



# Licensed Organisation and DofE Regions'/Countries' summary of variations guidelines for all assessed DofE expeditions

DofE qualifying expedition conditions		General variations guidelines which can be approved at Bronze/Silver by Licensed Organisations (or Regional/Country Office if DLC) and at Gold by the Regional/Country Office.	
Planning the expedition	1	The team must plan and organise the expedition; all members of the team should be able to describe the role they have played in planning.	Teams must have the opportunity to plan their own route and submit a route plan. Only in highly exceptional circumstances will this not include a route card.
	2	The expedition must have an aim. The aim can be set by the Leader at Bronze level only.	No variations.
	3	All participants must be within the qualifying age of the programme level and at the same Award level (i.e. not have completed the same or higher level of expedition).	Variations to this condition must be submitted to the appropriate DofE Office and will only be considered in highly exceptional circumstances.
	4	There must be between four and seven participants in a team (eight for modes of travel which have tandem)	Variations to this condition must be submitted to the appropriate DofE Office and will only be considered in highly exceptional circumstances.
	5	The expedition should take place in the recommended environment. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> <b>Bronze:</b> Expeditions should be in normal rural countryside – familiar and local to groups.         </div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> <b>Silver:</b> Expeditions should be in normal rural, open countryside or forest – unfamiliar to groups.         </div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> <b>Gold:</b> Expeditions should be in wild country (remote from habitation) which is unfamiliar to groups.         </div> </div>	
	6	Accommodation must be by camping or other simple self-catering accommodation (e.g. camping barns or bunkhouses).	
	7	The expedition must be of the correct duration and meet the minimum hours of planned activity. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> <b>Bronze:</b> A minimum of 2 days, 1 night; 6 hours planned activity each day.         </div> <div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> <b>Silver:</b> A minimum of 3 days, 2 nights; 7 hours planned activity each day.         </div> <div style="border: 1px solid orange; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> <b>Gold:</b> A minimum of 4 days, 3 nights; 8 hours planned activity each day.         </div> </div>	No variations.
	8	All expeditions must be supervised by an adult (the Expedition Supervisor) who is able to accept responsibility for the safety of the team.	No variations.
	9	Assessment must be by an accredited Assessor. At Bronze level only, the Assessor may also be the Expedition Supervisor.	No variations.
	10	Expeditions will usually take place between the end of March and the end of October. They may take place outside this period, if so, non-camping accommodation options should be considered.	

Training and practice	11	Participants must be adequately trained to safely undertake a remotely supervised expedition in the environment in which they will be operating.  <b>Bronze:</b> Teams must complete the required training. <b>Silver:</b> Teams must complete the required training and a practice expedition of a minimum 2 days, 2 nights. <b>Gold:</b> Teams must complete the required training and a practice expedition of a minimum 2 days, 2 nights	No variations.
	12	All expeditions must be by the participants' own physical effort, without motorised or outside assistance. Mobility aids may be used where appropriate to the needs of the participant.	Porters, pack animals and drop points may be used based on the needs of the individual participant, but not because of the difficulties of the terrain.
During the expedition	13	All expeditions must be unaccompanied and self-sufficient. The team must be properly equipped, and supervision must be carried out remotely.	Variations may be granted in exceptional circumstances based on the needs of the individual participant, but not because of the difficulty of the terrain.
	14	Teams must possess the necessary physical fitness, first aid and expedition skills required to complete their expedition safely.	No variations.
	15	Groups must adhere to a mobile phone use policy as agreed with their Expedition Supervisor and Assessor. This agreement should also include use of other electronic equipment.	
	16	Participants must behave responsibly with respect for their team members, Leaders, the public and animals.	
	17	Groups must understand and adhere to the Countryside /Scottish Outdoor Access, Highway and Water Sports Codes (as appropriate).	
	18	Participants must plan an appropriate expedition menu, including cooking and eating a substantial hot meal on each day. This is optional on the final day.	
Post expedition	19	Participants must actively participate in a debrief with their Assessor at the end of the expedition.	No variations.
	20	At Silver and Gold level, a presentation must be prepared and delivered after the expedition.	No variations.

## Notes

- All conditions must be read in conjunction with the Expedition section of The Handbook for DofE Leaders
- All qualifying expeditions must fulfil the conditions of DofE programmes. Further information on the Expedition section conditions can be found in The Handbook for DofE Leaders.
- Where approval has been sought for an assessed expedition, all team members must meet the conditions of the Expedition section.
- Where participants have individual needs that mean one or more of the above conditions cannot be met, then they may apply for a variation to these conditions to enable them to participate in DofE programmes. Variation application forms can be found on the DofE website and should be sent to the appropriate Licensed Organisation DofE Manager (for Bronze and Silver), DofE Regional/Country Office (for Gold). A copy of applications sent to DofE Offices must also go the participant's Licensed Organisation. Approved variations should then be attached to the appropriate expedition notification form when submitted to the expedition team. More detailed information and timescales can be found in *The Handbook for DofE Leaders* or online at [DofE.org/expedition](http://DofE.org/expedition).
- Should a change need to be made during an expedition due to exceptional circumstances, it is the Supervisor's responsibility to liaise with the DofE Assessor to ensure that the expedition will still meet the conditions of the DofE.