



# NSSA Tested Driver Program Description

1251 Holy Cow Road, Polk City, FL 33868-8200

Phone: (800) 533-2972 / (863) 324-4341 ★ Fax: (863) 325-8259 ★ E-mail: [officials@usawaterski.org](mailto:officials@usawaterski.org)

The three-step NSSA Tested Drivers' program consists of education, participation and evaluation (written and practical) and is designed not only to improve the quality of show ski driving, but also to maintain it. The program instructs show ski drivers, beginner through advanced, on how to safely operate a towboat during a USA Water Ski-sanctioned club practice, ski show exhibition or USA Water Ski/NSSA-sanctioned tournament. The major emphasis of this program is safety consciousness at all times. Upon completion of the program, the driver will have the knowledge and skills to implement all necessary precautions to safely tow skiers.

**NSSA RATED DRIVER CLASSIFICATIONS:** For the purpose of driving for "Show Skiing," three (3) classifications of NSSA Learner's Permit and Tested Driver ratings are offered. The written testing covers aspects of all three classifications where as practical testing is conducted for each classification.

- Class A Driver Learner's Permit and Class A Driver Ratings - covers inboard and single engine outboard boats
- Class B Driver Rating - covers twin rig and Class A boats
- Class C Driver Rating - covers triple rig and Class A and B boats

## GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. All drivers of towboats, pick-up boats and any other watercraft in USA Water Ski/NSSA sanctioned practices, exhibitions, clinics and tournaments 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. For more information on boating resources and your state's boating laws, visit the "[Waterways](#)" page on USA Water Ski's Web site.
2. In addition to the above, boat drivers who tow skiers in USA Water Ski/NSSA sanctioned practices, exhibitions, clinics and tournaments shall possess a current Learner's Permit or NSSA Tested Driver rating and must:
  - be at least 18 years of age and a current Active member of USA Water Ski
  - have a current and valid motor vehicle operator's license at all times while they hold an NSSA 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 NSSA at all times

**LEARNER'S PERMITS:** All aspiring NSSA Tested Drivers must obtain a Learner's Permit for the classification for which they are applying.

### A. ASPIRING NSSA CLASS A DRIVER

1. In addition to the general requirements above, aspiring NSSA Class A Drivers must:
  - successfully complete the online certification course (\$20) to obtain a **NSSA Class A Driver Learner's Permit** which consists of video instruction as well as a written test (passing = 90%).
  - undergo and successfully pass a Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) review (\$12.50)
  - successfully complete an on-water practical evaluation performed by a NSSA Tested Driver
2. Applicants can purchase the online course by clicking on the "[Member Login](#)" icon located in the upper right-hand corner of USA Water Ski's Web site (under the search function) and logging into the "Members-Only" section using their membership number and password and clicking on the applicable link. The system will verify that you meet the requirements noted above and redirect you to USA Water Ski's online training Web site.

3. Upon successful course completion, a Class A Driver Learner's Permit will be issued which allows the permit holder to operate a Class A towboat in USA Water Ski-sanctioned club practices/ski show exhibitions and USA Water Ski/NSSA-sanctioned tournaments.

## **B. ASPIRING NSSA CLASS B AND C DRIVERS**

1. In addition to the general requirements above, aspiring NSSA Class B and C Drivers must:
  - hold a current NSSA Class A or Class B Driver's rating
  - complete a ***NSSA Class B and C Learner's Permit Application*** and submit to USA Water Ski
2. Upon application approval, a NSSA Tested Driver Learner's Permit will be issued for the classification requested which allows the permit holder to operate the applicable class towboat in USA Water Ski-sanctioned club practices/ski show exhibitions and USA Water Ski/NSSA-sanctioned tournaments.

## **C. PERMIT EXPIRATION**

1. Learner's Permits are valid for two (2) years from the date of issue at which time the permit expires. The applicable NSSA Tested Driver practical testing must be completed by the end of the two-year renewal period in conjunction with a USA Water Ski-sanctioned NSSA Tested Driver Clinic.
2. The Learner's Permit may be renewed only once, subject to the following conditions:
  - The permit holder must pass the written renewal test; and
  - The NSSA Tested Driver's on-water practical evaluation must be completed by the end of the additional two-year renewal period

**CLINICS AND WRITTEN/PRACTICAL EVALUATIONS:** Written and practical evaluations are conducted in conjunction with USA Water Ski-sanctioned NSSA Driver Clinics. Contact USA Water Ski to locate sanctioned clinics or qualified clinic instructors in your area. Club(s) hosting clinics must provide their own skiers for the on-water portions of the program. Upon successful completion of the applicable testing, attendees will be awarded a NSSA Class A, B or C driver rating.

## **RATING MAINTENANCE:**

1. In order to maintain a NSSA Tested Driver rating, a driver must:
  - ✓ drive in one (1) USA Water Ski/NSSA-sanctioned show ski tournament per calendar year and your information recorded on the ***NSSA Tournament Drivers' Record*** submitted for your team, signed by the Chief Judge and returned to USA Water Ski Headquarters with the required post tournament documents; **OR**
  - ✓ drive ten (10) hours of USA Water Ski-sanctioned show ski club practices/exhibitions per calendar year. Practical driving experience must be documented on the ***NSSA Tested Driver Personal Tournament/Practical Experience Record*** and signed off by the appropriate verifying official. This form must be returned to USA Water Ski Headquarters before **December 31<sup>st</sup>** of the following year. **A late fee of \$25 must be submitted if the form is received after the December 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.**
  - ✓ undergo and successfully pass a Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) review once every two years (\$12.50). USA Water Ski will send e-mail notices to Tested Drivers every odd year with instructions on how to complete the review.
2. If a NSSA-rated driver does not fulfill his/her maintenance requirements for over a year, he/she will have to retake the practical driving portion of the test to be reinstated.

**BECOMING AN EXAMINER:** To become a NSSA Driver's Clinic Instructor, you must:

1. attend the program and successfully pass both the written and practical evaluations
2. assist a NSSA Driver Clinic Instructor with three (3) additional USA Water Ski-sanctioned NSSA Driver Clinics with a minimum of three students per clinic
3. be evaluated at an additional clinic by an examiner other than the one who you assisted with the first three clinics. This examiner will evaluate you and then submit a written report to the Drivers Committee Chair as to your ability to run a clinic. Your application will then be presented to the committee where it will be voted on to accept or reject you as a clinic instructor.