

BOAT SAFETY INFORMATION

Anyone born after Jan. 1st, 1981 is required to meet the State of Ohio's boater license requirement (see "Who Can Operate") and may be able to obtain a temporary boater's certificate by passing a short, multiple choice exam administered by Great Lakes Watersports. **This is a no cost exam and is valid for the day of rental only.** Returning customers will have to pass the exam again.

As a way of preparing for the exam we have provided below a copy of a document on boater safety published by the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources.

We highly recommend that you study this publication as a way of preparing for the temporary boater's test. Almost all the questions from the test come from this document.

OPERATING YOUR BOAT SAFELY

Reckless Operation

Reckless operation laws apply to any person operating any type of vessel and includes persons being towed on water skis or any other device. Reckless operation includes operating:

- Carelessly or heedlessly
- In disregard of the rights or safety of any person, vessel or property
- Without due caution, at a rate of speed or in a manner that endangers any person, vessel or property

Unsafe Operation

Unsafe operation laws apply to any person operating any type of vessel and require that a vessel be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner at all times. Unsafe operation includes:

- Becoming airborne while crossing the wake of another vessel at a distance less than 100 feet or at an unsafe distance
- Operating at a speed and proximity to another vessel (or person being towed on water skis or other devices) that requires either vessel to swerve abruptly to avoid a collision
- Operating less than 200 feet directly behind a person water-skiing
- Weaving through congested traffic

Unsafe conditions

By Ohio law, all of the following are unsafe conditions. An operator may be ordered to remove a vessel from the water if these situations exist:

- Insufficient life jackets
- Insufficient fire extinguisher(s)
- Overloaded, causing insufficient freeboard for the water conditions
- Improper navigation lights
- Fuel leaks or fuel in the bilges
- Inadequate backfire flame control
- Improper ventilation

Safety for PWC Operators: If a PWC engine returns to idle or shuts off during high speed operation, you will lose all ability to control the steering. You must use the throttle to swerve or otherwise maneuver to avoid a collision.

No Wake & Idle Speed Zones

These zones may be marked by buoys with an orange circle. These zones also include all areas within 300 feet of any dock, launch ramp, marina, harbor entrance, etc. Many lakes have an unmarked "shore zone" designated as "no wake." "No wake" and "idle speed" mean the slowest possible speed needed to maintain steerage and maneuverability.

CONTROLLED AREA

EXAMPLES:
No Wake
Idle Speed
Ski Zone



DANGER or HAZARD

EXAMPLES:
Shallow Water
Stumps
Rocks



BOAT EXCLUSION AREA

EXAMPLES:
No Boats
Swim Area
Dam



INFORMATION

EXAMPLES:
Locations
Directions
Distances



OBEYING NAVIGATION RULES

The Navigation Rules are laws which help boat operators avoid collisions. The Navigation Rules include three major responsibilities:

- Practice good seamanship
- Keep a proper lookout
- Maintain a safe speed

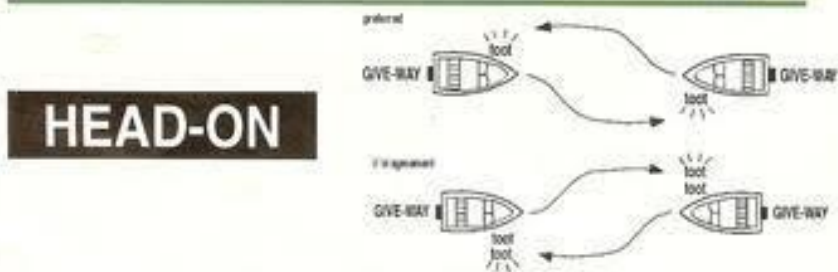
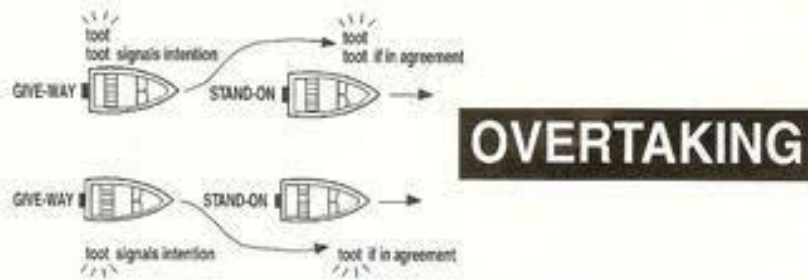
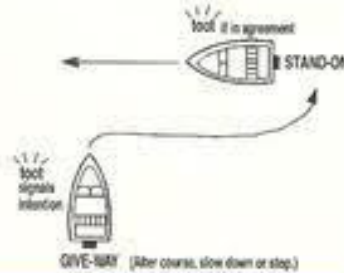
The Navigation Rules include steering rules which direct a vessel's actions when approaching other vessels.

The steering rules use the following terms:

Give-way vessel - a vessel directed by a rule to keep out of the way of another vessel. A give-way vessel must take early and substantial (obvious) action to keep well clear.

Stand-on Vessel - a vessel directed by a rule to maintain its course and speed. A stand-on vessel must take action to avoid a collision if a give-way vessel is not taking necessary action.

CROSSING



When taking action(s) to avoid collision, the action must be made in ample time, must result in passing at a safe distance, and changes in course or speed must be obvious.

Safety Tip: Give-way to boats that are less maneuverable than your boat such as barges, tugs, commercial boats, sailboats and nonpowered boats.