



# National Powerboat Certificate

## National Powerboat Training Scheme

Get wet, Get on the water!

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 <i>ISA Powerboat Crews Certificate</i> 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"> <li>• Planing and / or displacement</li> <li>• Fixed drive, Outboard / Outdrive and / or Waterjet.</li> <li>• Tiller and/or console Controls</li> </ul>
Duration	Where participants already hold the <i>ISA Powerboat Crews Certificate</i> 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.

	<i>By the end of this course you will be able to do the following:</i>
<b>Preparation of boat for use.</b>	Be able to describe how to fit and remove an outboard engine. <i>Be able to safely refuel a boat, stow fuel tanks &amp; connect fuel lines</i> Be able to identify and demonstrate the use of the following equipment: <i>Mooring lines, fenders, anchor and warp, boathook, bilge-pump, bailer, paddles or oars,</i> compass, torch, charts / maps. Be able to identify and describe the use of following equipment: <i>fire extinguisher, first aid kit, flares, whistle,</i> engine spares and tools <i>Be able to stow and secure equipment on board.</i> Have prepared a powerboat for use.
<b>Clothing &amp; Equipment</b>	<i>Be able to select what clothing and footwear to wear while afloat.</i> <i>Be able to 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.</i> <i>Be able to correctly don the PFDs used during the course.</i>



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<p><b>Launch &amp; recovery</b></p>	<p>Be able to identify the main factors to consider when launching &amp; recovering a boat.</p> <p>Be able to describe how to safely &amp; effectively launch and recover a powerboat from a slipway using a road trailer and where possible have demonstrated this.</p> <p>Be able to describe how to prepare a boat for towing on a road trailer.</p>
<p><b>Basic Boat Handling</b></p>	<p><i>Be able to undertake appropriate pre-start checks on the engine and hull.</i></p> <p><i>Be able to start and stop the engine.</i></p> <p><i>Be able to steer the boat ahead and astern while making allowances for windage and current.</i></p> <p><i>Be able to anticipate the distance the boat will carry when in neutral</i></p> <p><i>Have demonstrated that they can keep an effective lookout while underway.</i></p> <p><i>Be able to describe the effect that excessive wash may have on moored boats, river / canal banks, wildlife and other water users such as fishermen.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be able to turn the boat in a confined space, allowing for the effect of wind and current.</li> <li>• Be able to hold the boat off a fixed or moored object, while allowing for the effects of wind and current.</li> <li>• Be able to “ferry glide” the boat across a channel against the current and / or wind.</li> <li>• Be able to identify and use the “paddle wheel” effect of the propeller when manoeuvring.</li> <li>• Be able to describe the effects of loading and trim on the boats handling and safety.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Planing and manoeuvring while on the plane</b></p>	<p><i>When the course is conducted in a planing boat, be able to;</i></p> <p><i>bring a boat safely onto the plane,</i></p> <p><i>steer a straight course,</i></p> <p><i>turn while on the plane</i></p> <p><i>bring the boat off of the plane</i></p> <p><i>and while doing so;</i></p> <p><i>Communicate effectively with crew</i></p> <p><i>Demonstrate observation and look out while driving at speed</i></p> <p><i>Demonstrate awareness for the effects of wash.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When manoeuvring on the plane;</li> <li>• Be able to safely manoeuvre the boat through S-turns and U-turns while maintaining the boat on the plane.</li> <li>• Communicate effectively with crew</li> <li>• Demonstrate observation and look out while driving at speed</li> <li>• Demonstrate awareness for the effects of wash.</li> <li>• Be able to explain how you would use trim tabs and power trim</li> <li>• Be able to explain how to minimize the risk of capsize from high speed manoeuvres</li> </ul>



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<b>Leaving and coming alongside</b>	<p><i>As crew, have demonstrated that you can, when coming alongside and leaving a moored boat or pontoon;</i></p> <p><i>Prepare, use and stow mooring lines</i></p> <p><i>Prepare, use and stow fenders</i></p> <p><i>Safety and effectively use cleats, bollards and rings to both manoeuvre and secure the boat.</i></p> <p><i>Communicate effectively with the skipper and other crew members.</i></p> <p><i>Describe any likely hazards associated with this manoeuvre.</i></p> <p><i>Be able to describe, and as appropriate demonstrate, correct protocols for;</i></p> <p><i>Sharing cleats, bollards &amp; rings</i></p> <p><i>Crossing other boats</i></p> <p><i>The use of fenders</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As helm, have demonstrated that you can successfully bring a boat alongside and then leave a pier, pontoon or moored boat and while doing so;</li><li>• Communicate effectively with crew</li><li>• Prepare the boat</li><li>• Accurately assess wind and / or current</li><li>• Choose an appropriate approach</li><li>• Secure the boat alongside using appropriate lines.</li><li>• Where appropriate this will be done with the boat manoeuvring with the wind and / or current as well as against it.</li></ul>
<b>Securing to a mooring buoy</b>	<p><i>As crew, have demonstrated that you can, when picking up a mooring;</i></p> <p><i>Prepare mooring warp(s) for use</i></p> <p><i>Use the boat hook to recover the buoy</i></p> <p><i>Communicate with the helm</i></p> <p><i>Making fast to the mooring</i></p> <p><i>Release the boat from the mooring.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As helm, have demonstrated that you can successfully bring a boat onto, and then leave, a mooring buoy and while doing so;</li><li>• Communicate effectively with crew</li><li>• Prepare the boat</li><li>• Accurately assess wind and / or current</li><li>• Choose an appropriate approach</li><li>• Be able to describe what action to take when overrunning a mooring buoy or line.</li></ul>

### Where can you go to do this course?

This course can only be run by an ISA Training Centre. All ISA Training Centres have all gone through a rigorous accreditation process to ensure that they provide high quality training in a safe environment. With Training Centres based in every corner of Ireland there are plenty to choose from for training close to home or while on holiday.

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<b>Anchoring</b>	<p><i>As crew, have demonstrated that you can, when anchoring the boat; Prepare the anchor, chain and / or warp for use.</i></p> <p><i>Drop the anchor and pay out chain / warp as directed by the skipper</i></p> <p><i>Safely recover the chain / warp and weigh the anchor.</i></p> <p><i>Secure the anchor, anchor chain and warp.</i></p> <p>As helm, have demonstrated that you can;</p> <p>Select a suitable anchorage</p> <p>Anchor the boat using appropriate anchor and scope</p> <p>Determine whether or not the anchor is holding.</p> <p>Weigh the anchor and leave.</p> <p>Be able to describe the advantages and disadvantages of different types of anchors commonly found on powerboats.</p>
<b>Man Over Board</b>	<p><i>As crew, demonstrate what actions to take when returning to, and then recovering a man overboard.</i></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>
<b>Application of “Rules of the Road”</b>	<p><i>Be able to correctly position the boat relative to a channel and other boats when manoeuvring in confined channels, rivers, canals and harbours.</i></p> <p><i>Be able to identify when risk of collision exists.</i></p> <p>Be able to describe, and where appropriate have applied, the correct actions for both “stand on” and “give way” boats in the following situations;</p> <p>Power vessels meeting head on</p> <p>Power vessels crossing</p> <p>Overtaking boat</p> <p>Power vessel vs. sailing</p> <p>Be able to describe and use the correct sound signals to use when manoeuvring</p> <p>Be able to identify commonly used day marks.</p>

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<b>Regulations</b>	<p><i>Be able to identify and implement the following where they relate to the use of powerboats;</i></p> <p><i>National legislation</i></p> <p>International regulations Local regulations &amp; byelaws</p>
<b>Safety on Board</b>	<p><i>Be able to identify how best to avoid a man-overboard.</i></p> <p><i>Be able to describe how to summon assistance in an emergency.</i></p> <p><i>Be able to describe how to reduce the risk of fire on board and what to do if one occurs.</i></p> <p>Be able to describe what actions you might take in the event of;</p> <p>Engine failure while underway The boat being holed The boat being swamped Capsize The boat running aground</p> <p>Be able to give a safety briefing to the crew.</p> <p>Have demonstrated the ability to safely skipper a powerboat.</p>
<b>Rope work</b>	<p><i>Be able to fasten a line to;</i></p> <p><i>a cleat, mooring bollard and ring</i></p> <p><i>an anchor</i></p> <p><i>Be able to coil and stow a line</i></p> <p><i>Be able to tie a the following knots and identify when they should be used;</i></p> <p><i>Round turn and two half hitches, Clove hitch, Bowline and Sheet bend.</i></p> <p><i>Be able to control (surge) a line under tension using a mooring cleat or bollard.</i></p>
<b>Engines &amp; drives</b>	<p>Be able to describe the advantages and disadvantages of;</p> <p>2 stoke, 4 stroke and diesel engines, Outboard, Out drive, fixed screw and water-jet propulsion Single and twin engines,</p> <p>Be able to describe, and where appropriate demonstrate, the appropriate use of power tilt and trim tabs</p> <p>Be able to conduct routine checks, basic maintenance and basic fault diagnosis on engine, batteries and drive units.</p>

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<b>Types of craft</b>	Be able to describe the advantages and disadvantages of different hull forms with respect to uses and sea keeping ability.
<b>Towing</b>	<i>As crew, be able to set up and secure an astern tow from another boat to allow your own boat to be towed.</i> As helm, be able to secure another boat for towing alongside and astern. be able to secure an alongside tow and a tow astern for your own boat be able to identify the advantages and disadvantages of the two techniques. Describe the effect each technique will have on the handling of the tug and consequent considerations when manoeuvring.
<b>Weather</b>	<i>Be able to describe how weather may affect your powerboating activities.</i> Be able to identify sources of weather forecasts Be able to interpret the forecast with regard to planned activities.
<b>Navigation &amp; pilotage</b>	Have Skipped the boat on a short passage and demonstrated that you can; 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. <i>Correctly identify and use buoys and marks when piloting the boat.</i>
<b>Coastal Knowledge</b>	<i>Be able to describe the effect tides can have on your powerboating activities.</i> Using local tide tables, be able to estimate tidal heights. Be able to describe the effect that tidal heights may have on the rate of flow of tidal currents. Be able to identify the principal day marks used in IALA A buoyage system and describe their significance.
<b>Further training</b>	Be able to identify what further training courses are available and where to find out about them.

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