

More flexibility for Senior Instructors

A significant change has taken place this year in the conditions of recognition for small boat RYA training centres. The change concerns those who are qualified to hold the position of chief instructor and those who can supervise on-water activity.

Until recently, if you wanted to be chief instructor of a training centre, or supervise on-water activity, you needed to be a Senior Instructor (SI) in the relevant discipline. This meant that if your centre taught dinghy sailing, keelboat sailing and windsurfing, you potentially had to undertake three SI courses.

This has now changed, but the core competencies of the roles have not altered. We have recognised that

there are competencies common to all SIs working as on-water managers. The discipline-specific SI training courses followed the same basic structure and, indeed, the pre-course workbook was the same too.

The main difference was the activity that the course work was based on. We identified the core competencies and linked them to suitable specialist knowledge for each discipline, concluding that each SI could supervise more than one activity, depending on which type of basic instructor awards they hold.

From March this year, dinghy SIs have not been restricted to supervising just dinghy groups afloat. If they are suitably qualified in another discipline, holding either

a Start Windsurfing or Keelboat Instructor award as well, they may now supervise either of those activities without the need to attend further training. The same would apply to windsurfing or keelboat SIs who have either Dinghy or Start Windsurfing Instructor qualifications.

We hope this positive step will help centres in several ways by recognising competence, increasing participation and enabling cover to be provided for SIs who are on holiday or away from the main centre.

Don't forget that the guidance notes for recognition are key to the success of the schemes and reviewed every year. If you have any suggestions or comments on how to make improvements, do let us know.