

Powerboat Program Overview

The powerboat program offers a range of courses from beginner level through to advanced. Learning can be conducted on a variety of different powerboats including sports boats, rigid inflatables and tinnies, and teaches skills for inshore and offshore activity.

The lower age limit for training is 12 years old, however Australian Sailing recommends anyone under the age of 16 to be under the supervision of an adult when operating a powerboat.

Your instructor will follow the syllabus for each course and sign off the relevant section once this is completed. On completion of the syllabus you will receive an electronic certificate.

The Start Powerboating course is designed to meet the National competencies for boat licensing, and as such is well recognised throughout Australia. Contact your State Maritime for more information on licensing.

Step 1

Start Powerboating

Your powerboating pathway begins here introducing practical driving skills, trip planning, boat maintenance, safety equipment and dealing with emergency situations. Following the course you will have sufficient skills and knowledge to skipper a small powerboat.

12 hours

Step 2

Powerboat Handling

This one-day course is designed to improve your boat handling skills, especially in confined areas such as marinas and in swell and waves. You will also learn more about engines and types of craft, and practice navigation techniques on a passage.

8 hours

Step 3

Safety Boat Operator

This course provides the skills needed to support water based activities at clubs, schools and outdoor recreation centres. Over 12 hours you'll learn about race course design, practice on-water rescue of dinghies and multi-hulls, and even get an awareness of techniques to support kite surfers and kayaks.

12 hours

Trip Checklist



Boating Checklist

Before going Afloat

- ☐ Confirm the weather is suitable for your intended passage
- ☐ Check your boat, trailer, engine, fuel, drain plugs and safety equipment
- ☐ Wear life jackets before launching and brief everyone on how they work
- ☐ Give your passengers a safety brief – it will make the trip more enjoyable
- ☐ Tell someone where you're going and when you hope to return

On the Water

- ☐ Keep a good lookout for boats, swimmers, divers and snorkellers
- ☐ Don't drink and drive
- ☐ Be prop aware and wear the kill cord
- ☐ Don't rely on electronics when close to shore, hazards or other vessels
- ☐ Be aware of your wash for others and the environment
- ☐ Tell someone if you're running late
- ☐ Maintain a safe speed for the conditions and traffic around you
- ☐ Look out for changing weather conditions
- ☐ Don't throw your rubbish over the side – stow it and dispose ashore

Back on Land

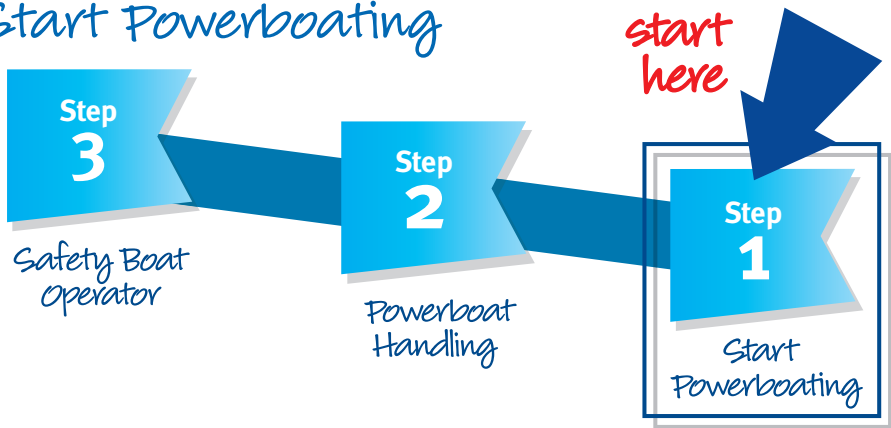
- ☐ Tell someone you've arrived safely
- ☐ Flush the engine with fresh water
- ☐ Check your trailer lights, brakes and lashings
- ☐ Secure all loose items and drive with care
- ☐ Rinse your lifejacket and prepare it for your next trip



You're in Charge

“As the driver of a powerboat you have a legal responsibility towards other water users. For everyone's safety, plan your trip, look after your passengers, maintain a proper lookout at all times and, of course, wear a lifejacket.”

Start Powerboating



Trip Preparation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Knows how to plan a passage with consideration of weather, crew and vessel capabilities
	<input type="checkbox"/> Can identify equipment appropriate for intended passage
	<input type="checkbox"/> Participates in safety briefings, equipment checks and other precautions prior to going afloat
	<input type="checkbox"/> Can stow equipment considering access and protection
Weather and the Environment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Knows where to source weather information and understands the meaning of warnings
	<input type="checkbox"/> Awareness of effects from wind against tide or current and hazards of steep waves for small vessels
Boats and Equipment	
Personal Equipment	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Can identify different types of lifejackets, maintenance requirements and when they should be worn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Can select suitable clothing and equipment appropriate to type of vessel, intended passage and prevailing conditions
Parts of the Boat	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Familiar with common terminology relating to small powerboats
	<input type="checkbox"/> Knows how to interpret a capacity or (Australian) builders plate
	<input type="checkbox"/> Recognises the key components of a steering system
Engines and Fuel	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Aware of hazards and safety precautions when re-fuelling
	<input type="checkbox"/> Can undertake a pre-departure check on an inboard or outboard engine
	<input type="checkbox"/> Knows how to start and shut down an engine
	<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates correct use of kill cord at all times whilst underway
Launching	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Knows the safe procedures for launching from a boat ramp
Boat Handling – Skills and Techniques	



Low Speed Manoeuvres	<input type="checkbox"/> Has working knowledge of trim, stability, controls and effects of steering and propellers <input type="checkbox"/> Can manoeuvre a vessel effectively and safely at low speed in forward and astern <input type="checkbox"/> Knows the correct action to be taken to recover a man overboard <input type="checkbox"/> Can organise lines and crew when docking or slipping <input type="checkbox"/> Can depart and bring a boat alongside a jetty or pontoon allowing for wind, tide and vessel characteristics
High Speed Manoeuvres	<input type="checkbox"/> Can bring a vessel on and off the plane (where applicable) with consideration of safety, communication, the environment and other vessels
Moorings and Anchoring	<input type="checkbox"/> Can safely pick up a mooring <input type="checkbox"/> Can select a suitable anchorage and anchor a boat correctly <input type="checkbox"/> Is aware of maintenance requirements for moorings and anchoring equipment
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Can interpret a chart of the local area including common symbols <input type="checkbox"/> Understands how to use transits, leading lights and a compass <input type="checkbox"/> Recognises cardinal, lateral, isolated danger, safe water and special marks <input type="checkbox"/> Can pilot a vessel according to laid buoyage and local regulations
Rules of the Road and Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Has a working knowledge of the general, steering and sailing rules and their application <input type="checkbox"/> Can apply collision regulations to situations whilst underway <input type="checkbox"/> Can identify common lights, day shapes and sound signals <input type="checkbox"/> Knows where to source information on regulations and bylaws <input type="checkbox"/> Can apply local rules and regulations whilst underway <input type="checkbox"/> Is aware of equipment requirements in relation to local regulations
Safety and Emergencies	<input type="checkbox"/> Recognises distress signals and understands obligations <input type="checkbox"/> Aware of types of on-board emergencies and actions <input type="checkbox"/> Can operate a marine radio in distress situations

Instructor Signature

Date

Powerboat Handling



Trip Preparation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Is able to complete pre-departure checks and give a safety brief
Boats and Equipment	
Types of Craft	<input type="checkbox"/> Has an awareness of different hull shapes and their handling characteristics <input type="checkbox"/> Recognises the advantages and disadvantages of different engine and drive types
Engines and Fuel	<input type="checkbox"/> Has awareness of fuel, oil and maintenance requirements for modern engines <input type="checkbox"/> Can undertake basic fault finding
Launching	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Is familiar with methods for launching and recovery in tidal areas <input type="checkbox"/> Can identify safety features of a boat trailer <input type="checkbox"/> Care and maintenance of trailer features including winch, lights and bearings
Boat Handling – Skills and Techniques	
Low Speed Manoeuvres	<input type="checkbox"/> Has working knowledge of trim, stability, controls and effects of steering and propellers <input type="checkbox"/> Can turn a vessel around in a confined area <input type="checkbox"/> Can depart and come alongside a berth with use of springs in ‘ahead’ or ‘astern’ <input type="checkbox"/> Can recover a man overboard in varying situations
High Speed Manoeuvres	<input type="checkbox"/> Can manoeuvre a vessel through high speed ‘S’ and ‘U’ turns <input type="checkbox"/> Can recover a man overboard
Swell and Waves	<input type="checkbox"/> Can apply techniques applicable to handling a small powerboat in swell and waves <input type="checkbox"/> Is familiar with techniques for bar crossings
Towing	<input type="checkbox"/> Can rig a boat for towing alongside or astern <input type="checkbox"/> Knows the precautions to be taken prior to and during a tow



Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Can calculate a course allowing for variation<input type="checkbox"/> Has basic knowledge of factors such as tidal heights and streams (where applicable)<input type="checkbox"/> Has an awareness of high speed navigation techniques<input type="checkbox"/> Can use a GPS or Chart Plotter as an aid to navigation<input type="checkbox"/> Is aware of the limitations when using electronic charts
Passage Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Can plan a passage with consideration of weather, crew and vessel capabilities<input type="checkbox"/> Undertake a short passage by day or night incorporating navigation and rules of the road
Safety and Emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates correct use of kill cord at all times whilst underway

Instructor Signature

Date



Safety Boat operator



Boats and Equipment

Personal Equipment

- ☐ Can select suitable clothing and equipment appropriate to the activity, area of operation and prevailing conditions
- ☐ Can identify different types of lifejacket and suitability for driver and crew

Safety Boats

- ☐ Can select a suitable vessel to support a variety of on water activities
- ☐ Can select and use safety equipment appropriate to activity

Race Management

- ☐ Has knowledge of race course design and management
- ☐ Can position craft considering race fleet, hazards and sailing area
- ☐ Knows methods for communicating with other boats and shore

Boat Handling – Skills and Techniques

General

- ☐ Can 'stand off' other craft
- ☐ Can come alongside other vessels and sailing craft whilst underway
- ☐ Can lay and recover marker buoys
- ☐ Demonstrates correct use of kill cord at all times
- ☐ Has working knowledge of techniques for dealing with lee-shore scenarios

Towing

- ☐ Knows how to rig multiple tows
- ☐ Understands towing fragile high performance boats
- ☐ Can tow alongside

Rescue of other Craft



Dinghy	<input type="checkbox"/> Can demonstrate the correct approach <input type="checkbox"/> Can right capsized and inverted dinghies <input type="checkbox"/> Knows how to right multihulls <input type="checkbox"/> Knows how to deal with entrapments
Windsurf	<input type="checkbox"/> Can demonstrate the correct approach <input type="checkbox"/> Can recover a person from the water <input type="checkbox"/> Knows techniques for recovering multiple boards and sails <input type="checkbox"/> Can recover a single board without disassembly
Kayak (can be covered in theory)	<input type="checkbox"/> Knows the correct approach <input type="checkbox"/> Knows how to rescue different types of kayak/canoe <input type="checkbox"/> Knows how to return the paddler to a kayak/canoe
Kitesurfing (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> Knows the correct approach <input type="checkbox"/> Knows how to handle, deflate and recover a kite from the water

Instructor Signature

Date

