement to others and sharing your experiences? Would you like to be a part of a movement inspiring more people into Freestyle? If you are positive, active and enthusiastic we want to hear from you!

Why do we need your help?

- We want to encourage and support more people to take part in Freestyle Kayaking
- We want to ensure there is a better geographical spread of opportunities to take part in Freestyle
- To inspire a future generation of freestyle paddlers.
- To play a vital role introducing new paddlers to Freestyle and talking about the opportunities that are available

What will I be doing?

- Delivering taster sessions at clubs and during events to new paddlers
- Signposting participants to further development opportunities, including local events, Young Guns and National events
- Raising awareness of Freestyle
- Ensuring sessions are delivered to reflect British Canoeing policies and procedures
- Sharing good practice with other Inspirers

What skills/experience do I need?

- Passion and enthusiasm for paddling and inspiring new paddlers
- A personal and friendly manner
- Reliable and professional demeanour
- Excellent communication skills
- An ability to use your own initiative and to work unsupervised

How much of my time would you like?

- Up to 6 days training (dependant on experience)
- Up to 6 club or event visits in a year

How will I be trained and supported?

- Base level coaching
- Freestyle specific coaching

- Example session plans
- Background freestyle knowledge and information (for example, around local and national events and where to go for more information).
- You will have a named contact who will support you and answer any queries you have
- You will be given any equipment and information necessary to carry out your role

What can I gain from volunteering with you?

- The satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to inspire a new generation of paddlers
- Developing new coaching skills
- Utilising your existing skills as well as developing and learning new ones
- Reimbursement for any expenses incurred (with prior agreement)

Where will I be based?

- This role will be based within your local area, with the option to attend events further afield should you wish to.

Aims of the Inspirers

Clubs and Community Groups are a common entry point to the new Development Pathway. Here fundamental skills are grown and paddlers get to see what's on offer in the broad context of canoeing.

For us to stimulate new interest and support current contributions, new opportunity has to be created for these Clubs and Community Groups. Through club visits, local meets and regional activity Inspirers will fulfill this aim.

Aim - Create connection, stimulate new interest and support current contributions at local level.

Being inspiring comes with the name of the role and that means bringing high energy, knowledge, skill and excitement. GB FS will train the new coach's and provide ongoing commitment to them so that they can go face to face with potential participants and deliver current and relevant content. Inspirers will also be involved with competitions and events in the GB Freestyle calendar both attending and motivating people towards these.

Aim – Create a positive vibe around freestyle, endorse and motivate people into the opportunities that currently exist and develop.

Identifying pockets where either by geographical or influenced opportunity more people are interested in freestyle is a key aspect to our success. Inspirers will recognise this opportunity and then be an integral part of driving better practice and arranging bespoke visits and hub activities with GB athletes and Coach's.

Aim – Identify high participation areas then support and arrange appropriate training opportunity.

The Inspirers are on the ground with the paddlers and facilitators. They can recognise common needs and in doing so have the ability to create resource that can be used by paddlers and coaches.

Aim – Recognise needs and create resource.

How to apply

Inspirers will be recruited through an open and transparent recruitment process. Applications will be invited from existing paddlers and coaches with no specific requirement to come from a Freestyle background. Online applications will be followed by interviews (if required). A short listing panel from GB Freestyle and British Canoeing will be set up to guide the appointment process.

Contact: freestyle.chair@britishcanoeing.org.uk for more details

[Application Form](#)

What you get from us?

It is a super exciting time to get involved with Freestyle and join our world leading team. Inspirers is the start point, a place where you will be guided and gain experience of this awesome discipline.

If you don't have it already then we will provide base level coaching qualification and specialist freestyle specific coaching. From there we you will get to work with a coaching mentor who will help you establish a pathway to progress. We will support you on that pathway.

We'll supply resource so that you have structure and materials to deliver freestyle within your designated environments. We'll cover costs to get you to those places.

You'll get to work with the best freestyle coach's on the planet and gain insights from the people who help the athletes become champions.

Best of all you'll get to work in a team of people who are giving freestyle the opportunity to really show the world what a great sport it is.

Have a look at the training notes below.

Training Notes

Applications may come from a range of coach's with varied qualification. The syllabus then reflects our desire to up skill every coach who is selected for the Inspirer position. This may include opportunity to pursue:-

- British Canoeing Paddlesport Instructor
- British Canoeing Coach award
- British Canoeing Performance Coach

The Freestyle elements will be delivered through the existing Freestyle Coaching network and creates the possibility of being trained by some of the most renowned Freestyle coach's in the world. The freestyle elements will cover all content in the British Canoeing Coach Award and provide the skills required to run Taster Sessions. This will be a four day training course.



Other Training

The complexity of freestyle requires coach's to think out of the box thinking. To support this, mini workshops will be offered providing specific training around how to approach these areas.

Ongoing mentoring

After training, Inspirers will work with the Inspirer Programme Manager who will provide ongoing mentoring opportunity. This could be directly through the manager or by utilising specific mentoring needs and individuals who can provide that.

After Year 1

Inspirers who fulfil their obligations will be offered ongoing opportunity and advancement potential. Continued training will be provided so that continued evolution of both the programme and individual happen.

What we get from you?

After initial training Inspirers will be expected to give up to 6 days of their time, visiting clubs and events offering freestyle taster sessions and general support. Take a look at our role description and volunteer agreement.

The program runs on a year to year basis with an annual reflective process likely to create ongoing and progressive opportunity.