

Ski Boat Driver Award (SBDA) Course

Requirements

Candidates:

- Must be over the age of 16 at the time of registration
- Must be a member of British Water Ski and Wakeboard (can be arranged on the day)
- Must be in possession of a SBDA Candidate Manual (available from the BWSW or download)

Course length:

This is a one-day course (approx 6 hrs) and is charged at £150.00 inc vat. This does not include the cost of BWSW membership at £45.00 or the license fees of £20.00 for the SBDA and £25.00 for the ICC.

The time required to complete the course will depend on the candidate's boat driving abilities.

Those candidates without any previous boat handling experience will be given some tuition and the opportunity to get some practice in during the day.

Those with previous boat handling experience should be able to complete the course in the day if the instructor is satisfied with the candidate's driving proficiency.

In either case, if additional tuition and practice is considered to be necessary by the instructor, it can be arranged for a convenient time and will be charged at £20/hr

Course content

We will cover everything in the SBDA candidate manual (so it's necessary that you have read it thoroughly before starting the course). We will look at practical boat handling skills and driving for skiers and/or wakeboarders.

The actual time spent on the practical and classroom aspects will vary according to the candidates' experience and ability to grasp the essentials

Tests

There are 22 multiple choice questions for the SBDA (Ski Boat Driver Award) The pass mark is 18 or above

There are another 14 multiple choice questions for your ICC (International Certificate of Competence) (Euroregs for Inland Waterways) The pass mark is 11 or above

Practical

The practical driving test will last approx 15 minutes and will involve towing a skier or boarder over a short route and carrying out the following exercises:

Deep water start, Steady tow at even speed along length of lake, Smooth turn at the end whilst maintaining an even speed, Return to skier/rider after a fall, Deep water start, Smooth turn in opposite direction, Recover fallen rider again, Return skier safely to the dock, Docking boat safely.

The following points are important:

Remain seated AT ALL TIMES. It's the observer's job to handle the rope, watch the skier and relay signals, not your's.

One hand on throttle – one on steering. No need for two hands on steering. Only way to control boat.

Keep rope length from banks.

Remember - IDLE or PLANING – no in-between!!

The test requires and therefore practice will include:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rope | Boat driven SLOWLY to tight line
Clear of snags
Skier ready at tight line |
| Pull up/start | Skier ready and shouts Hit It
LOOK FORWARD BEFORE PULLING AWAY – FAIL POINT
Reasonable Acceleration for weight of skier
Constant speed and straight course |
| Turns | Smooth turn with reasonable radius
Watch skier in mirror
Back down 1 st wake. |
| Fallen skier | Shut throttle immediately unless skier is distressed. – FAIL POINT
Smooth turn AT IDLE and return to skier AT IDLE - FAIL POINT Remember Idle or Planing!
Skier on drivers side at all times - FAIL POINT |
| Rope | Boat driven SLOWLY to tight line
Clear of snags
Skier ready at tight line |
| Pull up | Skier ready and shouts Hit It
LOOK FORWARD BEFORE PULLING AWAY – FAIL POINT
Reasonable Acceleration for weight of skier
Constant speed and straight course |
| Turns | (opposite direction) Smooth turn with reasonable radius
Watch skier in mirror
Back into wake. |
| Finish | Correct approach to drop off. Explain and diagram.
Idle when dropped off - Remember Idle or Planing!
Slow approach to docking - Remember Idle or Planing!
SAFE docking – no hot dogging. |

The **FAIL POINT** items are **Immediate** fail points. The examiner will assess performance on all other points and mark according to the level of competence displayed on them.