



HOW DO I GET A PA BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION CERTIFICATE?

- Attend a NASBLA-approved (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) **classroom course**. Classroom courses are highly recommended, especially for new boaters.
- Take the Commission-approved Boat Pennsylvania **Internet** or **video correspondence course** at home. Go to www.fish.state.pa.us.

Successful completion of the Internet course allows the student to print a **temporary** Boating Safety Education Certificate. This temporary certificate is good for 60 days and immediately gives the student the certification required to operate a personal watercraft. The student may then apply for a **permanent** Boating Safety Education Certificate issued by the Commission (\$10 fee).

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Call the Commission's boating course hotline: **1-888-PAFISH-1 (1-888-723-4741)** or check the Commission's web site:

www.fish.state.pa.us



REQUIRED EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST



- One life jacket worn by each person** (*Note: the PFD should have an impact rating of 50 mph or more*). Inflatable life jackets are not acceptable.
- Boating Safety Education Certificate in the possession of the operator.**
- Current boat registration.**
- Sound-producing device—readily accessible.** Attach a whistle to your life jacket.
- Fire extinguisher — properly charged.**



- Safety lanyard (cord) connected to the PWC's cut-off switch and attached to the operator's body, clothing or life jacket.**

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT in Pennsylvania



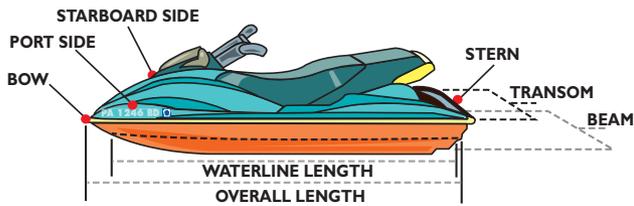
- **OPERATION**
- **EDUCATION**
- **THE LAW**



Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
Bureau of Boating & Education

www.fish.state.pa.us



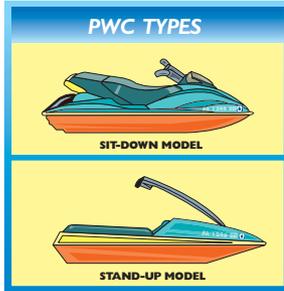


DID YOU KNOW?

● Personal watercraft (PWC) are boats. Most are known by their registered trade names such as Jet Ski®, Sea-Doo®, Wave Runner®, Tiger Shark®, Aquatrax® etc.

● PWC operators must follow the same laws and regulations as other boaters.

● PA's PWC operator education requirements have helped reduce the number of PWC-related accidents and complaints!



PWC ISSUES

● Noise is the largest public complaint about PWC. Vary your riding areas and avoid homes, anglers, picnic areas or other places where people may be seeking quiet or privacy.

● Many accidents involving PWC are caused by operators not keeping a proper lookout or by operating in a reckless manner.

● Most PWC cannot be steered unless the operator applies power.

● PWC are small, making them difficult for other boaters to see.

● PWC can operate in shallow water, allowing them access to more remote areas.



THE LAW—REGULATIONS AFFECTING PWC

● All persons on board a PWC must wear a life jacket (PFD) at all times. Inflatable life jackets are not acceptable on PWC.

● **Anyone operating a PWC must have in his/her possession a Boating Safety Education Certificate.**

● Operators must be at least 12 years old.

● PWC operators 12 through 15 years old may not operate a PWC with any passengers on board 15 years old or younger.

● It is illegal for anyone 15 years old or younger to rent a PWC, or to operate a rented PWC.

● PWC may not be operated between sunset and sunrise.

● A PWC may tow only one person at a time and must have a competent observer on board.

● To tow askier, the PWC must have a capacity for at least three persons.

● PWC may not be operated in a reckless, negligent or dangerous manner. Boats must be operated at a speed that does not endanger the life or property of any person.

● PWC must maintain a slow, no-wake speed when operated within 100 feet of the shoreline, floats, docks, launch ramps, swimmers or downed skiers, anchored, moored or drifting boats, or areas marked with slow, no-wake buoys.

● It is illegal to operate a PWC closer than 100 feet from the rear or 50 feet from the side of another boat that is underway, unless the boats are operating in a narrow channel, in which case the boats may operate at the speed and flow of other boat traffic.

● It is unlawful to cause a PWC to become airborne or completely leave the water while crossing the wake of another boat when closer than 100 feet from the boat creating the wake.

● It is unlawful to weave through congested traffic.

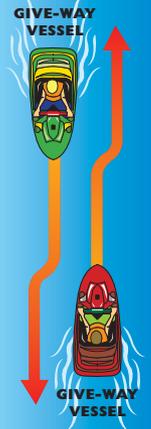
● PWC must be equipped with an efficient muffling system or device in good working order. Exhaust systems may not be modified in any manner that reduces or eliminates the effectiveness of the muffler or muffler system.

● Check the *PA Boating Handbook* for additional information.

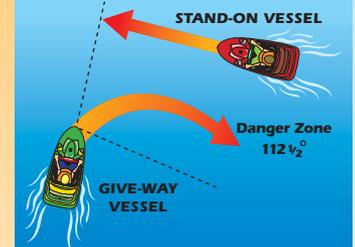


NAVIGATION RULES

MEETING HEAD-ON



CROSSING



OVERTAKING

