

National Powerboat Training Scheme

Introduction to Powerboating

Objective	The aim of this course is to provide a short practical introduction to boat handling and safety on powerboats being used on all Irish waters.
Previous knowledge / experience	No previous knowledge of powerboating is required or assumed.
Types of Boat	The course will be conducted in an open powerboat. The type of boat will be marked on the certificates as; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planing and / or displacement • Fixed drive, Outboard / Outdrive and / or Waterjet. • Tiller and/or console Controls
Duration	The Introduction to Powerboating Certificate should ordinarily consist of a minimum of 7 hours contact time. However the length of the course may be extended where it suits participants to take a more relaxed approach to the programme.
Assessment	Assessment is continuous throughout the course.

By the end of this course you will be able to do the following:

Preparation of boat for use.	Be able to ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safely refuel a boat, stow fuel tanks & connect fuel lines. • Identify and demonstrate the use of the following equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mooring lines, fenders, anchor and warp, boathook, bilge-pump, bailer, paddles or oars. • Identify and describe the use of the following equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire extinguisher, first aid kit, flares, whistle. • To stow and secure equipment on board.
Clothing & Equipment	Be able to ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select what clothing and footwear to wear while afloat. • Describe the different types of Personal Flotation Devices available, and identify which is most appropriate for use on activity and when they should be used. • Correctly don the PFDs used during the course.

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<p>Basic Boat Handling</p>	<p>Be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake appropriate pre-start checks on the engine and hull. • Start and stop the engine. • Steer the boat ahead and astern while making allowances for windage and current. • Anticipate the distance the boat will carry when in neutral. • Demonstrate that they can keep an effective lookout while underway. • Describe the effect that excessive wash may have on moored boats, river canal banks, wildlife and other water users such as anglers.
<p>Planing and manoeuvring while on the plane</p>	<p>When the course is conducted in a planing boat, be able to; bring a boat safely onto the plane, steer a straight course, turn while on the plane bring the boat off of the plane and while doing so ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate effectively with crew, demonstrate observation and look out while driving.
<p>Leaving and coming alongside</p>	<p>As <u>crew</u>, have demonstrated that you can, when coming alongside and leaving a moored boat or pontoon ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare, use and stow mooring lines Prepare, use and stow fenders Safety and effectively use cleats, bollards and rings to both manoeuvre and secure the boat. • Communicate effectively with the skipper and other crew members. Describe any likely hazards associated with this manoeuvre. <p>Be able to describe, and as appropriate demonstrate, correct protocols for sharing cleats, bollards & rings, crossing other boats and the use of fenders.</p>
<p>Securing to a mooring buoy</p>	<p>As <u>crew</u>, have demonstrated that you can, when picking up a mooring...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare mooring warp(s) for use, use the boat hook to recover the buoy, communicate with the helm, making fast to the mooring and release the boat from the mooring.
<p>Anchoring</p>	<p>As <u>crew</u>, have demonstrated that you can, when anchoring the boat ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare the anchor, chain and / or warp for use, drop the anchor and pay out chain / warp as directed by the skipper, safely recover the chain / warp and weigh the anchor, secure the anchor, anchor chain and warp.
<p>Man Over Board</p>	<p>As <u>crew</u>, demonstrate what actions to take when returning to, and then recovering a man overboard.</p>
<p>Application of "Rules of the Road"</p>	<p>Be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correctly position the boat relative to a channel and other boats when maneuvering in confined channels, rivers, canals and harbours. • Identify when risk of collision exists.
<p>Regulations</p>	<p>Be able to identify and implement the following where they relate to the use of powerboats ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National legislation. • Local By-Laws.

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Safety on Board	<p>Be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify how best to avoid a man-overboard. • Describe how to summon assistance in an emergency. • Describe how to reduce the risk of fire on board and what to do if one occurs.
Rope work	<p>Be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fasten a line to a cleat, mooring bollard and ring an anchor. • Coil and stow a line Be able to tie the following knots and identify when they should be used ... Round turn and two half hitches. • Control (surge) a line under tension using a mooring cleat or bollard.
Towing	As <u>crew</u> , be able to set up and secure an astern tow from another boat to allow your own boat to be towed.
Weather	Be able to describe how weather may affect your powerboating activities.
Navigation & pilotage	Have Skipped the boat on a short passage and demonstrated that you can correctly identify and use buoys and marks when piloting the boat.
Coastal Knowledge	Be able to describe the effect tides can have on your powerboating activities.
Further training	Be able to identify what further training courses are available and where to find out about them.

Where can you go to do this course?

This course can only be run by an Irish Sailing Training Centre. All Irish Sailing training Centres have all gone through a rigorous accreditation process to ensure that they provide high-quality training in a safe environment. Training centres can be found on coastal and inland waters.

www.sailing.ie/training

What next?

- National Powerboat Certificate
- Intermediate Certificate
- Safety Boat Certificate
- Advanced Powerboat Certificate
- Coastal Navigation for Small Boats

