

Florida Boater Education Temporary Certificate Study Guide

Please read thoroughly before taking your boater temporary certificate exam

Basic Florida Boater Information

- PWC stands for **P**ersonal **W**ater **C**raft
(Personal Watercraft such as a Jet Ski, Waverunner or SeaDoo)
- Any person born on or after **January 1st, 1988** who operates a PWC must have proof of a boating education course.
- In Florida you must be **14 years old in order to operate at PWC**. It is illegal for anyone under the age of 14 years old to drive/operate, even with an adult on board.
- When on a PWC you must have your must have proof of a boaters education course and Photo ID on board.
- Everyone who is on a PWC, regardless of age, is **REQUIRED** to wear a life jacket. Life Jackets should be kept in excellent condition(no torn straps) and easily accessible.
- A whistle and fire extinguisher are required on all PWCs. In case of fire, aim fire extinguisher at the base of the flames and sweep side to side.

- A buildup of dark clouds is a sign of bad weather approaching.
- If there is a non injury accident and the damage is *less than \$1000*, you *do not* legally have to report the accident. All reportable accidents should be reported to all law enforcement available (local sheriff, police department or FWC)
- The breath alcohol level that a boater would be considered "Under the Influence" would be **0.08**. If injury or death occurs It would be considered a felony operating a boat under the influence of alcohol.
You must be 18 years old to sign a waiver or legal document in Florida.
- The **operator** of a recreational boat **is responsible** for the safety of all passengers on board the vessel. (Not the rental company or insurance company.)
- The *primary cause* of a boating accident is careless operation.
- Informational buoys are tall and white with an orange band. (These mark off No wake zones and swim areas). A white buoy with a blue band is a mooring buoy.
- If your Boat or PWC capsizes and gets swamped STAY WITH THE BOAT Since PWC are small and fast they are not easily seen on the water. Make sure you stay alert and constantly look around for other watercraft on the water.

- PWC do **NOT** have breaks and when the vessel is shut off, you lose your ability to steer the vessel (*it continues to go in the direction you were traveling* after shut off). If you are out on the water and someone suddenly stops in front of you, use the throttle and turn to avoid the collision.
- Each PWC is equipped with an **engine cutoff switch (lanyard)**, The operator must wear the lanyard at all times while driving the PWC so that the engine will shut off if the operator falls overboard.
- One of the safest things you can do on a PWC is stay a safe distance away from other vessels at all times!
- Spraying other vessels, trying to jump a wake,(creates blind spots for the PWC operator) weaving back and forth between boats and driving recklessly are examples of **NOT** operating a PWC safely.
- When you are in a speed zone that reads "*slow speed, minimum wake*", your vessel should be completely settled in the water.
- If another vessel is **passing you** (overtaking you by coming at a faster speed behind you), you should maintain your speed and direction.
- If your boat is in **shallow waters** and you see a mud trail behind you, you should stop your boat and pole or walk it out of the shallow area.

- If you see a **red flag with a white diagonal stripe (diver down flag)**, you must go no faster than ideal speed within 100ft of the flag in a channel. When outside of a channel you must stay 300ft away from the flag.
- When **returning from open sea and you see a red buoy**, the buoy should be on the RIGHT side of your vessel. (*remember: red- right- return*) If you are returning from sea and **see a green buoy** it should be on the LEFT side of your vessel
- If a motorboat is approaching you on your right, you slow down and give right away to the motorboat.
If a PWC flips over, you should roll it back the way that is shown on the label.
- PWCs and Boats should always give way to sailboats
A capacity plate on a boat displays safety information, such as maximum weight or number of people the boat can carry safely.