

Western Cape Region | Water Activities Committee

Scout Badge Course Instructor Requirements

This document outlines the profiles and requirements for adult members that intend on volunteering as instructors or Course Leaders for Regional Water Activity-based Scout Badge Courses.

Age & Membership Status

- Must be 18 years or older to serve as an instructor.
- Must not be a current youth member (i.e., no Scouts) — instructors are considered adult leaders or external qualified facilitators.

Purpose: Ensures maturity, accountability, and clear boundaries between instructors and participants.

- Must be a registered adult member of SCOUTS South Africa in good standing, with a Limited Warrant or warrant.
- May be an approved external instructor under the supervision of a registered adult member. An [Appointment as an Affiliate Member for a short duration and/or event](#) shall be completed and approved by RC Water Activities.

Water Awareness

- All instructors must hold a valid **Water Awareness certificate**.
- Status can be viewed at <https://www.wateractivities.co.za/western-cape/water-awareness/>
- Certification must be current and verifiable prior to being appointed as an instructor.

Purpose: The Water Awareness ensures that adults are trained and authorised to plan, supervise, conduct and lead water-based activities, primarily swimming, in accordance with SCOUTS South Africa standards and safety procedures.

Water Activity Licence (WAL)

- Course Leaders should hold a valid **Water Activity Licence (WAL)**.
- Status can be viewed at <https://www.wateractivities.co.za/western-cape/water-activity-license/>
- Certification must be current and verifiable prior to being appointed as a Course Leader.

Purpose: The WAL ensures that adults are trained and authorised to plan, supervise, conduct and lead water-based activities, primarily boating and canoeing in various water bodies, in accordance with SCOUTS South Africa standards and safety procedures.



- In cases where a Course Leader does not yet hold a WAL, approval may be granted on a case-by-case basis by the Western Cape Water Activities Committee, provided that:
 - The instructor has equivalent recognised qualifications or experience, and
 - A registered WAL-holder is available for oversight or co-supervision.

Watermanship & Development Pathway

- It is preferable for new instructors to begin with the Watermanship course.
- This introduction allows potential instructors to:
 - Gain foundational water-based knowledge and safety awareness
 - Experience a range of water activity streams, i.e. canoeing, sailing, pulling, etc.
 - Identify which discipline or “stream” of training they are most suited to and passionate about, i.e. sailing or pulling etc

Sailing – Proven Experience

- Instructors leading sailing activities must demonstrate proven experience both in sailing and, where possible, in teaching or coaching sailing skills.
- Acceptable evidence may include:
 - Previous instruction or assistant-instructor roles
 - Logbooks, certifications, or references verifying sailing experience
 - Familiarity with rigging, launching, docking, and local water conditions
- Where no formal sailing qualification exists, practical experience and safe conduct may be assessed and approved by the Training Team.

Additional Requirements for a Course Leader (CL)

- Must comply with **SCOUTS South Africa** [Safe Scouting Policy](#) and [Child Protection Policy](#).
- The CL must ensure:
 - Correct adult-to-youth ratios.
 - Ensure seaworthiness and safety of boats being used on training courses.
 - Weather and water conditions are continuously monitored and suitable for the courses’ level.
- ***The Water Activities Committee reserves the right to review, approve, or revoke an instructor’s or Course Leader’s status depending on competence, compliance, and safety considerations.***

