

British Caving Association

How to book onto a course

Register with scheme

All candidates wishing to book onto a training or assessment course must be registered with the LCMLA & CIC award scheme through the Qualification Management System (QMS). Candidates need only register once, for which there is a one-off fee for both the Local Cave and Mine Leader Award and Cave Instructor Certificate schemes. To register;

- Click here: <https://britishcaving.justgo.com/> and sign up
- Click on "Membership" and purchase **LCMLA/ CIC Scheme Membership**
- BCA Membership is optional (annual fee)
- Videos supporting the use of the QMS are available here: <https://tinyurl.com/QMSSupport>

Register for a course

Courses are delivered by approved BCA Trainer/Assessors in line with the award-scheme syllabus. All courses must be registered on the QMS. Courses may be **open**, advertised publicly on the QMS with booking via the Events & Courses area, or **closed**, arranged privately with candidates registering directly with the Trainer/Assessor.

Candidates may only book if they meet the stated prerequisites.

Book onto an open course through the Qualification Management System

- Log onto the QMS: <https://britishcaving.justgo.com/>
- Find a course
 - Click on Events & Courses
 - Select course type then region
 - Find and select a course
 - Click "Add to cart" (note in most cases candidates are unable to book onto a course if they do not meet the pre-requisites)
 - **Follow the payment method, even though the payment will be zero, and complete the order**

Book onto a closed course direct with a Trainer/ Assessor

If booking directly with a Trainer/ Assessor, or for courses not advertised on the system, candidates will need to provide the following details (in the same format registered with the QMS) to the Trainer/ Assessor so that they can manually add candidates to the course:

- First Name
- Last Name
- Membership Number (note this starts with ME)
- Date of Birth

In both cases, once booked onto a course the Trainer/ Assessor will contact candidates with joining instructions, booking conditions and invoicing details.

Please be aware that Trainer/ Assessors may remove candidates from a course if the Trainer/ Assessors bookings terms and conditions are not met.

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Tyrolean for Groups Assessment

The **Tyrolean for Groups Assessment** is practical evaluation of a candidate's personal skills, equipment, and competence in the rigging and management of a Tyrolean Traverse underground, including problem prevention and solving.

Candidates must have attended a Vertical Leader Training and Tyrolean for Groups training course (or in exceptional circumstances have been granted exemption from training) prior to attending this course.

Course Overview

- Assessment ratio: 1 Tyrolean Trainer/ Assessor to 2 candidates (or 1:1 if required).
 - Those electing to combine this assessment with their Vertical Leader Core Skills day must be assessed 1:1
- The Tyrolean Trainer/ Assessor delivering the assessment must not be the same person who delivered the training for this module.
- Assessments are typically conducted in any region and involve at least 4 hours underground.

The assessment is largely practical; however, Trainer/ Assessors may require a theoretical assessment (e.g. written paper) prior to the assessment day. The practical assessment will be;

- Conducted underground at a suitable location selected by the Trainer/ Assessor.
- Candidates must be appropriately equipped for the venue; equipment suitability is part of the assessment.
- Practical assessments will cover the relevant syllabus areas.
- Scenario-based questioning may be used, particularly for emergency situations, but will not be the primary method for assessing leadership skills. Assessors must clearly communicate when scenario-based questioning is in use.

The Trainer/ Assessor has the right to terminate the assessment if the candidate is not up to the required standard in fundamental areas of the syllabus relating to safety or conservation.

Assessment Outcomes

There are three possible outcomes:

- **Pass** - The candidate has demonstrated competence in all areas of the syllabus and will be awarded the credential.
- **Defer** - The candidate has not demonstrated full understanding in at least one area (typically theoretical) and must undergo a reassessment of that area. This may be completed with the same Trainer/ Assessor or as a full reassessment with another.
- **Fail** - The candidate has not demonstrated competence in multiple areas or has not met the required standards for safety or conservation. A full reassessment will be required, either with the same or a different Trainer/ Assessor.

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Post-Assessment Process

Following a pass candidates will be awarded the Tyrolean for Groups credential; however, the qualification will not be valid unless the Vertical Leader award has been completed.

In the event of a deferral or fail, the Trainer/ Assessor will provide an action plan. This action plan will be uploaded to the candidate's profile on the QMS as a "Deferral" or "Fail" credential, visible only to the candidate (and the QMCs administrator).

Partial reassessments (i.e. in the event of a deferral) must take place within 12 months of the original assessment date.

Resource Links

- [Tyrolean for Groups Rigging Notes](#)

Syllabus

The full checklist used by Trainer/ Assessors which forms the syllabus for this award is provided below. Candidates should ensure they are familiar with all aspects of the checklist prior to booking an assessment.

Candidates should approach a Tyrolean Trainer/Assessor independently to book an assessment. A list of Trainer/ Assessors and their contact details can be [found by clicking here](#).

First Aid Requirements

In order for an award to be considered valid, candidates must hold a current and appropriate First Aid qualification.

To meet the required standard, a First Aid course should:

- Have a **minimum duration of two days (typically 16 hours)** instruction
- **Include a formal assessment** component
- Be **relevant to working in outdoor and adventurous** environments

While the BCA/QMC does not endorse specific First Aid courses or providers, candidates are encouraged to consult the [Health and Safety Executive \(HSE\)](#) website for guidance in selecting a course that meets the necessary standards and is appropriate for outdoor and adventurous settings.

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Tyrolean for Groups Assessor Checklist

Candidates
Name:
Assessment
Date:

ME
Number:
Assessment
Venue:

Ethical considerations	
Venue choice and consideration to other users	

Vertical equipment	
Leader's personal equipment – suitability / care	
Choice and suitability of equipment for group members'– harness / cowstails / travelling pulley etc	
Knowledge of PPE regulations and equipment standards	
Ropes – appropriate type / inspection / usage / storage / tolerance of tensioned rope over edges	
Karabiner / maillons – types / usage / limitations etc / care and inspection	
Belay / clutch device – appropriate types / limitations / general slip rates	
Ascenders – types / limitations	
Pulleys - types / usage / limitations	

Forces	
Understanding of mechanical advantage (MA) systems including force distribution around the MA system	
Understanding of the forces involved in a tyrolean – during rigging / in use / dynamic loading / re-tensioning	
Tension limiting methods	
Clutch systems – uses, understanding and limitations	
Pros / cons of two tensioned ropes – understanding of forces with additional tensioned rope	

Knots	
Use of an appropriate range of knots knowledge of suitability / limitations	
Use of slings etc. to construct belays	

Rigging	
Equipment preparation/ packing	
Rigger protection – methods and their advantages/limitations	
Natural anchors – suitability/use	
Artificial anchors – pre-use checks – alignment and forces – redundant belays	
Pitch head – approach / ease of access / position of leader and problem prevention	
Edge avoidance – re-directions (if necessary)	

Group management	
Management on and off traverse – high rigging / adjustable lanyard (if necessary) / safe management on and off traverse / maximise working area	
Ability to assist clients over tyrolean / control descent on a descending tyrolean	
Limit dynamic loading	
Awareness of sag and edges during use	

Emergency techniques	
Limitation of rescues	
Haul systems	
Release techniques under load	