



Go Paddling - Your Questions Answered

Go Paddling is a British Canoeing programme, which encourages new paddlers into paddling and provides clear pathways to ensure they stay engaged and progress in a positive manner. The programme works with clubs and centres, providing initiatives, tools and resources to help with new and recreational paddler engagement.

You can use this factsheet to find all the information and links you need to learn about the different elements of the Go Paddling programme. At the bottom of the page you will find some useful contact details, in case you have further questions.

In this factsheet you will find information on the following:

- **Go Paddling website**
- **Paddle Awards**
- **Go Paddling Week**
- **PaddlePoints**
- **#ShePaddles**
- **The Go Paddling Award**
- **Trails and Challenges**
- **Go Paddling look up maps**

Go Paddling Website

<https://gopaddling.info/>

The Go Paddling website is the gateway to most of our fantastic resources for paddlers and providers alike. By visiting the website you gain access to our paddling articles, trails, challenges, maps and PaddlePoints, as well as accessing the Provider Portal. All of these things will be described below, but heading to the website is always a great starting point!



Paddle Awards

The Paddle Awards are perfect first steps for new paddlers. Designed to be delivered by coaches and leaders, there is no prescriptive syllabus. We know that you understand the skills and information new paddlers need, so instead we provide guidance on how you may want to use and deliver the awards to best suit your organisation.

Paddle Awards FAQ's

1. Where can I learn more about the Paddle Awards?

To read more about the Paddle Awards head to the British Canoeing Awarding Body website: britishcanoeingawarding.org.uk/paddle-awards/

There are also some fantastic videos here, which guide you through the delivery of the awards: britishcanoeingawarding.org.uk/paddle-awards-guidance-for-delivery/

2. What qualifications do I need to deliver the Paddle Awards?

In order to deliver the awards you must be a qualified coach, leader, instructor, raft guide or bell boat helm. In addition to this you will need to have completed the Personal Performance Awards e-learning. This costs £15 and can be found here: brcanoeawarding.mylearningapp.com/shop/

3. How do I become a provider of the Paddle Awards? If you have your qualification and e-learning in place then you can head to our sign up page now to become a provider. Once signed up you will receive a Go Paddling Provider sticker and gain access to the resource portal with lots of great resources to help with your delivery of the Paddle Awards: britishcanoeing.org.uk/guidance-resources/go-paddling-providers

4. How do participants receive their awards?

Once you have delivered the Start or Discover Award to participants you can upload their information in the Provider Resource Centre on the Go Paddling website. Here you can enter the email addresses of your participants (individually or in a bulk upload) so that they receive their certificates individually to download: gopaddling.info/course-provider-upload-centre

5. How do I pay for the Paddle Awards?

The Start Award is free, so no payment is needed. The Discover Award costs £6 and you can pay for these in the Provider Upload Centre, when you process the awards. If you need your Finance Department or another member of staff to pay for the Discover Awards you can request an invoice be sent to them via email. The awards will then be processed once they have made payment.

6. Am I able to get a VAT receipt?

Once the awards have been paid for the payee will receive a VAT receipt for their record via email.

7. What are the next steps for paddlers after they have taken their Start or Discover Award?

If paddlers would like to continue developing their skills the Explore Award or a Personal Performance Award are the best next steps. The Explore Award gives the paddler ownership; allowing them to choose where they move next in the world of paddlesport. You can find out more about it here:

britishcanoeingawarding.org.uk/paddle-awards/

The Personal Performance Awards are discipline specific allowing the paddler to develop their personal paddling and decision making skills in the craft and environment of their choice. You can find out more about them here:

britishcanoeingawarding.org.uk/personal-performance-awards/



Go Paddling Week

Each year Go Paddling Week encourages new and existing paddlers to take to the water in a celebration of paddlesport activity. The week has a different theme each year and runs during May half-term week. We provide printed and digital resources to help providers assist us in hitting our target number of people on the water during the week.

The week has its own website gopaddlingweek.info. During the week people can enter their numbers of people on the water and upload photos of their activity to be in with the chance of winning prizes.

Go Paddling Week FAQ's

1. Where can I find out more about Go Paddling Week?

Go Paddling Week has its own website with lots more information:

<https://gopaddlingweek.info/> We also send out regular email communications about the week and place updates on British Canoeing social media.

2. What can we do during Go Paddling Week?

Get in your boats and paddle! The week is an opportunity for club get togethers, centre open days, group paddles, challenges, or peaceful solo paddles. However you get out during the week make sure you register your participation on the website

<https://gopaddlingweek.info/>

3. What are the prizes?

The prizes are different every year and vary from smaller spot prizes from our partner organisations right up to larger prizes for organisations and a top prize.

4. What is the theme and target for this year?

In 2020 we are embracing the fact it's an exciting Olympic year with a Go Go Tokyo theme. We are hoping to kick off everyone's enthusiasm for the games, starting with this week! Our target for numbers of people on the water is an ambitious 12,000. We need each and every one of you to help us hit it!

5. How can we get our Go Paddling Week resources?

All affiliated clubs and centres will be sent some resources through the post at the start of February. These will be sent to the address we have on file for you. If you do not receive your resources please get in touch with the Go Paddling team at gopaddling@britishcanoeing.org.uk You can also access a huge amount of digital resources online at: <https://gopaddlingweek.info/information-for-organisers/>

6. How can we advertise our Go Paddling Week events?

You can enter the details of your Go Paddling Week activities here: <https://gopaddlingweek.info/upload-your-go-paddling-week-event/> They will then appear on a Go Paddling Week map on the website.



PaddlePoints

A new, exciting digital map is now available through the Go Paddling website, changing the game for paddlers across the UK. We listened to what paddlers told us they wanted; more information on where to go paddling. The best thing about the PaddlePoints map is it can be updated and added to by all paddlers.

PaddlePoints FAQ's

1. Where can I view the PaddlePoints map?

You can find PaddlePoints within the Go Paddling website at: <https://gopaddling.info/paddlepoints/>

2. What information is on PaddlePoints?

There is a huge amount of information, entered by paddlers all around the country. As well as launch points, routes, clubs, centres and lots of other information on facilities along the waterways, there are also many waterways plotted. You can find out water levels, information on many rivers and canals, as well as hazard information.

3. **How do I add PaddlePoints myself?**

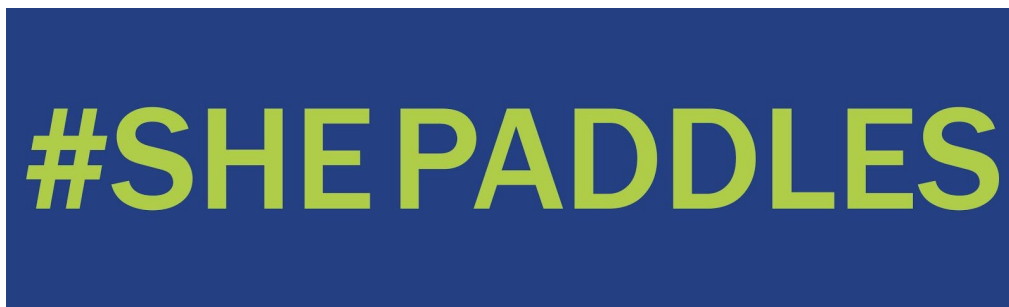
If you aren't already signed up to PaddlePoints you can simply sign up on the site and then add your own PaddlePoints. You can also add information to existing PaddlePoints.

4. **What should I do if I think the information is incorrect on a PaddlePoint?**

If you just feel the information needs updating then you can add this as a comment on the existing PaddlePoint. If there is a significant error in the information, which would render the PaddlePoint totally incorrect, or there is any abusive content in the information you can use the 'Report PaddlePoint' button to send it to be reviewed by admin.

5. **Can I map out routes on PaddlePoints?**

Currently you can view existing routes as well as British Canoeing Paddle Trails on the map. In the future you will be able to plot routes yourself.



#ShePaddles

#ShePaddles is the British Canoeing campaign which aims to get more women and girls into paddling and on into coaching, leadership and committee roles. The campaign has many strands, including our #ShePaddles Ambassadors, Women's Paddling Community on Facebook and the work we are doing to engage #ShePaddles Club Champions.

#ShePaddles FAQ's

1. **Why do we need a #ShePaddles campaign?**

The basic answer is, there are more men paddling than women. Lots more. Our membership currently sits at around 27% female. We also have fewer women than men in coaching and leadership roles. The #ShePaddles hopes to combat this at all levels within the sport. From inspiring more women to start paddling, up to supporting and encouraging those who want to into coaching and leadership roles.

2. **How can I learn more about the #ShePaddles Club Champion role?**

More information will be released on this shortly.

3. **How can I become a #ShePaddles Ambassador?**

Applications open for our new #ShePaddles Ambassadors every year on International Women's Day in March. This is usually the second Friday in the month. Applications stay open for a few weeks and all female paddlers are welcome to apply

if they feel they fit the role description. For more information contact cadi.lambert@britishcanoeing.org.uk

4. How do I join the Women's Paddling Community on Facebook?

The Women's Paddling Community is a closed group and all female paddlers, or women interested in paddling can request to join by visiting the group page: facebook.com/groups/1848570455443040/

5. What can our club do to get more women and girls paddling and into coaching, leadership and committee roles?

A great start is by reading the [Engaging Women in Paddlesport](#) document. If you don't have a copy of this please contact cadi.lambert@britishcanoeing.org.uk

If your club is interested in looking into its provision for and development of women and girls further then the upcoming #ShePaddles Club Champion role will be of interest.

Go Paddling Award

The Go Paddling Award recognises an organisation who has gone above and beyond in using and delivering the Go Paddling Programme's initiatives to help maintain and grow participation in paddlesports in their area. It will be awarded annually at the Volunteer Awards and there will be a prize for the winning organisation.

Go Paddling Awards FAQ's

1. How do we qualify for the Go Paddling Award?

Applicants will be eligible for the award if they meet the criteria below. All those who meet the criteria will be contacted to write a submission case study. From these submissions a winner will be chosen by the Volunteer Award panel. The criteria are:

- a. They are signed up as a Specialist Go Paddling Provider through the Go Paddling website.
- b. They have delivered and certified both Start and Discover Paddle Awards
- c. At least 50% of Start Award participants have collected their award certificates through the Go Paddling website.

2. We deliver the Paddle Awards but didn't get enough certificate downloads to qualify. What can we do about this?

The best way to ensure you get a good rate of digital certificate downloads is to avoid using the bulk printing option and enter individual emails for your participants.

You can encourage people after delivering the Paddle Awards that they will receive the certificate digitally and they can download and share their award.

Finally, always double check all email addresses are entered correctly.

Trails and Challenges

Our trails and challenges are designed for paddlers to use on independent adventures. They can also be used by clubs and centres to organise trips and days out. With over 150 trails on waterways all around the country and eight different challenge routes, there is inspiration for paddlers of all abilities.

Trails and Challenges FAQ's

1. Where can I find Paddling Trails?

Paddling Trails have their own page on the Go Paddling website. Here you can search for trails by location: gopaddling.info/find-paddling-trails/

2. Where can I find the Challenge Routes?

Challenge Routes have their own page on the Go Paddling website. When you click on the individual challenge you will be able to find more information as well as uploading the completion of your challenge: gopaddling.info/gopaddlingchallenges/

3. How can our organisation use the information provided?

Our trails and challenges are designed to be used by individuals and groups of paddlers. You may feel that a trail near to you is suitable for group paddles, or you might decide to organise a trip to head out and do a challenge.

4. We have an idea for a Paddling Trail near us, what should we do?

That's great! Please contact gopaddling@britishcanoeing.org.uk and we will send you a trails template to be completed.

Go Paddling Look Up Maps

The Go Paddling website has a range of maps which help members of the public to find exactly what they are looking for. The maps allow people to look up their nearest affiliated club or centre, boat hire providers, retailers and Paddle Award providers.

These can all be found in the Paddling Services section of the Go Paddling site:

gopaddling.info/category/local-paddling-services/

Contacts

If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact Cadi and Craig on the Go Paddling team at gopaddling@britishcanoeing.org.uk or your local Area Development Officer:

Southern Area - James Hives: james.hives@britishcanoeing.org.uk

Midlands Area - Russell Smith: russell.smith@britishcanoeing.org.uk

Northern Area - Phil Scowcroft: phil.scowcroft@britishcanoeing.org.uk

Contact details for other British Canoeing staff members can be found at britishcanoeing.org.uk/about/our-organisation/our-staff