
Trained Boat Driver Program Description



This two-step drivers' program is designed to teach boat drivers, beginner through advanced, to safely operate a towboat while towing a water skier. The major emphasis of this program is safety consciousness at all times, and upon completion of the program, the driver will have the knowledge and skills to implement all necessary precautions to safely tow a water skier.

STEP ONE – CLASSROOM: Educational opportunities through clinics are increasingly available and USA Water Ski active members of all skill levels are encouraged to take advantage of those listed in our publications. General clinic topics will include: boat handling, the observer, the ski area, starting, driving patterns, picking up the fallen skier, landing a skier and docking. More specific topics will include: the observer-skier-driver relationship and individual responsibilities; and, driving for the first time skier, the inexperienced skier, the small or large skier, the disabled skier and the kneeboard or barefoot skier. Other topics will include driving of the slalom and trick skier with an introduction to the art of tournament boat driving.

STEP TWO – ON THE WATER: Drivers will be evaluated in several areas with regard to safety consciousness and skier awareness. Primary areas of evaluation will include: equipment check, starting and maneuvering the boat, communicating with the skier, acceleration, steering, stabilization of speed, adjustment of speed, returning to a fallen skier, landing a skier, returning the boat to the dock and overall safety consciousness.

PARTICIPATION

Clinics: Contact USA Water Ski's Competition/Education Department or consult our publications for event calendars. If there is significant interest, USA Water Ski will assist in identifying qualified instructors for clubs that would like to host a Trained Boat Drivers' clinic. Attendees of 3-Event Drivers' Clinics may be awarded a Trained Driver rating by the Senior clinic official provided the attendee meets the on-water requirements of the Trained Drivers' program as noted in Step Two above.

Instructors: USA Water Ski-rated Regular or Senior Drivers are eligible to serve as instructors for the Trained Boat Drivers' program. Individuals with current Trained Boat Driver and Safety Coordinator ratings may apply to become a Clinic instructor by assisting a Senior Driver at two USA Water Ski-sanctioned Trained Driver clinics. This experience must be documented by the Senior clinic official and forwarded to USA Water Ski's Competition Department.

Eligibility and Costs: All USA Water Ski active members (\$50 insured members) are eligible to participate in the Trained Boat Drivers' program. There will be a \$10 charge per person for each clinic to cover event and material costs.

Maintenance: To maintain a Trained Driver's rating, the individual must participate as a driver in at least one USA Water Ski-sanctioned Class "F" or Class "N" tournament per calendar year and attend a USA Water Ski-sanctioned Trained Drivers' clinic every four years. To ensure that your tournament work is recorded accurately at USA Water Ski Headquarters, please make sure that both the Tournament Officials' Record and the top half of the Trained Driver Practical Experience Record are completed correctly and signed off. This record will serve as an important backup to USA Water Ski's data on your work in case of a discrepancy.

A Trained Driver may also maintain his/her rating by performing ten (10) hours of driving practical experience at a camp, ski school or USA Water Ski-sanctioned club exhibition / practice per calendar year and attending a USA Water Ski-sanctioned Trained Drivers' clinic every four years. This experience must be verified by: a Camp Recreation Director, Ski School Manager or Safety Coordinator where the experience occurred; a USA Water Ski-recognized Course Conductor; a USA Water Ski-rated Regular or Senior Driver or another USA Water Ski-rated Senior Official. This experience must be documented on a Trained Driver Practical Experience Record and forwarded to USA Water Ski Headquarters' Competition Department with your USA Water Ski "Active" Membership renewal.

Benefits: The benefits of successfully completing the Trained Driver Program are:

1. A Trained Driver is equipped with the necessary knowledge to safely operate a boat while towing a water skier.
2. A Trained Driver is eligible to drive USA Water Ski-sanctioned club exhibitions / practices and Class "N" or Class "F" water ski tournaments.
3. A Trained Driver is eligible to drive for ski schools that are insured through certain insurance companies.
4. A Trained Driver status can be added as an endorsement to the Level 1 Instructor's rating for those drivers who are also certified as instructors. Some camp programs require USA Water Ski Trained Driver endorsement for Level 1 Instructors.
5. Trained Drivers who are also USA Water Ski-rated Safety Directors or Coordinators meet the requirements for the USA Water Ski Fun Tournament Coordinator rating.

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