



# Trained Boat Driver Program Description

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This 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 be:

- equipped with the necessary knowledge to safely operate a boat while towing a water skier
- eligible to drive USA Water Ski-sanctioned club exhibitions/practices and Grassroots events
- eligible to drive for ski schools that are insured through certain insurance companies

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. All drivers of towboats, pick-up boats and any other watercraft in USA Water Ski-sanctioned events must comply with and meet all requirements for boater's training and/or licensing under state law applicable in the driver's state of residence.
2. In addition to the above, boat drivers who tow skiers in USA Water Ski-sanctioned events shall possess a current USA Water Ski or sport discipline driver's rating and must:
  - be a current Active member of USA Water Ski (does not include GrassRoots Active membership)
  - have a current and valid motor vehicle operator's license at all times while they hold a driver's rating (or, in the case of a rated driver who does not currently hold a motor vehicle operator's license, demonstrate that the reason that he/she does not currently hold this license is not due to the fact that his/her motor vehicle operator's license privileges have been suspended or revoked)
  - immediately report to USA Water Ski any suspension or loss of their motor vehicle operator's license
  - meet minimum "safe driving" standards established by USA Water Ski and its sport disciplines at all times while they hold a USA Water Ski or sport discipline driver's rating

**ASPIRING TRAINED DRIVERS:** In addition to the General Requirements outlined above, aspiring Trained Drivers must complete the following steps:

1. **Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Review:** Beginning 4/1/12, applicants must undergo and successfully pass a MVR Review by logging into their "Members-Only" section of USA Water Ski's Web site using their membership number and password and clicking on the "**Driver Programs**" link on the left-hand side of the page. When you click on the "**USA Water Ski Trained Driver**" link, the system will verify your current Active membership and age (if applicable) and forward you to USA Water Ski's third party screening agency's Web site where you will pay the \$12.50 payment and authorize the MVR Review. USA Water Ski and the applicant will be notified with a Pass/Fail status; **AND**
2. **Classroom/On-Water Practical Instruction:** Applicants may choose to complete one of the two options listed below.
  - a. **USA Water Ski-sanctioned Trained Driver Clinic:** Applicants must attend a USA Water Ski-sanctioned Trained Driver Clinic (\$10 fee) and successfully pass both a written and an on-water practical evaluation. A listing of USA Water Ski-sanctioned clinics can be found online under the "**Officials Resources**" section of USA Water Ski's Web site. USA Water Ski can assist individuals wishing to organize a clinic in locating a qualified instructor in their area. Trained Driver Clinics include both a classroom and on-water portion as described below. Attendees of AWSA Drivers' Clinics may be awarded a Trained Driver rating by the senior clinic official provided the attendee meets the on-water practical requirements.

- **Classroom:** General clinic topics include boat handling, the observer, the ski area, starting, driving patterns, picking up a fallen skier, landing a skier, and docking the boat. More specific topics include the observer-skier-driver relationship and individual responsibilities and driving for the first-time, inexperienced, small or large, disabled, kneeboard, and barefoot skier. Other topics include driving of the slalom and trick skier with an introduction to the art of tournament boat driving.
  - **On-Water:** Primary areas of evaluation will include equipment check, starting and maneuvering the boat, communicating with the skier, acceleration, steering, speed adjustment and stabilization, returning to a fallen skier, landing a skier, returning the boat to the dock, and overall safety consciousness.
- b. **I-Drive Boats Course:** Applicants must take the I-Drive Boats online course in place of a Trained Driver Clinic by going to <http://www.idriveboats.com/usawaterski/> and following the directions provided. Be sure to use promo code **USAWS38** for a significant discount in the cost of the course. Once the course has been completed and the written evaluation passed, I-Drive Boats will forward a certificate of completion to the applicant. The applicant can then set up the on-water practical evaluation with a qualified Sport Discipline-rated Regular (Class B) or Senior (Class C) Driver in conjunction with a USA Water Ski-sanctioned event. Upon successfully passing the on-water practical evaluation, the examiner will forward the necessary documentation to USA Water Ski and the Trained Driver will be rating awarded.

**RATING MAINTENANCE:** In order to maintain a Trained Driver rating, the individual must complete one of the options listed below.

**Option 1:**

- participate as a driver in at least one (1) USA Water Ski-sanctioned Grassroots tournament per calendar year and your information recorded accurately on the **Tournament Officials' Record** form that is returned to USA Water Ski with the required post tournament documents. It is also recommended that you also have this work recorded and signed off on the top half of the **Trained Driver Practical Experience Record**. This record will serve as an important backup to USA Water Ski's data on your work in case of a discrepancy; **AND**
- attend a USA Water Ski-sanctioned Trained Driver Clinic or take the online I-Drive Boats Course once every four (4) years

**Option 2:**

- perform ten (10) hours of driving practical experience at a camp, ski school or USA Water Ski-sanctioned club exhibition/practice per calendar year and the experience verified and signed off on a **Trained Driver Practical Experience Record** form by a Camp Recreation Director, Ski School Manager or Safety Coordinator where the experience occurred, USA Water Ski-recognized Course Conductor, Sport Discipline-rated Regular (Class B) or Senior (Class C) Driver or other USA Water Ski-rated Senior Official; **AND**
- attend a USA Water Ski-sanctioned Trained Driver Clinic or take the online I-Drive Boats Course once every four (4) years

The **Trained Driver Practical Experience Record** must be submitted to USA Water Ski's Officials' Coordinator before Nov. 1 of each year to receive maintenance credit. If you are maintaining your rating with the online I-Drive Boats course, please forward a copy of your **I-Drive Boats Certificate of Completion** to USA Water Ski's Officials' Coordinator.

**CLINIC INSTRUCTORS:** Sport discipline-rated Regular (Class B) or Senior (Class C) Drivers are eligible to serve as instructors for the Trained Drivers Program. Individuals with current Trained Driver and Safety Coordinator ratings may apply to become a Clinic Instructor by assisting a Senior (Class C) Driver at two (2) USA Water Ski-sanctioned Trained Driver clinics. This experience must be documented by the senior clinic official and forwarded to USA Water Ski's Officials' Coordinator.