

RYA Assistant Instructor Training

The Role

The role of the Assistant Instructor is to assist qualified instructors to teach beginners courses.

A Windsurfing Assistant Instructor may teach up to and including the standard of Start Windsurfing within the National Windsurfing Scheme and Stage 1 in the Youth Windsurfing Scheme.

A Dinghy Assistant Instructor may teach up to and including Level 2 - Basic Skills in the National Sailing Scheme and Stage 3 of the Youth Sailing Scheme.

The training is relevant to any individual interested in encouraging children and adults to learn to windsurf or sail. Assistant Instructors should work under the supervision of an RYA Windsurfing Senior Instructor, helping qualified RYA Instructors in the early stages of a groups learning. The Assistant Instructor will work under direct supervision at all times.

Within the Dinghy Scheme, AI's may act as helmsmen in the early stages, encouraging the students to take over as soon as possible. When teaching single handers their role may often be that of a helper, rigger, catcher etc. Within the Windsurfing Scheme the role may involve helping a particular student having problems with a specific skill or helping the instructor rig the equipment and aid in carrying and launching the student's equipment. The training given should reflect this.

Training

- The training and assessment are conducted by the Principal or Chief Instructor who holds a valid RYA Senior Instructor Certificate
- It will cover the teaching points related to beginners as detailed in the course content and assessment criteria below
- The training should last between 20 – 25 hours and may be given as a specific Assistant Instructor Course or may be provided on a one-to-one basis over a longer period as on the job training.

The majority of the time should be spent on the water covering how to put across the various teaching points for each session as laid out in the G14 Dinghy Coaching Handbook or W33 Windsurfing Instructor Manual.

Eligibility

Windsurfing Assistant Instructor: Candidates must hold a personal windsurfing certificate of Intermediate Non-Planing or above.

Dinghy Assistant Instructor: Candidates must hold one of the National Sailing Scheme advanced modules.

Assessment Criteria

Following the training students will be assessed on their practical ability with beginners. Successful candidates should be issued with a certificate, their logbook signed and training given recorded.

The AI award is valid only at that centre, and for five years. As part of the centre's staff training programme, all assistants should be encouraged to gain RYA Instructor qualifications. If this is not possible, the Principal may re-issue an AI certificate.

Important Note

As the training and assessment is limited to the role of assisting qualified instructors and does not include first aid or powerboat handling, Assistant Instructors must never be allowed to work without direct supervision.

It is normal practice for every Principal to ensure that all his/her staff are conversant with the teaching techniques and local operating procedures of that centre. Thus if an Assistant Instructor moves from one training centre to another, it is likely that their new Principal will issue a new Assistant Instructor Award after retraining.