

How to Defer a group

Whether the groups pass or fail is entirely up to you and we will support you in your decision. However, deferring a group usually creates an awful lot of work and stress for us, you and the school, not to mention stress and disappointment for participants and their parents. This can be minimised if your deferral is handled well in the field.

In line with the expedition aim and requirements (see over), at this stage, they can only really be deferred for one of the 3 points listed at the bottom of the page which can be broadly summarised as

- Respect for others and the countryside
- Unaccompanied and self sufficient
- Engage in debrief

If you were to find your group getting out of a taxi then this is a clear breach and immediate deferment, however most deferrals are not so clear cut and will need a detailed report

By the end of the expedition all participants, the course director and any teaching staff present **must** know that they are not going to pass, it **must not** be sprung on them at the end.

During the expedition you need to do the following

- 1) Be clear with the group that they are in danger of not passing, where they are falling short and what they need to do to improve.
- 2) Inform the Course Director / Job organiser early on that a group are in danger of being deferred.
- 3) If there are school staff present then they must also be informed
- 4) Subsequently keep the group updated with their progress.
- 5) Document what the group have 'done wrong' and **every** conversation that you have had with them about it. Include times of conversations. You **must** refer to the expedition requirements.
- 6) You might want to consider bringing a colleague in to witness conversations or to give a bit of advice to the group if you fear your relationship with them is breaking down.
- 7) Consider taking photos of issues if appropriate



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

Planning an expedition – participants must plan how they're going to do their expedition:

Team Goal	Expeditions must have a clearly defined team goal – this could be researching an area of interest, contributing to a community action project, or developing soft skills.
Environment	The environment chosen must become progressively more challenging through the award levels – environments could include rural, urban or restricted spaces.
Accommodation	Accommodation should be by camping or other simple self-catering accommodation e.g., bunkhouses.
Time of year	Expeditions will usually take place between the end of March and the end of October. There should be a reasonable gap between the practice and qualifying expeditions.
Mode of travel	Participants must choose an appropriate mode of travel for the environment they'll be journeying through. Journeying must be by participants' own physical effort, although mobility aids may be used where appropriate to the needs of the participant.
Food	Participants must plan an appropriate expedition menu, including cooking and eating a substantial hot meal each day (optional on the final day).

On expedition – Supervisors/Assessors should ensure:

Participants must behave responsibly with respect for their team members, Leaders, landowners, the public and animals, and must understand and adhere to the Countryside, Scottish Outdoor Access, Highway and Water Sports Codes (as appropriate).

Expeditions must be unaccompanied and self-sufficient. The team must be properly equipped, and supervision must be carried out remotely, considering what is reasonably practicable for participants and ensuring their welfare is paramount.

Participants must actively participate in a debrief with their Assessor at the end of the expedition and, at Silver and Gold level, a presentation must be delivered after the expedition.