



# Award Leaders' explanation and interpretation of the checklist for all assessed Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expeditions

| Award Expedition Conditions                                                                                                                                                 | Further explanation and interpretation of conditions from the Award Handbook.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| <b>1:</b> All expeditions must be by the participants' own physical effort, without motorised or outside assistance.*                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>2:</b> All expeditions must be unaccompanied.                                                                                                                            | <p>a) The team must be unaccompanied, unguided and supervision must be carried out remotely.</p> <p>b) As part of effective remote supervision, teams may be more closely supervised for parts of the expedition where specific dangerous areas are unavoidable. This supervision should be kept to an absolute minimum.</p> <p>c) If a team does not possess the necessary medical and expedition skills required for an area, then they should not be in that area.</p> <p>d) All teams must plan to be self-sufficient during the qualifying expedition.</p> |
| <b>3:</b> All expeditions must be supervised by an adult who is able to accept responsibility for the safety of the team.                                                   | <p>All supervisors must have a walking qualification, as the terrain traversed becomes more demanding, the award held should reflect that, e.g. Summer ML for supervisors operating in remoter areas of the Highlands. Supervisors should also be familiar with the D of E Expedition Supervisors Training Pack content.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>4:</b> The expedition must have an aim.                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>5:</b> All participants must be properly equipped.                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>6:</b> Participants must have completed the required training and practice expeditions.                                                                                  | The qualifying expedition must not be over the same route or in the immediate vicinity of routes used in practice expeditions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>7:</b> At least one practice expedition must be undertaken at each level of the Award, in the same mode of travel in a similar environment to the qualifying expedition. | For overseas assessed expeditions, at least one UK practice must have taken place in an appropriate environment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>8:</b> The team must plan and organise the expedition.                                                                                                                   | Multiple teams should not travel in convoy but have individual routes from camp site to camp site. Where this is unavoidable at least 30 minutes must separate each team using the same route and they must operate as discrete teams.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>9:</b> Assessment must be by an approved accredited assessor.                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>10:</b> There must be between four and seven in a team (eight for modes of travel which have tandem).*                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>11:</b> All participants must be within the qualifying age of the Award Level.                                                                                           | This is regardless of whether they are under assessment or not.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>12:</b> Participants must be at the same level of assessment.*                                                                                                           | Participants must have a similar ability or level of experience and make a full contribution to the team.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>13:</b> The team must not include those who have completed the same or higher level expedition.*                                                                         | Participants must have a similar ability or level of experience and make a full contribution to the team.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>14:</b> Accommodation should be by camping.                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Award Expedition Conditions                                                                           | Further explanation and interpretation of conditions from the Award Handbook.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
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| <b>15:</b> The expedition must be of the correct duration.                                            | a) The expedition must be of the minimum number of days and nights and must include appropriate acclimatisation / final preparation time.<br>b) An acclimatisation day during an expedition due to extreme altitude may be included as long as the minimum hours of activity and journeying are still completed.<br>c) An additional acclimatisation / rest day may be included during an expedition but this will not count toward the expedition days. |
| <b>16:</b> The expedition should normally take place between the end of March and the end of October. | The expedition must take place at an appropriate time of year for the expedition location & aim and the enjoyment of the participants.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>17:</b> The expedition should take place in the recommended environment.                           | The expedition should take place in an appropriate and challenging environment. Overseas expeditions should take place in an area appropriate to the level of the expedition. (Appropriate environments for Award levels are set out in the Award Handbook).                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>18:</b> The expedition must meet the minimum hours of planned activity.                            | a) 6 hours at Bronze, 7 hours at Silver and 8 hours at Gold. At least half of these daily hours must be spent travelling.<br>b) Time associated with overnight accommodation and catering is additional to the minimum daytime hours of planned activity.                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>19:</b> A substantial meal should be cooked and eaten by the participants each day.                | This is optional on the final day.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>20:</b> A presentation must be presented after the expedition.                                     | The presentation or report, which may be in any format the participants choose, must be related to the expedition aim and level.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

- All conditions must be read conjunction with the expedition section of the *Award Handbook*.
- All expeditions must fulfil the conditions of the Award Programme. Further information on the Expeditions Section conditions can be found in the *Award Handbook*.
- Where approval has been sought for an assessed expedition, all team members must meet the conditions of the Expeditions Section.
- In exceptional circumstances like extreme weather conditions, rock slides or political instability deviation to all of these requirements may be agreed in advance with the participant's Operating Authority in consultation with the Award. However, should variations be made during the expedition it is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure that the conditions of the Award are still being met. The assessor will then decide if the expedition has deviated too far from the agreed conditions of the Section.
- Where participants have individual needs that mean one or more of the above conditions can not be met, then they may apply for a variation to these conditions to enable them to participate in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. At Bronze and Silver this must be done in writing through the Operating Authority and at Gold through the appropriate Regional Office. Written approval of these variations should be attached to the appropriate expedition notification form when sent for approval. Variation application forms can be found on the Award website and should be sent to the appropriate Operating Authority or Award Regional Office. Approved variations should then be attached to the appropriate notification form when submitted. Other Adventurous Projects applications should be filled in and attached to the appropriate notification form when submitted. More detailed information can be found on the Award's website.

**THIS VARIATIONS SYSTEM DOES NOT COME INTO EFFECT UNTIL 1 OCTOBER 2008.  
EXPEDITIONS PLANNED BEFORE THIS DATE SHOULD FOLLOW THE EXISTING PROCEDURES.**