

National Powerboat Training Scheme

National Powerboat Certificate

Objective	To develop the skills and knowledge necessary to safely, and effectively, skipper an open powerboat, by day, on inland and coastal waters with which they are familiar.
Previous knowledge / experience	It is assumed that participants hold the Irish Sailing Powerboat Crews Certificate or equivalent experience.
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	Where participants already hold the Irish Sailing Powerboat Crews Certificate or equivalent, the minimum contact time for the course is 14 hours. Where this is not the case, the minimum requirement is 21 hours contact training time. In either case 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	<p>Be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how to fit and remove an outboard engine. • 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, compass, torch, charts / maps. • Identify and describe the use of following equipment ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Fire extinguisher, first aid kit, flares, whistle, engine spares and tools • Stow and secure equipment on board. <p>Have prepared a powerboat for use.</p>
Clothing & Equipment	<p>Be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select what clothing and footwear to wear while afloat. • Describe the different types of Personal Flotation Device 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.
Launch & recovery	<p>Be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the main factors to consider when launching & recovering a boat. • Describe how to safely & effectively launch and recover a powerboat from a slipway using a road trailer and where possible have demonstrated this. • Describe how to prepare a boat for towing on a road trailer.

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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. • Turn the boat in a confined space, allowing for the effect of wind and current. • Hold the boat off a fixed or moored object, while allowing for the effects of wind & current. • “Ferry glide” the boat across a channel against the current and / or wind. • Identify and use the “paddle wheel” effect of the propeller when manoeuvring. • Describe the effects of loading and trim on the boats handling and safety.
<p>Planing and maneuvering while on the plane</p>	<p>When the course is conducted in a planing boat, be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring a boat safely onto the plane, • Steer a straight course, • Turn while on the plane, • Bring the boat off of the plane. <p>and while doing so;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate effectively with crew • Demonstrate observation and look out while driving at speed • Demonstrate awareness for the effects of wash. <p>When manoeuvring on the plane ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to safely manoeuvre the boat through S-turns and U-turns while maintaining the boat on the plane. • Communicate effectively with crew. • Demonstrate observation and look out while driving at speed. • Demonstrate awareness for the effects of wash. <p>Be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how you would use trim tabs and power trim. • Explain how to minimize the risk of capsize from high speed manoeuvres.
<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 ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing cleats, bollards & rings, crossing other boats, use of fenders. <p>As <u>helm</u>, have demonstrated that you can successfully bring a boat alongside and then leave a pier, pontoon or moored boat and while doing so;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate effectively with crew. • Prepare the boat. • Accurately assess wind and / or current. • Choose an appropriate approach. • Secure the boat alongside using appropriate lines. <p>Where appropriate this will be done with maneuvering with the wind and / or current as well as against it.</p>

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Securing to a mooring buoy	<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 • Release the boat from the mooring.
	<p>As helm, have demonstrated that you can successfully bring a boat onto, and then leave, a mooring buoy and while doing so;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate effectively with crew • Prepare the boat • Accurately assess wind and / or current • Choose an appropriate approach <p>Be able to describe what action to take when overrunning a mooring buoy or line.</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.
Anchoring	<p>As helm, have demonstrated that you can;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select a suitable anchorage • Anchor the boat using appropriate anchor and scope • Determine whether or not the anchor is holding. • Weigh the anchor and leave.
	<p>Be able to describe the advantages and disadvantages of different types of anchors commonly found on powerboats.</p>
Man Over Board	<p>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.</p>
	<p>As helm, demonstrate that you can successfully manoeuvre the boat up to a man-overboard and then recover them into the boat.</p>
	<p>Be able to describe what to do once the man-overboard has been recovered from the water.</p>
Application of "Rules of the Road"	<p>Be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correctly position the boat relative to a channel and other boats when manoeuvring in confined channels, rivers, canals and harbours. • Identify when risk of collision exists. • Describe, and where appropriate have applied, the correct actions for both "stand on" and "give way" boats in the following situations ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Power vessels meeting head on, ◦ Power vessels crossing, ◦ Overtaking boat, ◦ Power vessel vs. sailing. • Describe and use the correct sound signals to use when manoeuvring. • Identify commonly used day shapes.

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Regulations	<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 • International regulations • Local regulations & byelaws
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. • Describe what actions you might take in the event of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Engine failure while underway ◦ The boat being holed ◦ The boat being swamped ◦ Capsize ◦ The boat running aground • Give a safety briefing to the crew. <p>Have demonstrated the ability to safely skipper a powerboat.</p>
Ropework	<p>Be able to fasten a line to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a cleat, mooring bollard and ring, • an anchor, <p>Be able to coil and stow a line,</p> <p>Be able to tie the following knots and identify when they should be used;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round turn and two half hitches, Clove hitch, Bowline and Sheet bend. <p>Be able to control (surge) a line under tension using a mooring cleat or bollard.</p>
Engines & Drives	<p>Be able to describe the advantages and disadvantages of;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 stroke, 4 stroke and diesel engines, • Outboard, Out drive, fixed screw and water-jet propulsion • Single and twin engines, <p>Be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe & where appropriate demonstrate the appropriate use of power tilt & trim tabs • Conduct ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Routine checks, ◦ Basic maintenance, ◦ Basic fault diagnosis on engine, batteries and drive units.
Types of Craft	<p>Be able to describe the advantages and disadvantages of different hull forms with respect to uses and sea keeping ability.</p>
Towing	<p>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.</p> <p>As helm, be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure another boat for towing alongside and astern. • Secure an alongside tow and a tow astern for your own boat • Identify the advantages and disadvantages of the two techniques. <p>Describe the effect each technique will have on the handling of the tug and consequent considerations when maneuvering.</p>

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Weather	<p>Be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how weather may affect your powerboating activities. • Identify sources of weather forecasts. • Interpret the forecast with regard to planned activities.
Navigation & Pilotage	<p>Have Skipped the boat on a short passage and demonstrated that you can ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientate a chart or map using features and a compass. • Identify hazards from the chart or map. • Identify their position on the chart or map. • Identify distances from the chart and accurately predict expected progress. • Be able to use a hand bearing compass. • Describe the effects of compass deviation and variation. • Use transits to estimate position and hold a course. • Take account for the effects of wind & current on the course to steer. <p>Correctly identify and use buoys and marks when piloting the boat.</p>
Coastal Knowledge	<p>Be able to ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the effect tides can have on your powerboating activities. • Estimate tidal heights using local tide tables. • Describe the effect that tidal heights may have on the rate of flow of tidal currents. • Identify the principal day marks used in IALA A buoyage system and describe their significance.
Further training	<p>Be able to identify what further training courses are available and where to find out about them.</p>

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?

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

