

2017 Boater Certification Study Guide PWC (Personal Watercraft)

- A lanyard is worn and attached to a PWC for the purpose of shutting off the engine if the operator falls overboard
- Both a photo ID and the Florida Boater Temporary Certificate must be carried on board the vessel
- When entering a posted “slow speed” or “minimum wake” zone, your vessel should be completely settled in the water
- PWC are difficult to see on the water due to their size and rate of speed
- Always have a whistle or horn when operating a vessel
- Never drive too close to another boat so as to avoid a collision
- Careless operation of any vessel is the primary cause of boating accidents
- When being overtaken by another vessel, maintain your speed and direction
- Steering is controlled by throttle rate. Increase the throttle, greater control; reduce the throttle, less control
- In a boat that measures 26 feet or less, children under 6 years of age aboard that vessel that is underway must be wearing a life jacket
- Keeping safe distances from other vessels is an example of safe personal watercraft operation
- The build-up of dark clouds is a key indicator of bad weather approaching
- Never spray other vessels; this illustrates carelessness and close proximity with other vessels
- Anyone born on or after January 1, 1988, must show proof of boater education coursework
- When approaching a diver down flag, “red with white diagonal stripe across it”, idle speed if within 100-300 feet
- When in shallow water and discover a mud trail being created behind your boat, stop the vessel and walk or pole the vessel out to deeper water
- Falling overboard and drowning is the primary cause of boating fatalities

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- When crossing paths with another vessel, slow down or change course
- Being alert assists in avoiding collisions
- When coming back from open sea and progressing through the sea buoy markers, always keep the red buoy on the right side. Red - Right - Return
- If a PWC is rolled over (upside down) upon the operator falling off, roll the PWC to its correct position based on instructions provided on the label of the PWC
- It is illegal for anyone under the age of 14 to operate a PWC in Florida
- If involved in an accident with another vessel and there is injury, always assist the injured and report the accident
- Physical reactions and decision making become impaired when under the influence of alcohol
- It is illegal to operate any vessel at a speed that endangers the life and/or property of another person
- Red and green markers indicate the edge of a channel
- Operating a vessel at slow to moderate speeds is an example of defensive driving practices