

Scout Rules Aide Memoire - Powerboating

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This document exists to support applicants for permits in regard to key scouting rules. It is not comprehensive and does not replace POR or the factsheets.

Sources of information: Policy Organisation and Rules - POR - defines the Scout Association's rules. Factsheets expand on these rules and support them in implementation. Both can be accessed via: www.scouts.org.uk - Members area - Search: Powerboating

What is Powerboating? Power boats are powered by an engine and do not have, and are not designed to have accommodation and where all people on board can be seen by the helm at all times. Other powered vessels are Narrowboating or Motor Cruising.

Types of permit: (assuming no restrictions)

- **Personal** – Allows a young person (under 18) to take part in powerboating with others with a personal powerboating permit.
- **Lead** – Allows the permit holder to lead powerboating for a single boat, which they must remain in at all times.
- **Supervisory** – Allows the permit holder to remotely supervise up to 3 powerboats. Each group must have a designated leader, and the permit holder must be able to communicate with each group, provide prompt assistance and is in/or has immediate access to a rescue craft. The group leader remains as such only while the activity in question is being undertaken - it is not a permanent role. Young people can be group leaders, as long as they possess the relevant knowledge, skills and competence.

Classes of waters: It is important to be aware of the classification of waters on which your permit allows you to operate. The National Waters directory is at: <http://www.scouts.org.uk/waterways> This is a guide to waters, but should be read in conjunction with rule 9.44 of POR.

Water classes are: C (A permit is required for powerboating on C class waters.), B1, B2, B3, A

Risk assessment: Every Scouting activity should have a risk assessment. For members of TeamViking, a generic risk assessment has been undertaken and can be found at:

wac.waltonviking.org.uk or via the GSL. This does not replace the need to undertake an “on the day” assessment, to take account of the prevailing circumstances and conditions..

Intouch: Every Scout Activity should have a method of contacting participants and families - known as “In Touch”

First Aid: There must be immediate access to a first aider who holds a Scout First Response first aid certificate or higher.

Personal Buoyancy: Must be worn by all.

Weather Forecast: A weather forecast must have been obtained and be acted upon.

Non Swimmers: Non swimmers (rule 9.42) must have 1:1 cover and an appropriate buoyancy aid or lifejacket. No more than 1 non swimmer in a craft unless a 1:1 ratio can be maintained within the boat.

Boat Checking: All boats and equipment must be checked at the start of a session.

Communication: There should be a clear safety briefing for groups undertaking activities.

Adults: Whilst Adult only groups do not require permits (POR 9.8), any groups involving young people do require all non-permit holding adults to be included in the ratios.

Emergency Action: After rendering immediate aid and ensuring the safety of all unimpacted participants, the group leader must inform the Duty Officer, the relevant GSL, the relevant District Commissioner, and Headquarters (in that order). If the emergency occurred during a national governing body training session, the relevant body should also be informed.

National Governing Body: The national governing body for powerboat activities is the Royal Yachting Association (RYA). Information on RYA policy and procedure can be sought via www.rya.org.uk

Keeping a log: We recommend keeping a simple log of your water activities. This will help you develop in the activity and assist in renewing your permit. If you hold a national governing body

qualification, you may be required to keep such a log in order that your qualification remains valid: consult the relevant body for more information.

Finally, we would remind you of the risks inherent in water activities and the value of caution and preparedness. Please do consider the risks and benefits before undertaking any activity, on land or on the water.