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 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-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-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 (GrassRoots members are not eligible)
   - 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

MOTOR VEHICLE RECORD (MVR) REVIEWS: All NSSA tested drivers must successfully pass a MVR Review to acquire a driver’s rating and again every two years thereafter to maintain a driver’s rating. To complete the MVR Review:

- Click here to log into your “Members-Only” section of USA Water Ski’s Web site using your membership number and password
- Click on the “Drivers’ Programs” link from the navigational menu on the left-hand side of the page
- Click on the “Purchase and Authorize a Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Review” link and follow the instructions to pay the $12.50 screening fee
- Click on the link on your payment receipt to go to USA Water Ski’s screening agency’s Web site to submit your authorization

Typically it takes two to three business days for the results to be returned to USA Water Ski. Notification of passing will be emailed to you by USA Water Ski. The screening agency will notify you directly if you fail the review.

Drivers who fail an MVR Review will have their current driver’s rating suspended and will not be authorized to serve in any boat driving capacity at USA Water Ski-sanctioned events until they have successfully passed an MVR Review and had their driver’s rating restored. Individuals who successfully pass an MVR Review within five years of being suspended, will be eligible to retake the on-water practical evaluation to reinstate their previous driver’s rating held at the time of suspension. Individuals who do not successfully pass an MVR Review within five years of being suspended will be required to take the online course or attend a classroom clinic before being allowed to retake the on-water practical evaluation to reinstate their previous driver’s rating. Prior to testing for reinstatement, drivers must acquire the appropriate learner’s permit to be eligible to drive at any sanctioned event.
LEARNER’S PERMITS: In addition to the general requirements above, aspiring NSSA Tested Drivers must obtain a Learner’s Permit for the classification for which they are applying as outlined below.

A. NSSA CLASS A DRIVER LEARNER’S PERMIT:
   1. Successfully pass a Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Review as outlined in the instructions above
   2. Complete the online course and successfully pass the written exam:
      - Click here to log into your “Members-Only” section of USA Water Ski’s Web site using your membership number and password
      - Click on the “Drivers’ Programs” link from the navigational menu on the left-hand side of the page
      - Click on the “NSSA Class A Driver Learner’s Permit Course” link from the submenu and follow the instructions to register for and purchase the course ($20)
      - Upon successful completion of the course and passing the written exam, you may download the “On-Water Practical Evaluation” form
   3. Successfully pass the on-water practical evaluation administered by a NSSA Tested Class A, B or C rated driver
      - To locate a qualified driver in your area, go to the home page of USA Water Ski’s Web site (www.USAWATERSKI.org) and click on the “Officials’ Resources” link from the navigational menu on the left hand side of the page
      - Click on the “Officials’ Directory” link from the submenu
         a. Select the applicable region or state(s)
         b. Sport Discipline: “NSS”
         c. Rating Type: “Driver”
         d. Level: “All”
         e. Click on the “Search” button to retrieve the listing of qualified drivers
      - Upon successful completion of the practical evaluation, the test administrator should return the practical evaluation form to USA Water Ski’s Official’s Coordinator via email, fax or mail
      - USA Water Ski will verify that the applicant has met all necessary requirements, issue the learner’s permit and send a notification letter via e-mail.

   Class A Driver Learner’s Permits are valid for two years from the date of issue at which time the permit expires. If the driver does not complete the Class A Driver on-water practical evaluation to advance to a Class A Driver before the permit expires, the driver can request a one-time two-year renewal of the permit by driving a USA Water Ski/NSSA-sanctioned show ski tournament or driving ten hours of USA Water Ski-sanctioned show ski club practices/exhibitions each of the last two years.

B. NSSA CLASS B AND C DRIVER LEARNER’S PERMIT:
   1. must hold a current NSSA Class A or Class B Driver’s rating (a waiver request may be submitted in writing to the NSSA Drivers’ Committee when a team does not have a specific boat related to each rating)
   2. complete a NSSA Class B and C Learner’s Permit Application and submit to USA Water Ski
   3. USA Water Ski will verify that the applicant has met all necessary requirements, issue the applicable learner’s permit and send a notification letter via e-mail.

   Class B and C Driver Learner’s Permits are valid for two years from the date of issue at which time the permit expires. If the driver does not complete the Class B or C Driver on-water practical evaluation to advance to a Class B or C Driver before the permit expires, the driver can request a renewal of the permit by driving a USA Water Ski/NSSA-sanctioned show ski tournament or driving ten hours of USA Water Ski-sanctioned show ski club practices/exhibitions each of the last two years.

CLINICS AND WRITTEN/PRACTICAL EVALUATIONS: Written and practical evaluations are conducted in conjunction with USA Water Ski-sanctioned NSSA Drivers’ Clinics conducted by a NSSA-Approved Test Administrator. There is a $10 clinic fee required for each participating driver. Upon successful completion of the applicable testing, attendees will be awarded a NSSA Class A, B or C driver rating.

Locating a Clinic: Go to http://www.usawaterski.org/pages/officials/OfficialsClinics.pdf to view a list of currently sanctioned clinics. Check back often as this list is updated as new clinics are sanctioned.

Locating a Clinic Instructor: For a list of NSSA-approved test administrators qualified to conduct a clinic, go to the home page of USA Water Ski’s Web site (www.USAWATERSKI.org) and click on the “Officials’ Resources” link from the navigational menu on the left hand side of the page. Click on the “Officials’ Directory” link from the submenu and make the following selections.
   • Regions = select all regions
• Sport Discipline = “NSS”
• Rating Type = “Driver”
• Level = “All”
• Limit to Instructors = “True”
• Click on the “Search” button to retrieve the listing of qualified drivers

Sanctioning a Clinic: To locate a NSSA Drivers’ Clinic Sanction Form, go to the home page of USA Water Ski’s Web site (www.USAWATERSKI.org), click on the “Officials’ Resources” link from the navigational menu on the left hand side of the page and then click on the “Clinic Sanctioning Forms” link. Clubs hosting clinics must provide their own skiers for the on-water practical portion of the clinic. Refer to the “Host Club Responsibilities” located on page two of the sanction application for additional information on hosting a clinic.

RATING MAINTENANCE: In order to maintain a NSSA Tested Driver rating, a driver must:
• drive in one USA Water Ski-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
• perform ten hours of USA Water Ski-sanctioned show ski club practices/exhibitions per calendar year and the experience documented on the NSSA Tested Driver Individual or Team Practical Experience Record and signed off by the appropriate verifying official. This form must be returned to USA Water Ski Headquarters before December 31st of the following year. A late fee of $25 must be submitted if the form is received after the December 31st deadline.
• successfully pass a Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Review once every two years
• Beginning 1/1/2017, attend a continuing education clinic or course once every four years, which can include any of the following:
  1. USA Water Ski-sanctioned NSSA Drivers’ Clinic conducted by a NSSA-approved Test Administrator (includes classroom and on-water practical evaluations conducted at a clinic)
  2. Proof of completion of a NASBLA (National Association of Safe Boating Law Administrators)-approved safety boating course.

USA Water Ski will notify drivers via email when their MVR Review and/or clinic are due for renewal.

HARDSHIP RENEWAL: If a driver is unable to fulfill the rating maintenance requirements due to an event or condition over which he has no control, he may eligible to petition the NSSA Drivers’ Committee for a hardship renewal. Hardship Petition request forms are available upon request from USA Water Ski Headquarters.

RATING REINSTATEMENT: If a driver does not fulfill his maintenance requirements for a given year, he will be required to retake the practical driving portion of the test to be reinstated.

BECOMING AN EXAMINER: To become a NSSA Driver’s Clinic Instructor/Test Administrator, 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.
  4. The procedures are following.

Student Driver Examiner/ Instructor Process
A person who would like to become an NSSA driver examiner/instructor will have to follow the below procedure:
  1. Submit a letter of intent to the Driver Committee and complete the NSSA Tested Driver Program Examiner Qualification form (available in the P&P)

The letter must include:
• Experience in water skiing
  o Include tournaments – skiing, driving, officiating, etc
• Experience in driving a boat, including the following:
o any current ratings  
o tournaments driven  
o average hours per year driving NSSA sanctioned events  
o average hours per year driving other USAWS sanctioned events

• Coaching or teaching experience
• Current and future commitment to the sport
• Current and past club affiliations
• Reason for wanting to become an NSSA Driver Examiner

2. The candidate may undergo an interview (in person or by phone) with the driver committee at one of the committee meetings, WI Think Tank/Expo, D1 Nationals, or NSSA yearly meeting or via teleconference.

3. The boat driver committee will review the letter of intent and interview, and make a determination if the candidate is suitable to proceed with the student driver examiner process.

4. Assist with at least one classroom or dryland clinic with an accredited examiner

5. Teach under the supervision of a current accredited NSSA driver examiner a complete classroom or dryland clinic
   • This may include a regular classroom for ratings, or a clinic held at a sanctioned event
     o Sanctioned events may include items such as
       ▪ Think Tank/Expo and Conference, other water ski conferences
       ▪ Ski Motion/Ski Camp/Etc.

6. Assist with at least 3 on water practical exams with an accredited examiner
   • Student examiner/instructor will teach/instruct/examine a portion of the 3rd session

7. Student will do a complete on water exam under the supervision of an accredited NSSA driver examiner who the student has not done been with for an on water practical exam.

8. Once the above steps are complete the Driver Committee will review the student’s activities and make a determination of qualifications.

The student can do this in any order but must assist in each of the classroom and practical on water clinics before doing a student teaching/instructing of those portions.