

Safety Tips for Personal Watercraft Riders

Adapted from “Ontario Boating Regs & Tips for PWC Riders”, Original by Craig Nicholson

An easy safe rule of thumb is that all the same rules that apply to every small powered vessel in every province apply to jet skis. Speculation is that riders of PWC may be stopped more frequently than other boats.

Ontario Boating Regs Require Two Licences

Canada has two “licences” necessary for the operation of a boat. Both are issued by Transport Canada.

1. The “Pleasure Craft Licence” is a unique authorized set of numbers on each side of the watercraft. (Similar to a licence plate system.)
 - a. Note: Buyers of a used PWC must apply for a licence transfer.
2. The “Pleasure Craft Operator’s Licence” is comparable to a driver’s licence on the water.
 - a. You get it after successfully completing an online safety test.
 - b. You must always be in possession of it while riding or face a \$250 fine.
 - c. You must be 16 or older to operate a PWC without supervision.

Ontario Boating Regs for Shoreline Speed

Since 2013, it has been illegal to operate any powerboat faster than 10km/h within 30 metres (100’) of shore.

- This is especially important around fragile shorelines, docks, and when heading to shore yourself.
- It is important to slow down going past paddlers, anchored anglers, swimmers, divers, moored boats or marinas (local docking areas).

Ontario Boating Regs for Speeding

Unless officially posted, there is no speed limit on open water.

- Remember that the *Small Vessel Regulations* include a Prohibition Against Careless Operation and the *Criminal Code of Canada* states that dangerous operating practices are illegal.
- This includes excessive speed, wake jumping close behind another boat

Ontario Boating Regs for on Board Equipment

Mandatory safety equipment while riding include wearing properly fitting personal flotation devices (operator and passenger), waterproof flashlight, a sound-signalling device and a buoyant towrope.

Other Things It’s Good to Know

- Navigation basics to avoid getting lost
- Effective docking strategies
- Basic watercraft repairs.

“We’re on the water to have fun, not to deal with hassles or cause other troubles!”

For the full article see: <https://intrepidcottager.com/ontario-boating-regs>