



### NATIONAL CRITERIA PROCESS

Blue Flag is an international award program which is operated at the national level by National Operators (NO) and evaluated by a National Jury to ensure national regulation is followed. The US NO held working groups on the four criteria categories to determine where criteria could be strengthened or modified to reflect significant but achievable objectives.

Please read the criteria and explanation document to get a full understanding of these highlights.

**Red** text indicates criteria requirements which were modified or strengthened by the criteria working groups for US beaches.

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTS

#### CRITERION 1

- Information board with correct logo, essence of the four categories, and length of season must be at the entrance to site.
- Contact details for local, national, and international representatives must be included.

#### CRITERION 4

- Information about coastal zone ecosystems, wetlands, unique habitats, or sensitive areas must be posted on the information board or near the site.
- If more information is available than space, a short notice of where to find full information must be on the information board.

#### CRITERION 2

- At least 5 environmental education activities must be offered each year.
- Public activities can be active or passive but must be promoted on the information board and by other means.
- Activities must not be for profit. They should be free or charge only for the cost of lunches, water, etc.

#### CRITERION 5

- A map showing the boundaries of the Blue Flag site, location of services, and identifying key facilities must be included on the information board.

#### CRITERION 3

- Water quality results must be displayed **weekly** on the information board.
- The board must also explain how results posted relate to qualification for criteria 7-12.
- Complete and detailed sampling histories must be available by the local authority.

#### CRITERION 6

- The code of conduct must address the activities of beach users.
- It must be included on the information board.
- It must include any rules on domestic animals, fishing, littering, camping, fires, zoning, etc.
- The period lifesaving equipment/lifeguards are available must also be on the information board.

**asbpa**

American Shore & Beach Preservation Association  
Advocating for healthy coastlines

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