



NCC COASTEERING TECHNICAL EXPERT CRITERIA

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1) Introduction

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 ([Section 7](#)) and **The Adventure Activity Licencing Regulations 2004** ([Section 6](#)) both state that a competent person/s is required to advise on safety matters.

It is therefore essential that the safe management of coasteering activities be in competent hands; whether this is an internal member of staff, an external person or a combination of the both).

The NCC 'Safety Advice for Coasteering Guides' refers to an internal member of staff who supports the day to day operations of a coasteering organisation as the 'Deployer'. They have the overall responsibility for the coasteering operations and will have a broad range of experience and understanding of the following:

- Venues and Activities being provided
- Operating Conditions
- Induction and Training of Guides
- Guides Competence, Experience and team Dynamics
- Safety Management Systems for the Organisation

The skills, knowledge and experience required by the Deployer is varied and dependent on a range of factors. Therefore, it is not possible to list or detail a specific criteria for this role. Organisations providing coasteering need to satisfy themselves that they are appointing a suitably competent person for this role (in line with the referenced regulations).

Where additional support for specific technical matters is needed, due to a number of factors, then the 'Deployer' may seek support from a 'Technical Expert'. This person may be internal to the organisation or external. In some cases, the Deployer and the Technical Expert could be the same person(s).

The role(s) of the Technical Expert can include:

- Answering specific technical questions
- Supporting and advising on policy, procedures and safety management arrangements for coasteering
- Delivering training
- Assessing guides competence

To help determine what competencies a Technical Expert should have, the NCC has created a set of criteria to help those acting in this capacity validate their experience and competence.



2) Definition of Coasteering

The National Coasteering Charter (NCC) defines the activity of coasteering as:

An activity that includes swimming, jumping, scrambling, and/or traversing along and in the foreshore region of a coastline under the guidance of a coasteering guide. When participating in the activity of coasteering, participants should wear an appropriate wetsuit, personal floatation device, helmet, and closed-toe footwear that is secure to the foot.

Anyone providing advice and expertise using the NCC's name and/or logo does so in line with the current 'Safety Advice for Coasteering Providers' found on the [NCC Website](#).

3) Criteria

As a minimum, those who are providing Technical Expertise, or validating the competence of coasteering guides **MUST** be able to evidence ALL ASPECTS of the following criteria:

- 600 Hours Experience of Coasteering (which would include training and mentoring of coasteering staff)
- 3 years of experience in Deploying coasteering guides and/or adventurous marine water activities. Deployment means deciding which members of staff go where given the conditions of the day.
- Have evidence of providing assessments of competence
- Hold the NCC Guide Award or be a current NCC Guide Award Provider
- Hold Current NCC Individual Membership
- Min 3 years active NCC member with evidence of attending at least 4 regional meetings
- Attend at least one NCC Bi-Annual Symposium within the last 3 years



NOTES:

- **The NCC does not formally approve any individual as a Technical Expert**
- **It is the Individual who is providing the advice or expertise to ensure that they are able to evidence they meet the criteria**
- **The role of a Technical Expert may also require additional skills and competencies that are not listed depending on the advice being given**
- **It is the responsibility of the person/s and/or organisations employing the Technical Expert to ensure that they are able to provide the services required for that activity/function.**
- **It is also up to the Provider to check that the Technical Expert has suitable insurance in place to cover both themselves and the advice that they give the Provider.**

4) Appendix - Further Guidance on Evidencing Criteria

Criteria Points:

- 600 Hours Experience of Coasteering (which would include training and mentoring of coasteering staff)
- 3 years of experience in Deploying coasteering guides and/or adventurous marine water activities. Deployment means deciding which members of staff go where given the conditions of the day.

Keeping up-to-date log books, a summary of dates, organisations you have worked with, and in what roles are essential pieces of information that will help any third party verify your experience.

Criteria Point::

- Have evidence of providing assessments of competence

It is a key part of the role of a Technical Expert to assess competence. Evidence of experience can include being an NCC Guide Award Provider and delivering Assessments, be a provider of awards via another NGB or organisation or as a Technical Expert in another activity where assessments of competence are being carried out.



Criteria Points:

- Hold the NCC Guide Award or be an NCC Guide Award Provider
- Hold Current NCC Individual Membership

Please keep a copy of your certificate (guide award/provider status) and evidence of your individual membership.

Criteria Points:

- Min 3 years active NCC member with evidence of attending at least 4 regional meetings
- Attend at least one NCC Bi-Annual Symposium within the last 3 years

The NCC would expect technical experts to remain current in their own skills, knowledge, experience and competence. One way to evidence this is to continue to keep updated and engaged with the NCC both nationally and regionally. This may have some gaps (e.g. if you change jobs, sickness or maternity/paternity leave etc.) In cases where experience and involvement spans several years with gaps and breaks it could be helpful to explain how you have remained current during these periods in your log of experience. .