

# STUDY GUIDE

- **Anyone born after January 1, 1988** must have proof of Boater Safety Education, like a Florida Safe Boater Card or a Florida Boater Education Temporary Certificate – to operate a vessel of 10hp or more, along with a picture ID. That means if you are you cannot operate a born in 1988 or later, you CANNOT operate a vessel without a boaters certificate.
- An example of NOT operating a PWC (Personal Water Craft) defensively is **BEING CAREFUL WHEN YOU SPRAY OTHER VESSELS.** You should **NEVER** spray other vessels to drive safely.
- The engine cutoff or “kill switch” is important to wear and is **REQUIRED BY LAW FOR ALL PWC OPERATORS** to shut the engine off if the operator falls off. This keeps the jet ski from leaving the rider or running into anything around it.
- When your vessel is being passed (overtaken) by another vessel, you are required to **MAINTAIN YOUR SPEED AND DIRECTION.**
- If two vessels (A&B) should collide and driver B is injured, driver A should **HELP THE INJURED PERSON (B) AND THEN REPORT THE ACCIDENT.**
- Constant awareness is required **ON ALL BOATS AT ALL HOURS** to avoid collisions and accidents. Look all around you to stay safe, not just in front of you.
- If you back off the throttle on a PWC **YOU WILL LOSE STEERING.**
- The main cause of boating fatalities is **FALLING OVERBOARD AND DROWNING.**
- When you see a red buoy returning from the open sea you **KEEP THE RED BUOY ON YOUR RIGHT.** RED, RIGHT, RETURN.
- An example of a safe PWC operation is to **KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM OTHER VESSELS.**
- When operating in shallow water or seagrass and you see a mud trail behind you, **STOP YOUR VESSEL AND WALK OR POLE IT OUT OF THE AREA.** That means to get off and walk the jet ski to deeper water to keep from sucking up sand or seagrass into the engine.
- In Florida it is illegal to operate a vessel at a speed that **ENDANGERS THE LIFE OR PROPERTY OF ANOTHER PERSON.**
- **ANYONE RIDING OR BEING TOWED BY A PWC** must wear a PFD (Personal floatation device / life jacket) at all times while riding.
- **ALL CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS OLD** are required by law to wear a life jacket at all times on any vessel under 26 feet long.
- Courteous PWC operation **DOES NOT** include **CIRCLING FISHING BOATS.** You don’t want to interfere with anyone trying to fish.
- While operating a PWC the engine shuts off to any reason **THE VESSEL WILL LOSE STEERING AND CONTINUE TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION YOU ARE MOVING.**
- If you and a friend are riding PWC’s, he is in front of you and stops quickly, **YOU MUST USE THE THROTTLE TO TURN AND AVOID THE COLLISION.** This is an example of why you should not be too close to other vessels.
- When crossing paths with another vessel, the “give-way” vessel (the one that must give the other the right-of-way) should **SLOW DOWN OR CHANGE DIRECTION.**
- PWC are small and fast so they are **DIFFICULT TO SEE ON THE WATER.**

- Florida law prohibits anyone under **14 YEARS OF AGE** to operate a PWC.
- You DO NOT have to report a boating accident when the damage is **LESS THAN \$1,000.**
- The most critical part of boating is **STAYING ALERT.**
- **Red and Green** markers indicate **THE EDGE OF A CHANNEL.**
- If two powered vessels approach each other in a head-on situation **BOTH SHOULD STAY TO THE RIGHT AND PREPARE TO GIVE WAY.** That means to pass each other port to port, or left side to left side, just like cars on the road.
- Ways to AVOID having a collision include **NOT RIDING TOO CLOSE TO A BOAT TO JUMP WAKES.** You should never get too close to any vessels while riding.
- The safety lanyard's purpose is to **SHUT THE ENGINE OFF IF THE RIDER FALLS OF.**
- "Slow speed / minimum wake" means your vessel should be **COMPLETELY SETTLED IN THE WATER.** This means you are moving slowly and creating no wake.
- Florida law requires a **WHISTLE OR HORN** to be on all vessels.
- When you see a "DIVER DOWN" flag (red square with a white diagonal line) you MUST go to idle speed **IF YOU ARE WITHIN 100 FEET OF THE FLAG IN A CHANNEL** and also **IF YOU ARE WITHIN 300 FEET IN THE OPEN OCEAN.**
- When you see a boat approaching from your right the action you should take is to **SLOW DOWN AND GIVE WAY TO THAT BOAT,** as they have the right of way.
- The Florida Boater Education Temporary Certificate is good for **12 MONTHS** and must be carried with a photo ID.
- When crossing paths the "give-way" vessel is responsible to **SLOW DOWN AND CHANGE COURSE.** That means if the other boat has the right-of-way then you are the "give-way" vessel and must slow down to avoid the other vessel.
- A boater is considered "under the influence" in Florida at **0.08 BLOOD ALCOHOL,** just like an automobile driver.
- Drinking alcohol before operating a vessel will **SLOW YOUR JUDGEMENT AND REACTION TIME.**
- To re-board a PWC if you fall off you should roll it over in the direction **SHOWN ON THE LABEL** on the back of the vessel. There is a label on the back near where you climb on board that shows you to roll it clockwise or counter clockwise to avoid causing damage to the engine.
- A way to CAUSE a collision is **RIDING TOO CLOSE TO A BOAT IN ORDER TO JUMP ITS WAKE.**
- Letting OFF of the throttle on a PWC will cause **LOSS OF STEERING ABILITY.**
- A first indicator of bad weather is **A BUILD UP OF DARK CLOUDS.**
- The primary cause of boating accidents is **CARELESS OPERATION.**
- An operation that is OKAY and not reckless is **OPERATING A PWC IN THE RAIN.**