



**Training and examination guidelines VDWS e.V.  
regarding the awarding of qualification certificates**

**Stand up Paddling SUP Basic Licence  
International Basic Licence Stand up Paddling (SUP)**

*1st February 2021*

## **§ 1 SUP Basic Licence**

The Association of German Water Sports Schools (VDWS) issues SUP basic licences through its affiliated and recognised SUP schools. These licences represent a proof of competence for using SUP boards. All VDWS recognized water sports schools must ensure they follow the latest version of the basic licence regulations any time. SUP Safety Check Cards issued until 2020 can be re-registered in a new SUP basic licence with licence number (valid from 2021). Young candidates have the possibility to take the exam for the SUP junior basic licence.

## **§ 2 Scope**

The SUP basic licence for adults is the international qualification certificate, attesting acquired knowledge and competences. With regard to the selection of the area, it must be ensured that it is suitable for stand up paddling in terms of location and characteristics, in particular the environmental and legal framework conditions and restrictions must be observed.

The SUP junior basic licence applies to SUP riders in selected, limited areas under professional supervision. The supervising persons are in particular responsible for assessing the conditions of area and weather, restrictions under navigation law as well as the suitability, condition and equipment of the SUP board in accordance with the rules of nautical practice.

## **§ 3 Duration of Training**

Depending on previous knowledge, the training for the SUP basic licence comprises 4 to 6 lessons in theory and practice.

## **§ 4 Admission**

The examination for the SUP basic licence for adults can be taken as from the age of 12.

The following admission requirements apply for the SUP junior basic licence:

- a) The examination can be Taken as from the age of 7 and until the age of 12.
- b) Consent of the legal representatives.
- c) German swimming badge in bronze or a swimming certificate of the respective country or 15 minutes swimming in deep water.

At the age of 12, the SUP junior basic licence automatically becomes the SUP basic licence for adults. The date of birth on the basic licence is the decisive factor.

## **§ 5 Examination Board**

The VDWS SUP training and examination licence represents the qualification for running SUP courses and conducting SUP basic licence exams at a recognized VDWS member school. The school manager names an examiner for the conduct of exams. The examiner fixes time and location of the exam and communicates them sufficiently in advance. He/she is responsible for the correct implementation.

## **§ 6 Examination**

The SUP basic licence requires a practical and a theory exam. Parts of the practical exam can be conducted during the actual course.

### *Practical Examination*

The practical examination shall be taken on an adequate SUP board. The candidate passes the practical examination when he/she performs the required exercises and manoeuvres safely, clearly and with determination. Getting back to the starting point under normal wind and wave conditions is also part of the examination.

Examination content: Knowing and mastering the aspects of the safety check, setting up equipment and adjusting paddle correctly, getting onto the board from deep water, basic paddle position (paddle stance), paddling with basic stroke on both sides, returning to the starting point by changing direction.

#### *Theory Examination*

For the theory exam the candidate has to fill in a questionnaire. The possible total and minimum score are indicated on the questionnaire. If the result is close to the minimum threshold, the examiner can decide to conduct an oral exam, based on similar questions from the other questionnaires. The exam can be repeated after an appropriate length of time.

Examination content: Equipment, how to behave on nature and environment, behaviour in emergencies and bad weather, safety measures and safety equipment, basic stroke.

#### *SUP Junior Licence*

The examination content of the SUP junior basic licence is identically equal to the adult basic licence. The content of the theory exam is equivalent to the adult level. Only the wording of the questions is adapted to the developmental status of children. When the holder reaches the age of 12, the SUP junior basic licence becomes the adult licence. The date of birth on the basic licence is the decisive factor.

### **§ 7 Examination Result**

The examiner shall establish and sign the record of the result of the examination. The exam is either "passed" or "failed". Both, theory and practice exam can be repeated. The water sports school shall keep the examination documents. The licence shall be registered in the VDWS Checkpoint.

### **§ 8 Awarding of the Basic Licence**

The water sports school in which the examination was successfully taken is responsible for issuing the basic licence. Only the association's standardised VDWS basic licence templates may be used for issuing the licence. The manager of the water sports school shall stamp the SUP basic licence with the school stamp.

### **§ 9 Participation of VDWS in Examination**

VDWS is entitled to participate in the exams by means of members of the Board or the Team of Trainers. No prior registration needed.

### **§ 10 Replacement Licence**

In case of replacement of lost SUP basic licences by VDWS, the comment "replacement licence" shall be added to the new basic licence and confirmed with signature and date.

### **§ 12 Coming into Force**

The VDWS SUP basic licence regulation comes into force on the day of its publication.

*Weilheim, 1st February 2021*