



Trained Boat Driver Practical Evaluation

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Name _____ USA-WS Member Number _____

Daytime Phone _____ Email Address _____

Instructions: Upon successful completion of the *Motor Vehicle Record (MVR) Review* and *USA Water Ski Online Trained Boat Driver Course (or written test at an in-person Trained Driver Clinic)*, an aspiring trained boat driver must satisfactorily complete the on-water practical evaluation administered by a USA Water Ski-rated Trained Boat Driver or sport discipline-rated driver. Refer to the [USA Water Ski Trained Boat Driver Program Description](#) for more information.

The student must operate the towboat while towing a skier and demonstrate proficiency in the areas listed below. The session will begin with the boat docked and the engine off. The Test Administrator will ride in the boat as the student completes all of the necessary steps to take the skier on a safe ride and return him and the boat safely to the starting area. All students must tow at least one skier; however, it is preferable that all students pull two skiers.

GRADING SCALE: 1 = Poor | 2 = Below Average | 3 = Average | 4 = Above Average | 5 = Excellent

SKILL	SKIER #1 (Score 1-5)	SKIER #2 (Score 1-5)	TOTAL	AVERAGE (Total ÷ 2)
Preliminary Start-Up Procedures:				
• Equipment Check – check safety equipment, vapors, bilge, blower, etc.				
• Starting and Maneuvering the Boat – check for people and obstructions in the water, proper start procedure with driver in operator’s seat, etc.				
• Communication with Skier – explain the intended boat path, determine if the skier is a beginner and if he knows the skier safety signals, etc.				
Pulling the Skier:				
• Acceleration – proper throttle control for the ability/experience of the skier				
• Steering – directional control while monitoring boat traffic, obstructions and communication with observer				
• Stabilizing the Speed – ability to control speed during and after take-off				
• Adjusting the Speed to Skier Request – ability to react to observer input and stabilize speed at a new level				
• Return to Fallen Skier – proper use of “half-turn” or “key-hole” pattern passing downwind/current with the skier on the driver’s side of the boat				
• Landing the Skier – ability to control direction and speed of the boat while maintaining proper relationships to obstructions, docks and landing area				
• Returning Boat to the Dock – ability to control and maneuver boat in docking area with attention to possible swimmers, equipment and obstructions				
Overall Safety Consciousness: Awareness of all safety factors with particular consideration to the skier, boat and skier area				
A SCORE OF 2 OR BELOW IN ANY SKILL IS CONSIDERED FAILING			TOTAL:	
Circle One: Pass Fail			TOTAL ABOVE ÷ 11:	

Test Administrator’s Name _____ Signature _____

USA-WS Member # _____ Sport Discipline/Driver Rating _____ Evaluation Date _____

Once completed, the Test Administrator should return this form to USA Water Ski Headquarters via e-mail, fax or mail