



North Somerset Paddlesports Club

Standards for Deployment Policy

1. Policy Statement

North Somerset Paddlesports Club (NSPC) commits to ensuring all individuals involved in governance, coaching, volunteering, and event leadership meet the required standards of deployment. These standards, in line with Paddle UK's Standards for Deployment, foster a safer club culture by confirming that everyone involved has appropriate training, qualifications, and competencies for their roles, upholding safeguarding, safety, and welfare principles.

Full PaddleUK document: <https://paddleuk.org.uk/standards-for-deployment/>

Standards for Deployment *(Based on Paddle UK requirements)*

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to create a safe, supportive, and professional environment within North Somerset Paddlesports Club by ensuring that all individuals involved in delivering, supervising, or supporting paddlesport activities are appropriately trained, qualified, checked, insured, and competent.

This policy underpins our commitment to safeguarding participants, reducing risks, and upholding the highest standards of paddlesport practice in line with Paddle UK Standards for Deployment (Clubs, April 2024).

Scope – Who this Policy Applies To

This policy applies to all individuals involved in the planning, delivery, or supervision of club-related activities, including:

- Club and discipline committee members
- Volunteers and helpers
- Instructors, coaches, and leaders
- Event and trip organisers and supervisors
- Commercial providers working in partnership with the Club *(separate Paddle UK guidance applies to commercial organisations)*

Deployment Requirements

All individuals delivering or supervising activities on behalf of the Club must meet the following requirements where relevant to their role:

1. Membership or Insurance
 - o Individuals delivering coaching or leadership must hold appropriate insurance, which may be provided through Paddle UK membership.
2. Qualifications
 - o Coaches, leaders, and instructors must hold valid qualifications certificated by a regulated Awarding Body (e.g., British Canoeing Awarding Body).
3. Training
 - o Training must be relevant to the role, environment, and level of responsibility.
4. First Aid
 - o All deployed leaders/coaches must hold an up-to-date First Aid certificate appropriate to the environment and activity.
5. Safeguarding & Criminal Record Checks
 - o Safeguarding training and checks (e.g., DBS in England & Wales) are required in line with the Paddle UK Disclosure Policy and national guidance.



North Somerset Paddlesports Club

6. Minimum Age
 - o Minimum age limits apply for certain roles, in line with Paddle UK requirements.
7. Continuous Professional Development (CPD)
 - o Instructors, coaches, and leaders must record and maintain CPD to remain recognised as current and competent

Club Policies and Procedures

To support safe and appropriate deployment, the Club ensures the following policies and procedures are in place:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Risk Assessments for all sessions and events
- Code of Conduct
- Safeguarding Policy
- First Aid provision at all relevant sessions
- Equality and Equity Policy

Competence

- Anyone delivering formal instruction, coaching, or leadership must:
 - o Hold a recognised, valid qualification appropriate to the activity and environment.
 - o Work within the remit of their award (e.g., sheltered water leader not leading advanced river trips).
 - o Maintain ongoing competence through CPD, personal practice, and regular revalidation.
 - Volunteers and helpers may support sessions under the direct supervision of a qualified coach or leader, but must not take responsibility beyond their training and competence.

Compliance and Monitoring

The Club Committee and Lead Coach are responsible for ensuring:

- Records of qualifications, safeguarding checks, and first aid certificates are maintained.
- Deployment decisions reflect Paddle UK guidance.
- Ongoing support and training opportunities are provided for volunteers and leaders.

Reference

For further detail, please see:

[Paddle UK – Clubs Standards for Deployment Policy](#)

[Paddle UK – Clubs Standards for Deployment Policy Summary](#)

[PaddleUK - Environmental Definitions](#)