

# **BOAT SAFETY COURSE ADDENDUM**

## **New Jersey State Requirements**

### **NUMBERING SYSTEM & DISPLAY**

1. Boats will be numbered as follows;
  - a. The registration numbers assigned shall consist of three (3) parts. The first part, known as the prefix, shall consist of the letters NJ, to indicate the state. The second part, known as the body, shall consist of not more than four (4) Arabic numerals. The third part, known as the suffix, shall consist of not more than two (2) letters.  
Examples: NJ-1234-AA  
NJ 1234 AA
  - b. The parts shall be separated by a hyphen or an equivalent space equal to a number or letter.
2. The identification number awarded to any vessel under the New Jersey numbering system shall be;
  - a. Painted on or permanently attached to each side of the bow (the forward half) of the vessel, read left to right and in such position as to provide maximum visibility.
  - b. In block characters not less three (3) inches in height.
  - c. Of a color which will contrast with the color of the background (i.e., dark numbers on a light background or light numbers on a dark background) and so maintained as to be visible and legible.
3. No other numbers shall be carried on the bow of the vessel.

### **REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Every vessel which is upon the waters of the State of New Jersey shall be registered and numbered, except:

- a. Vessels operated under a federally approved numbering system of another state, operated on a transient basis;
- b. Documented vessels from other states operated in this State in a transient status only;
- c. Vessels from foreign countries here temporarily;
- d. Public vessels of the United States, a state or subdivision or agency thereof;
- e. A ship's lifeboat;
- f. Vessels used exclusively for racing while competing in an authorized race, (only on race day or under permit issued from the New Jersey State Police);
- g. A non-powered sailboat or vessel used exclusively on small lakes and ponds wholly within private lands;
- h. A non-powered inflatable, surfboard, racing shell or tender for direct transportation between a vessel and the shore and for no other purpose (i.e. dinghy);
- i. Vessels 12 feet or less in length;
- j. A non-powered kayak or canoe.

## DOCUMENTED VESSELS

1. All documented vessels for which the owner maintains, owns, rents, leases or otherwise occupies space within this State, other than on a transient basis, **MUST** be registered with this State according to the established fee schedule, but are not required to display numbers. Validation decals will be issued and must be displayed on these vessels.
2. The registration certificate for all vessels that are required to be registered must be carried on board the vessel at all times while the vessel is in operation.
3. Those vessels documented under Part 67 of Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations and required to register with this State pursuant to NJSA 12:7-34.44a shall display a validation sticker on each side of the vessel in an area adjacent to the main steering station affixed to the vertical surface plainly visible at all times from both the port and starboard sides.

## VESSEL TITLING

All boats more than 12 feet in length must be titled, no matter how they are powered, before being registered or sold. This can be accomplished at any Motor Vehicle Agency.

In order to title your boat, you will have to produce proof of ownership and supply the boat's Hull Identification Number (HIN), which is located on most boats on the outside of the transom (rear) on the starboard (right) side. Homemade boats or boats manufactured prior to 1972 that do not have a HIN will be assigned an identification number by the Motor Vehicle Agency at the time you apply for a title.

A title may be obtained by submitting the following documentation to a Motor Vehicle Agency:

A new boat purchased in New Jersey or another State requires a Manufacturers Certificate of Origin.

For a used boat purchased from a New Jersey owner, you must present the former title with assignment section on the back of the title document completed and signed by the previous owner.

For a used boat purchased or last registered in another State that requires a title, that State's title with a proper ownership assignment is required.

For a used boat purchased or last registered in a State that does not issue titles, the requirement is the registration issued to you or the last registration properly Assigned to you and a signed statement attesting to the accuracy of the HIN.

In addition to the hull number, the Division will also need to know the year, make and type of boat, its length, the type of material used for construction of the hull, the vessel's source of power, and the proposed use (pleasure or commercial). Your New Jersey driver license number or if company owned, the corpcode, is necessary, since all Division records are filed under that number. You will also have to supply your Social Security number.

Boats that do not have to be titled are: lifeboats, canoes or kayaks, inflatables, surfboards, rowing sculls, racing shells and non-powered tenders/dinghies used for direct transportation between a vessel and shore and for no other purpose.

## **VALIDATION DECAL**

1. The validation decal shall be placed on each side of the vessel, three (3) inches away from the registration number towards the back of the vessel.
2. When the vessel is sold, it is the responsibility of the seller to remove the decals.
3. Each registered vessel must display valid decals.
4. Expired registration decals must not be visible

## **BOATING ACCIDENTS/DUTIES IN CASE OF ACCIDENTS**

As required by the Navigation Rules International-Inland, if you are involved in a boating accident, you are required to render any assistance necessary to any of the people involved in the accident as long as you can do so without causing any further injuries or damage to any of the people or vessels involved. Also, you shall supply the operator of the other vessel and any people that were injured in the accident with your name and address as well as your vessel information.

If the accident that you are involved in results in property damage in excess of \$2,000, injury or the death or disappearance of a person, you and the other operator are required to file a full description of the accident with the New Jersey State Police, Marine Law Enforcement station in the area where the accident occurred. The full description will also include any forms provided to you by the New Jersey State Police.

If you are involved in a boating accident on the waters of the State of New Jersey, which includes up to three (3) nautical miles offshore, in which death or disappearance of a person occurs, you must report the accident without delay to the New Jersey State Police, Marine Law Enforcement station in the area where the accident occurred. All other boating accidents that result in personal injury or property damage in excess of \$2,000 must be reported within ten (10) days to the New Jersey State Police, Marine law Enforcement.

## **WATERSKIING**

1. All operators of power vessels underway and towing ski or aquaplane riders must:
  - A. Keep at least 200 ft. from any wharf, marina, dock, pier, bridge, structure, abutment or persons in the water
  - B. Keep 100 ft. distance from any other craft, shore, aid to navigation or mooring
2. Have a competent observer on board (wide angle mirror not accepted).
3. Towlines shall not be less than 35 ft. nor more than 75 ft. in length.
4. Waterskiing, aquaplaning or towing of skiers or aquaplanes will be permitted only from sunrise to sunset.
5. All skiers shall wear a United States Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, III or Type V Hybrid Personal Flotation Device.
6. The term "waterskiing" means anything with a rider, being towed by a power vessel by means of a towrope, tow line or training boom.
7. All ski boats shall display a signal pennant, which shall be orange in color and triangular in shape and not less than 12 inches in any dimension.

8. The pennant shall be displayed at least four feet above the highest structure on the boat during each of the following activities;
  - A. While pulling or retrieving a skier
  - B. While a skier is in the water; or
  - C. While a towline is in the water.
9. A person shall not display the pennant at any other time other than while conducting any of the activities described above in number 8.

## **PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES**

No person shall operate or allow any person to operate any vessel in or on the waters of this State unless such vessel has a United States Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device (PFD) of the correct size for each person on board. Such PFDs shall be of the type(s) and number(s) required by the United States Coast Guard for a vessel of the class operating on Federal or state navigable waters. This includes all vessels except surfboards, racing shells, rowing sculls and racing kayaks.

### **TYPE I**

A Type I PFD has the greatest required buoyancy and is designed to turn most unconscious persons in the water from a face down position to a vertical or slightly backward position. The adult size device provides a minimum buoyancy of 22 pounds and the child size provides a minimum buoyancy of 11 pounds. The Type I is most effective for all waters, especially offshore and ocean cruising, when there is probability of a delayed rescue.

### **TYPE II**

A Type II PFD is any approved wearable device designed to turn its wearer in a vertical or slightly backward position in the water. The turning action is not as profound as with a Type I, and the device will not turn as many persons under the same conditions as the Type I. An adult size device provides a minimum buoyancy of 15 ½ pounds, the medium child size provides a minimum of 11 pounds, and the infant and small child sizes provide a minimum buoyancy of 7 pounds.

### **TYPE III**

A Type III PFD is any approved wearable device designed so the wearers can place themselves in a vertical or slightly backward position. While the Type III has the same buoyancy as the Type II PFD, it has little or no turning ability. A Type III PFD comes in a variety of style, colors and sizes. Many are designed to be particularly useful when water skiing, sailing, hunting, fishing or engaging in other water sports. Several of this type will also provide increased hypothermia protection.

### **TYPE IV**

A Type IV PFD is any approved device designed to be thrown to a person in the water and grasped and held until rescued. It is not designed to be worn. The most common Type IV devices are a buoyant cushion and a ring buoy. Effective May 1, 1995 the Type IV PFD—a flotation device that can be thrown to a person in the water – can no longer be used as a substitute for a wearable flotation device. To meet the PFD requirements for recreational vessels under 16 feet in length, wearable PFDs are required to be carried in the vessel. The requirements for vessels 16 feet and longer remain unchanged.

## **TYPE V**

A Type V is a PFD approved for restricted use.

## **TYPE V HYBRID**

A Type V Hybrid PFD is an inflatable device that provides a minimum of 7 ½ pounds of buoyancy deflated and 22 pounds of buoyancy when inflated. In order for the device to be acceptable for use on recreational boats, it must be worn when the boat is underway and the user is above on deck. When inflated it turns the wearer similar to the action provided by a Type I, II or III PFD. A Type V Hybrid PFD must be worn in accordance with the information contained in the owner's manuals supplied with each device.

## **WEARING OF PFDS BY CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER**

In addition to the previously listed requirements, any child 12 years of age or younger must WEAR a properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD whenever the vessel they are on is underway. If the child is inside a fully enclosed cabin that is a permanent, non-removable part of the vessel that is designed to carry passengers, then they are not required to wear the PFD.

The 12 years of age or younger PFD law does not apply to the following vessels:

1. Vessels that are owned and operated by the United States or the State of New Jersey or an agency thereof; a county or municipality; a volunteer first aid, rescue or emergency squad, a search and rescue unit established within a fire district created pursuant to or a volunteer fire company when a child is on board as a direct result of being rescued from an emergency situation.
2. Commercial vessels longer than 65 feet operated for a purpose that requires a U.S. Coast Guard Operator's or Master's License.
3. Ferries longer than 65 feet operating on a short run on a frequent schedule between two points offering a public service of a type normally attributed to a bridge or tunnel.

All PFDs that are presently acceptable on recreational boats fall into one of these designations. All PFDs shall be U.S. Coast Guard approved, in good and serviceable condition and of an appropriate size for the persons who intend to wear them. Wearable PFDs shall be readily accessible and throwable devices shall be immediately available for use.

## **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**

Each fire extinguisher is classified by a letter and a roman numeral according to the type of fire it may be expected to extinguish and the size of the extinguisher. The "letter" indicates the TYPE OF FIRE the extinguisher can put out.

- A. Fires of ordinary combustible materials.
- B. Gasoline, oil and grease fire.
- C. Electrical fires

Extinguishers approved for motorboats are hand-portable, of either B-I or B-II classification.

Fire extinguishers must be carried on ALL motorboats that have one or more of the following conditions, which make the boat of closed construction:

1. Inboard engines,
2. Closed compartments under thwarts and seats where portable fuel tanks may be stored,
3. Double bottoms not sealed to the hull or which are not completely filled with flotation materials.
4. Closed living spaces.
5. Closed stowage compartments in which combustible or flammable material is stowed.
6. Permanently installed fuel tanks.

Dry chemical fire extinguishers without gauges or indicating devices must be weighed and tagged every 6 months. If the gross weight of a carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) fire extinguisher is reduced by more than 10% of the net weight, the extinguisher is not acceptable and must be recharged.

Check extinguishers regularly to be sure that gauges are free and nozzle is clear.

**NOTE: READ LABELS ON FIRE EXTINGUISHERS. IF THE EXTINGUISHER IS U.L. LISTED, IS IT APPROVED FOR MARINE USE.**

## **LOADING YOUR BOAT**

There are several things that should be remembered when loading a boat; distribute the load evenly; don't stand up in a small boat; don't overload; and consult the "U.S. Coast Guard Capacity Information Plate".

## **VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS —THE REGULATIONS**

The requirement to carry visual distress signals became effective on January 1, 1981. This regulation requires all recreational boats when used on coastal waters, which includes the Great Lakes, the territorial seas and those waters directly connected to the Great Lakes and the territorial seas, up to a point where the waters are less than two miles wide, and boats owned in the United States when operating on the high seas to be equipped with visual distress signals.

The only exceptions are during daytime (sunrise to sunset) for:

1. Recreational boats less than 16 feet in length.
2. Boats participating in organized events such as races, regattas or marine parades.
3. Open sailboats not equipped with propulsion machinery and less than 26 feet in length.
4. Manually propelled boats.

These boats only need to carry night signals when used on these waters at night.

## **PYROTECHNIC VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALING DEVICES**

Must be Coast Guard approved, in serviceable condition, unexpired and readily accessible.

Launchers, produced before January 1, 1981, intended for use with approved signals are not required to be Coast Guard Approved.

USCG approved pyrotechnic Visual Distress Signals and associated devices include:

1. Pyrotechnic red flares, hand held or aerial.
2. Pyrotechnic orange smoke, hand held or floating.
3. Launchers for aerial red meteors or parachute flares.

## **NON-PYROTECHNIC VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALING DEVICES**

Must carry the manufacturer's certification that they meet Coast Guard requirements. They must be in serviceable condition and stowed to be readily accessible.

This group includes:

1. Orange distress flag
2. Electric distress light

No single signaling device is ideal under all conditions and for all purposes. Consideration should be given to carrying several types. For example, an aerial flare can be seen over a long distance on a clear night, but for closer work, a hand-held flare may be more useful.

## **VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS — HANDLING AND STORAGE**

Pyrotechnic devices should be stored in a cool, dry location and must be readily accessible in case of an emergency. Care should be taken to prevent puncturing or otherwise damaging their coverings. A watertight container, such as a surplus ammunition box, painted red or orange and prominently marked "DISTRESS SIGNALS" is recommended.

If young children are frequently aboard your boat, careful selection and proper stowage of visual distress signals is important.

Coast Guard approved pyrotechnic devices carry an expiration date. After this date, the device can no longer be counted toward the minimum requirements.

## **VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS — TYPES**

A wide variety of signaling devices, both pyrotechnic and non-pyrotechnic, can be carried to meet the requirements of the regulation.

Boats less than 16 feet operating in coastal waters, and certain other exempted boats (See Visual Distress Signals - The Regulation) need only carry night signaling devices when operated at night. All other recreational boats must carry both night and day signaling devices.

NOTE: If pyrotechnic devices are selected, a minimum of three must be carried. Any combination can be carried as long as they add up to three signals for day use and three signals for night use. Three day/night signaling devices meet both requirements.

The following is an illustration of the variety and combinations of devices, which can be carried in order to meet the requirements:

1. Three hand held red flares (day and night).
2. One electric distress light (night).
3. One hand-held red flare and two parachute flares (day and night).
4. One hand-held orange smoke signal, two floating orange smoke signals (day) and one electric distress light (night only).

**WARNING** In some states the launchers for meteors and parachute flares may be considered a firearm. Check with your state authorities before acquiring such a launcher. In New Jersey, signal pistols will be considered a weapon when used for any other purpose other than as a distress signal.

All distress-signaling devices have both advantages and disadvantages. The most popular, because of cost, are probably the smaller pyrotechnic devices. Pyrotechnics make excellent distress signals, but they can be used only once. Additionally, there is a potential for both injury and property damage if not properly handled. Pyrotechnic devices have a very hot flame and the ash and slag can cause burns and ignite materials that burn easily. Projected devices, such as pistol launched and hand-held parachute flares and meteors have many of the same characteristics of a firearm and must be handled with the same caution and respect.

**THE REGULATION STATES:** No person in a boat shall display a visual distress signal on water to which this subpart applies under any circumstances except a situation where assistance is needed because of immediate or potential danger to the persons aboard."

## **MARINE SANITATION DEVICES**

A Marine Sanitation Device (MSD) must be certified as "type approved" or meet one of the exceptions provided by regulation.

Boats 65 feet in length and under may use a Type I, II or III MSD. Boats over 65 feet are limited to installing Type II or III MSDs. Coast Guard certified devices are also labeled with the exception of holding tanks, which are automatically certified under the regulations if they store only sewage and flush water at ambient air pressure and temperature.

### **TYPE I MSD**

Flow through; effluent USCG certified to 1000 fecal coliform/ 100 ml, no visible floating solids standards.

### **TYPE II MSD**

Flow through; effluent USCG certified to 200 fecal coliform /100 ml, 150 mg/1 total suspended solids standard.

### **TYPE III MSD**

USCG certified to no-discharge standard.

All MSDs tested and certified by the Coast Guard will carry a label with the name of the manufacturer and the certification number. To obtain information about marine pumpout stations call 1-800-ASK-FISH.



## SECTION 2

### Additional Information

#### CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

Whenever the owner of a vessel registered and numbered with the State of New Jersey changes their address from that shown on their certificate of number, they shall, within seven (7) days, notify the Division of Motor Vehicles in writing of their new address. Record change forms are provided for this purpose and will be mailed upon request. This record change form may also be used to report a change(s) on a non-tidal boat license.

#### FOUND VESSELS

Any person finding, recovering or coming into possession of any vessel other than through normal purchase, loan, rental, charter or gift shall notify the New Jersey State Police, Marine Law Enforcement station in their area, in writing, within 72 hours.

The notification shall include a description of the vessel and the specific location where it was found or recovered.

#### SPEED

No person shall operate a power vessel or allow a power vessel to be operated where the speed may cause danger of injury to life or limb or damage to property. The speed of every power vessel shall be regulated to avoid risk of damage, or injury by any means, from the power vessel's wake.

All power vessels shall reduce their speed to slow speed when passing:

- A. Any marina, pier, dock or wharf at a distance of 200 feet or less.
- B. Work barges or floats while actually engaged in construction.
- C. Through bridge spans.
- D. Through lagoons, canals or confined areas of less than 200 feet in width.
- E. Vessels not under command.
- F. Emergency vessels displaying flashing or rotating lights.

**Slow Speed** is defined as speed at which a power vessel moves through the water and is able to maintain minimum headway in relation to vessel or structure being passed.

All power vessels in a marked **Slow Speed/No Wake** area shall move only at a no wake speed and not on plane. **No Wake Speed** shall mean speed at which a power vessel moves through the water maintaining minimum headway and producing minimum wake possible.

The operator of any vessel is responsible for any damage caused from the wake of the vessel.

#### OPERATING A VESSEL UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR, DRUGS OR NARCOTICS

You cannot operate a vessel while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, a narcotic, hallucinogenic or habit-producing drug or with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or more. Furthermore, if you are the owner of a vessel or are in control of a vessel, you cannot allow someone else who is under the influence of intoxicating liquor, a narcotic, hallucinogenic or habit-producing drug, or who has a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or more, to operate the vessel.

If you are found guilty, you will face a fine of not less than \$250 nor more than \$400. You will also lose the privilege to operate a vessel on the waters of this State for a period of 12 months from the date of conviction along with the forfeiture of your driver's license, which will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles, for a period of three (3) months.

If you are found guilty of a second offense, you will face a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000 as well as the performance of community service for a period of 30 days and imprisonment for a term not less than 48 hours nor more than 90 days, which shall be suspended or served on probation. You will also lose the privilege to operate a vessel on the waters of this State for a period of two (2) years from the date of conviction along with the forfeiture of your driver's license, which will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles, for a period of six (6) months.

If you are found guilty of a third or subsequent offense, you will face a fine of \$1,000 as well as imprisonment for a term of not less than 180 days except that the court can lower this for each day that community service is performed up to 90 days. You will also lose the privilege to operate a vessel on the waters of this State for a period of ten (10) years from the date of conviction along with the forfeiture of your driver's license, which will be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles, for a period of two (2) years.

In the event that a person convicted under this section is the holder of any out-of-state motor vehicle driver's license, the court shall not collect the license but shall notify the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles, who shall, in turn, notify appropriate officials in the licensing jurisdiction. The court shall, however, revoke the nonresident's driving privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this State.

A person who operates a power vessel or a vessel which is 12 feet or greater in length on the tidal or non-tidal waters of this State shall be deemed to have given their consent to the taking of samples of their breath for the purpose of making chemical tests to determine the content of alcohol in their blood, except that the taking of samples shall be made in accordance with the provisions of this amendatory and supplementary act and at the request of the New Jersey State Police or a law enforcement officer who has reasonable grounds to believe that the person has been operating a vessel in violation of the provisions of the act.

A judge shall revoke the right of a person to operate a power vessel or a vessel which is 12 feet or greater in length, if after being arrested for a violation of operating under the influence, the person refuses to submit to the chemical test provided for in section 7 of this amendatory and supplementary act when requested to do so. The revocation shall be for six months unless the refusal was in connection with a second offense, in which case the revocation period shall be for two years. If the refusal was in connection with a third or subsequent offense, the revocation shall be for 10 years. The court shall also fine a person convicted under this section not less than \$250.00 or more than \$500.00. In addition to any other requirements provided by law, a person convicted under this section shall be required after conviction to complete a boat safety course from a list approved by the Superintendent of State Police, prior to the restoration of the privilege to operate a vessel which may have been revoked or suspended for a violation of the provisions of this section.

## **PERSONAL WATERCRAFT**

For the purpose of this act, "Personal Watercraft" means a power vessel less than sixteen feet long which:

- A. Is designed to be operated from a sitting, standing or kneeling position;
- B. Is equipped with an internal combustion engine which powers a water jet pump; and
- C. Cannot be operated in a manner so as to disengage the pump so as to prevent the vessel from making headway.

In addition to all other requirements of a power vessel, the following rules apply to the use of a personal watercraft on the waters of this State.

- A. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft during the hours between sunset and sunrise or during times of restricted visibility.
- B. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft in the Point Pleasant or Cape May canals.
- C. A personal watercraft shall at all times proceed at a safe speed so that it can take proper and effective action to avoid collision and be stopped within a distance appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions.
- D. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft in such manner so as to become airborne or completely leave the water while crossing the wake of another vessel within 100 feet of the vessel creating the wake.
- E. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft within 50 feet of a bathing beach that has its boundaries marked by buoys or signs.

A person shall not operate a personal watercraft above idle speed within 50 feet of a shoreline or 50 feet from a person in the water.

The operator of a personal watercraft designed to accommodate three or more persons shall be permitted to tow a water skier provided that the personal watercraft has the capacity to allow one of the persons to face the stern of the personal watercraft for the purpose of tending to a ski rider, and that the person tending to the ski rider shall be present during the towing of the ski rider.

Any person operating a personal watercraft and any passenger on a personal watercraft shall at all times, when the personal watercraft is in operation, wear a United States Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, III or V Hybrid Personal Flotation Device.

The operator of any vessel equipped with a lanyard cut-off switch shall wear the safety switch lanyard at all times when the vessel is in operation.

## **SKIN DIVING**

Any person while diving shall mark their position with a buoyed flag approved by the Boat Regulation Commission.

- 1. The flag shall be displayed so it is visible all around the horizon; from a buoy, float, boat or other floating object.
- 2. The flag shall be a minimum of fourteen (14) inches by sixteen (16) inches, shall be rigid to enhance visibility and shall be a red background with a white diagonal stripe running from one corner to the other.
- 3. No person may operate a vessel within 50 feet of a buoyed flag.

4. No person shall display a flag at times other than when diving is in progress.
5. No person may swim or dive in a narrow, confined or improved channel or in a marked fairway, under a bridge or impede, obstruct or interfere with passage of watercraft therein.
6. No diver shall surface more than 25 feet from their buoyed flag except in an emergency.

## **MUFFLING DEVICE**

Every outboard motor, inboard motor or inboard/outboard motor in use or attached to a vessel operating on the waters of this State shall be equipped with a muffling system as supplied by the manufacturer or installed by the owner. The muffling system shall be maintained in good working order at all times. An exception to this requirement will be allowed for operation during authorized races sanctioned by the United States Coast Guard, New Jersey State Police, or other operation with a race test permit issued by the State Police.

## **WATERCRAFT NOISE CONTROL**

1. No person shall operate or give permission for the operation of any vessel or watercraft capable of emitting noise totaling in excess of 90 d.b.a. in or upon waters of this State,
2. The Noise Emission Test shall be made with a sound level meter at a distance of not less than 4 feet above the water at a point where the transom, gunwale and port or starboard gunwale intersects.
3. Vessel being tested shall operate its engine, or in the case of multiple engines, shall operate together at the lowest throttle settings in neutral gear.
4. Personal watercraft, jet boats and vessels with no neutral gear shall operate at lowest throttle setting with minimum or no headway motion.
5. Any person who fails to comply with directive to submit to a noise emissions test as described above shall be subject to prosecution and shall be ordered to immediately return the vessel to its mooring and cease operations.
6. The noise limitation provisions shall not apply to vessels registered and actually participating in racing events or test periods for such events authorized by the New Jersey State Police, Marine Law Enforcement.

## **RECKLESS OR CARELESS OPERATION FORBIDDEN**

No vessel shall be operated in a reckless or careless manner. Reckless or careless operation shall include operating any vessel in a manner, which unnecessarily interferes with the free and proper use of any waters, or unnecessarily endangers other craft therein, or the life or limb of any person upon any craft or in the water. This also includes, but is not limited to, exceeding manufacturer capacity plate specifications.

## **PERSONAL WATERCRAFT AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Personal Watercraft in general are not more harmful to the environment than other vessels, but due to the areas that are accessible to a Personal Watercraft, riders should show extra care. Riding in shallow water can stir up bottom sediments, which in turn limits oxygen, affecting fish and bird feeding. Speed becomes an issue in shallow water due to the fact that many birds feed in these areas and can be disturbed by your presence. If there is any seaweed near where you ride, stay away as many fish and other sea life live there. Grass marshes are homes for nesting birds, frogs, turtles and snakes so avoid these areas. Following these few simple things can help us protect our bountiful natural resources.

Personal Watercraft requires operator skills that differ from larger boats. One significant difference is that they are jet -propelled. This means that they pump water to move and steer instead of having a propeller and rudder. Since these machines pump water to steer, if you slow the engine down, your ability to steer is significantly decreased.

Another difference between operating most personal watercraft and operating a boat is that you must constantly maintain balance to prevent falling overboard or losing control. While concentrating on their balance, occasionally operators forget to look around for other hazards and strike an object such as a boat, dock or bridge. Operators may also get water splashed in their eyes, which limits their vision. Wearing goggles may prevent this from happening.

The number of people who get injured or killed on personal watercraft could be greatly reduced if operators would slow down and pay more attention to potential hazards and traffic in their immediate area. While operating a personal watercraft it is extremely important for the operator to BE AWARE of his/her surroundings.

As required by law, an approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) must be worn while operating or riding a PWC, and all boating rules must be followed.

The use of personal watercraft is restricted in certain areas. Check with local authorities prior to operating.

You should be familiar with the legal requirements before operating any personal watercraft, some of which are listed below.

A person shall not operate a personal watercraft during the hours between sunset and sunrise or during times of restricted visibility.

A person shall not operate a personal watercraft in the Point Pleasant or Cape May canals.

A personal watercraft shall at all times proceed at a safe speed so that proper and effective action can be taken to avoid collision and be stopped with in a distance appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and condition.

A person shall not operate a personal watercraft in such a manner so as to become airborne or completely leave the water while crossing the wake of another vessel within 100 feet of the vessel creating the wake.

A person shall not operate a personal watercraft within 50 feet of a bathing beach that has its boundaries marked by buoys or signs.

A person shall not operate a personal watercraft above idle speed within 50 feet of a shoreline or 50 feet from a person in the water.

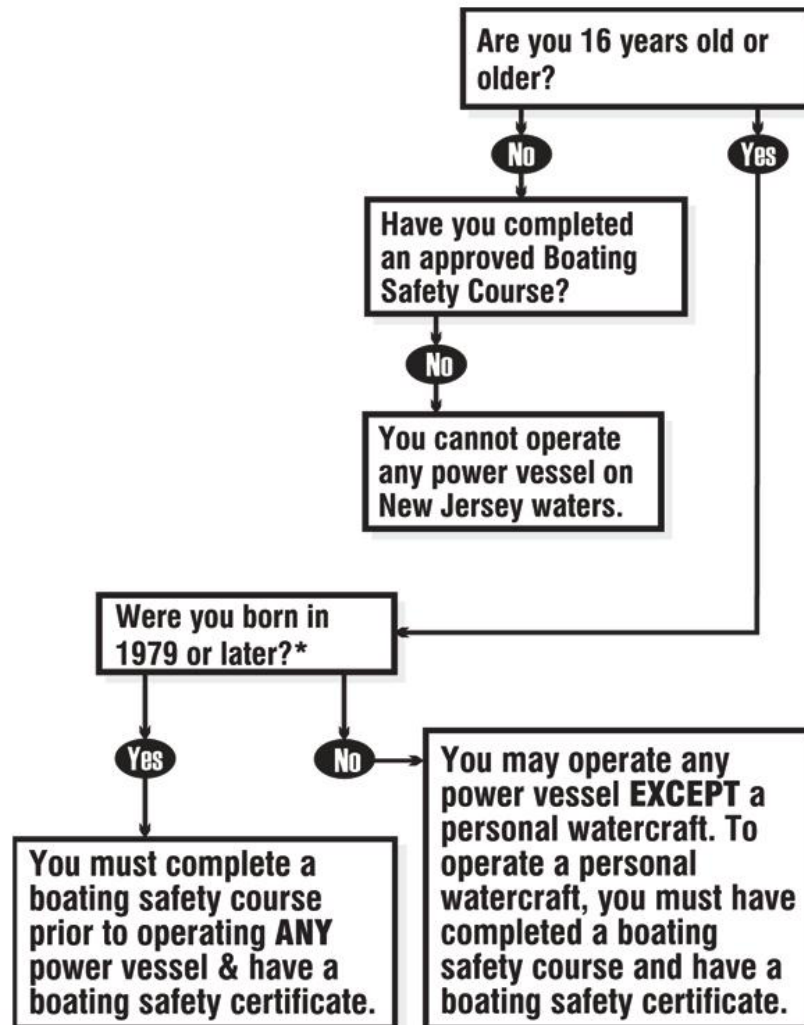
The operator of a personal watercraft designed to accommodate three or more persons shall be permitted to tow a water skier provided that the personal watercraft has the capacity to allow one of the persons to face the stern of the personal watercraft for the purpose of tending to a ski rider; and that the person tending to the ski rider shall be present during the towing of the ski rider. An appropriate ski flag must be displayed.

Any person operating a personal watercraft and any passenger on a personal watercraft shall at all times, when the personal watercraft is in operation, wear a United States Coast Guard Approved Type I, II, III, or V Hybrid Personal Flotation Device.

### **Lanyard Cut-off Switch**

The operator of a vessel equipped with a lanyard cut-off switch shall wear the safety switch lanyard at all times when the vessel is in operation.

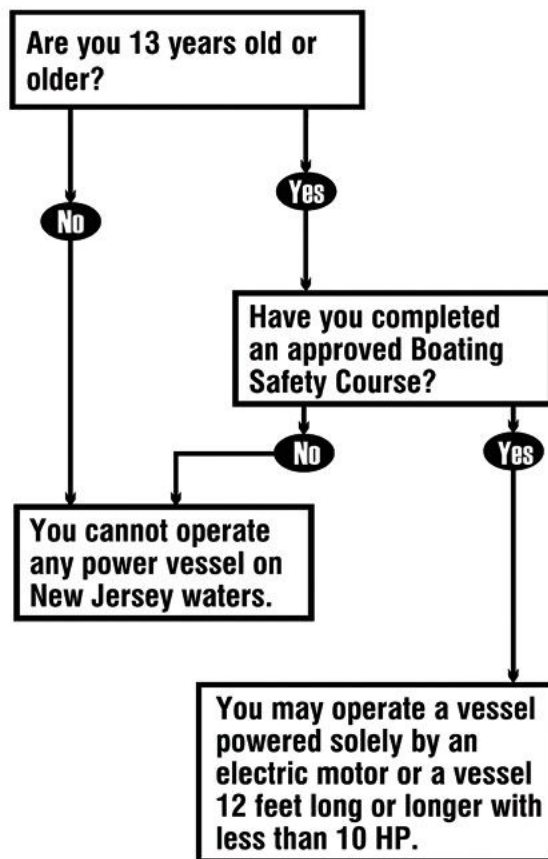
## BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION & MINIMUM AGE MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS



### **Schedule for Completion of Mandatory Boating Safety Course:**

- \* Persons born in 1969 or later must possess a Boating Safety Certificate by June 1, 2006.
- \* Persons born in 1959 or later must possess a Boating Safety Certificate by June 1, 2007.
- \* Persons born in 1949 or later must possess a Boating Safety Certificate by June 1, 2008.
- \* All persons who wish to operate a power vessel must possess a Boating Safety Certificate by June 1, 2009.

**BOATING SAFETY EDUCATION  
& MINIMUM AGE MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS**  
*For Those Under 16*



- 1) There are ***NO EXCEPTIONS*** to New Jersey age requirements.
- 2) Out-of-State residents in New Jersey for less than 90 days with a certificate issued by their state or country; ***OR*** written proof of completion of a substantially similar course to the NJ-approved course will satisfy the education requirements.

**Boating Safety information may be located at:**

**[www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org)    [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org)    [www.BOATUS.com](http://www.BOATUS.com)**

**Boating Safety Courses must be completed in person.**