



CANOE ENGLAND YORKSHIRE REGION DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 – 2013



**“Helping and inspiring people
to go canoeing in Yorkshire”**

INTRODUCTION

The British Canoe Union (BCU) plan for 2009 to 2013 is based on a long term vision, aiming to look beyond 2013 and to develop canoeing for the future by laying the foundations and developing key initiatives to deliver success.

The next four years also provides a unique opportunity for sport to maximize the opportunities created through staging the London 2012 Olympic Games. The BCU plan for 2009 to 2013 aims to deliver success both competitively and through our community programmes to ensure a legacy beyond 2012 for future generations of paddlers and their supporters.

The BCU comprises of two distinct operating divisions:

- **GB Canoeing** which is responsible for our GB Teams (Olympic and Non Olympic), liaison with the International Canoe Federations and the Development of the UK Coaching Framework and Coaching Awards.
- **Canoe England** - the membership body for paddlers, clubs, centres and associates in England. Yorkshire Regions falls under the banner of Canoe England.

BCU VISION

The BCU vision is to “enable our members and the wider paddling community the best opportunity to achieve their potential in all aspects of paddlesport”.

BCU MISSION

This is quite simply “helping and inspiring people to go canoeing”.

BCU STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Helping and inspiring people to take part in canoeing via a world class framework

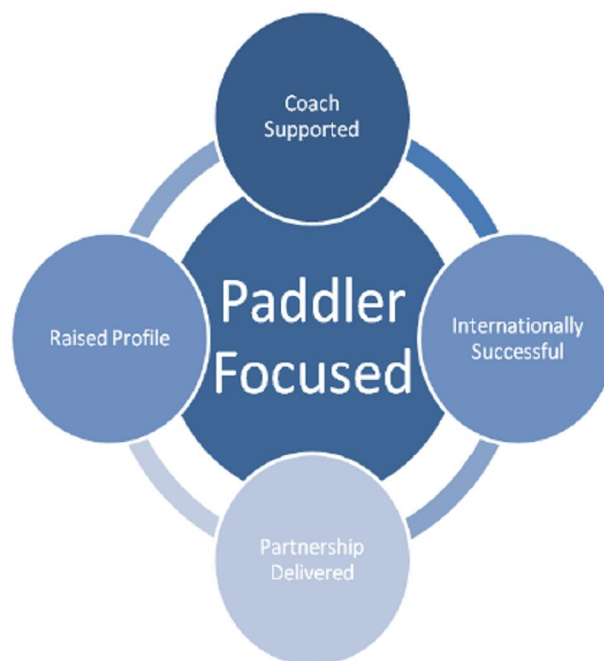
PADDLER FOCUSED – helping and inspiring ALL paddlers to enjoy our sport – this is central to everything we do. Providing opportunities for individuals to engage, develop and realise their potential within all aspects of the sport.

COACH SUPPORTED - a world class cohesive, ethical, inclusive and valued quality coaching system, where skilled coaches support paddlers at all their stages of development at point of need. *Coaches better able to deliver a broad base of paddlesport, supporting the paddler pathway from beginners to elite.*

PARTNERSHIP DELIVERED – developing partnerships internally and externally at all levels to provide opportunities, structures and support for paddling and the wider communities.

INTERNATIONALLY SUCCESSFUL – a World Leader for our structure, athlete support systems and the quality of delivery in our Programmes. Talented, highly motivated, committed athletes, Olympic, World and European medal winners.

RAISING THE PROFILE – working to inform and publicise the full range of Paddlesport activity, leading to greater recognition and media profile, attracting sponsorship, funding, access and new participants.



GB CANOEING

BCU World Class Programme

The BCU World Class Programme is dedicated to supporting the most talented athletes in the Olympic disciplines of Canoe Slalom and Sprint Racing to win medals at the highest level. Having consistently won Olympic medals since 2000, the sport gained its first Olympic Champion in 2008. Our overall aim is to win more gold medals in 2012. The GB Canoeing Olympic Programme is based at two High Performance Centres in Nottingham and Bisham Abbey, near Marlow. The BCU World Class Programme operates a no compromise philosophy and delivers excellence through continuous improvement.

International Events

Major sports events around the world provide an outstanding platform for sports development, economic development and social regeneration. The aim of the BCU International Events Strategy is to make significant change to the number and quality of World and European canoeing events held within Great Britain over the next 10 years. This strategy seeks to achieve this aim by promoting the very clear benefits which results from staging major events within Great Britain. The staging of major canoeing events provides inspiration and ambition and encourages participation and competition at all levels.

BCU Coaching

The British Canoe Union is committed to the delivery of an accessible and effective Coaching/ Participant Framework within Paddlesport. As part of our strategic objectives we recognise that coaching is fundamental to increasing participation, sustaining paddlers and developing our talented paddlers to excel including success at 2012 and beyond.

The relationship and roles of UK Coaching and the Home Nation Coaching Departments will be further developed over the next 4 years with a strategic focus on implementing all tenets of the UK Coaching Framework as per the UK Coaching Framework Maturity Matrices (Coaching Scorecard).

The BCU Coaching Mission is to create “a cohesive, ethical, inclusive and valued coaching system where skilled coaches support paddlers at all stages of their development, at the point of need”.

BCU Coaching aims to support the overall vision of the BCU through the following key objectives:

- Enhanced quality coaching based on paddlers specific needs, at all stages of development and across all disciplines (Paddler Focused)
- Provision of a skilled workforce of Coaches, to support paddlers at all stages of their development at the point of need (Coach Steered)
- Working with partners to support the delivery of paddlesport activity (Partnership Delivered)
- Wider recognition of the profession of Coaching and of Coaches working with paddlers at all stages (Raised Profile)
- A world leading Coach Education System, and World-Class quality coaches at all levels (Internationally Successful)

Leading to:

- Increased and sustained participation in sport (Grow, Sustain)
- Improved performances in sport (Excel)

Underpinned by:

- Clear career structures for coaches within a professionally regulated vocation

CANOE ENGLAND

Canoe England (CE) represents the membership body for paddlers, clubs, centres and associations in England. Over the last 10 years a strong community based programme has been developed that has evolved to a structure that focuses on delivery at a local level by supporting the volunteer base. Over the next 4 years CE will continue to innovate and build on our programmes and initiatives - seeking to maximize new opportunities, developing our partnerships and working with Sport England to grow and sustain more paddlers and to support talented paddlers to excel.

To achieve the BCU strategic objectives Canoe England is focusing on six key areas of delivery with 12 interventions matched to Sport England outcomes. These interventions provide the basis for the regional development plan for Yorkshire.

Participation – more paddlers, more opportunities, more pathways.

1. To develop a world leading club and centre system that supports and encourages clubs and centres to grow and develop whilst providing inclusive opportunities to paddlers at all levels and for all disciplines. (Grow,sustain,excel)
2. Adult and inclusive participation – to increase participation across the community and in all age groups with specific initiatives to increase the numbers of women, girls and disabled people. (Grow, sustain)
3. Young Peoples Programme - developing and increasing school club links, young leaders and volunteers. (Grow, sustain)

Places to Paddle – more places and more opportunities to paddle

4. Improved information and increased access to water. (Grow,sustain)
5. Improved facilities. (Grow,sustain,excel)

Paddler Pathways and Competition – more opportunities and improved quality of experience across the paddler pathways leading to international success

6. The development of clear and inclusive pathways to support paddlers at the foundation stages of their development across prioritized disciplines. (Sustain,excel)
7. To increase the number of English paddlers reaching the Performance programmes and GB Teams. (Sustain, excel)
8. To identify and develop new paddlers with potential to increase the depth and raise the performance levels of our talent pool. (Excel)
9. To develop our Paddleability Competition structure supported by a development programme for disabled paddlers. (Sustain, excel)

Coaching – more active, quality coaches across the paddler pathway

10. Our English Coaching plan links to the GB Coaching plan and mission reflecting the delivery needs of English coaches and paddlers. (Grow,sustain,excel)

Volunteers

11. More volunteers, better supported, valued and recognised (Grow,sustain,excel)

Support Services

12. More members, increased income and better support. (Grow, sustain, excel).

YORKSHIRE REGION

Yorkshire is a thriving region with 33 affiliated clubs and 2,000 Canoe England members. We are the fifth largest region geographically covering nearly 6,000 square miles. The region has thriving slalom and canoe polo sections, and an active and successful coaching team. We have a diverse range of facilities, including flat-water sites, moving water, tidal estuaries and coast-line, as well as Grade 3 water guaranteed all year round via the Washburn dam release. Yorkshire clubs were amongst the first in the country to be awarded 'Top Club' status.

Over the next 4 years Yorkshire region will continue to support local clubs to grow and sustain more paddlers and to support talented paddlers to excel.

Below is a summary of how Yorkshire region will support the BCU and Canoe England strategic objectives, aligned against the six key areas of delivery with 12 interventions matched to Sport England outcomes. More detail and a progressive update can be found in the attached Regional Action Plan.

Participation – more paddlers, more opportunities, more pathways.

Intervention 1 – Clubs and Centres

- Ensure clubs are aware of the benefits of Top Club and how to become accredited
- Provide an 'outreach' service to support any clubs moving towards Top Club status
- Ensure all existing Top Clubs maintain validation

Intervention 2 - Increase participation across the community

- Organise a series of Go Paddling days
- Increase participation and membership for women/girls by 10%

Intervention 3 - Young People

- Promote the Paddlepower scheme & BCU Youth Leadership Awards
- Better sharing of resources specifically for Young People
- Provide opportunities for volunteers to attend appropriate Child Protection training
- Encourage clubs to become involved with local schools
- Work with other youth organisations and sign-post youngsters into local clubs

Places to Paddle – more places and more opportunities to paddle

Intervention 4 - Improved information and increased access to water

- Appoint a Regional Access Adviser
- Details of rivers/sites posted on regional website
- A series of canoe trails developed, with handouts and maps produced

Intervention 5 - Improved facilities

- Explore alternative (outdoor) sites for canoe polo
- Improve facilities at Washburn to support variety of uses
- Develop site at Manvers to high specification to support club through to regional level
- Liaise with partners to improve access to water

Paddler Pathways and Competition – more opportunities and improved quality of experience across the paddler pathways leading to international success

Intervention 6 - Clear and inclusive pathways at the foundation stage

- Deliver at least one Canoe 2012 event per discipline per year between 2010-12
- Support marathon racing within the region

Intervention 7 - Performance programmes and GB Teams

- Provide pathways for paddlers to appropriate coaching/support

Intervention 8 - Depth and performance levels of talent pool

- Identify any clubs in the region that wish to become involved in Talent Programme

Intervention 9 - Develop Paddleability competition

- Identify any clubs in the region that have disabled paddlers
- Ensure that existing events and competitions are inclusive

Coaching – more active, quality coaches across the paddler pathway

Intervention 10 – More active, quality coaches

- Increase the number of active (updated) coaches by 15% between 2009-13
- Increase the proportion of women coaches to 23% of total
- Provide opportunities for training and assessment at Level 2 and 3
- Current coaches to be licensed by the end of 2012

Volunteers

Intervention 11 - More volunteers, better supported, valued and recognised

- Encourage appointment of Volunteers Coordinators in clubs
- Sign-post training opportunities for non-coaching volunteer staff
- Promote nominations for the annual Volunteer Awards

Support Services

Intervention 12 - More members, increased income and better support

- Encourage membership/promote benefits of Canoe England
- Increase visibility and professionalism of regional development team
- Aim to have a dedicated PDO for the region
- Creation of a Regional Support Manager role to drive the region forward
- Maintenance of an informative regional website
- E-newsletter at least once per quarter