

Prerequisites prior to applying for Provisional Captain's training

- Be physically fit with no significant physical limitations: “Ideally your steersman should be the fittest person in the canoe and the more experienced paddler,” from Steering An Outrigger Canoe.
- Must be a strong swimmer.
- Paddling 101 (or prior experience).
- Stokers Training followed by 6 months experience in seat 1 and other seats (or prior experience).
- At least 100 paddles with demonstrated good paddling ability.
- Able to get into a canoe on a fast launch.
- Able to carry the ama to and from the water on launch and landing.
- Able to enter a canoe after a huli from the water without assistance, as well as manage the situation and direct the crew.
- A number of trips steering from seat 5 with any captain for at least 10 minutes each trip, in mild to moderate conditions, with feedback.
- Develop an ability to “read” the water to assess shore break and timing on launch and land, as well as read wind lines.
- Ability to anticipate club and members needs and willingly assist on the beach (assist with orienting new paddlers, prepping canoes for launch, helping others land, cleaning and securing canoes, assisting with rigging and moving canoes, assisting with maintaining the grounds, and otherwise assisting the Club when needed, etc.)
- Sufficient seat 5 steering experience with a training captain to attain and demonstrate basic steering skills and canoe control.
- 2 training captains recommending you to the Board for progressing to provisional captain.

Other personal qualities of a Steersperson include:

- Leadership ability
- Decisiveness
- Self control
- Crew management skills
- Good communication skills
- Realistic self-assessment skills
- Ability to quickly assess and respond to situations and give clear and accurate instruction to a crew in rapidly developing and potentially dangerous conditions.
- Ability to critique an event such as a huli or significant swamping with the crew, other captains, and the Board.