

Safe Powerboat Handling Certification as a Level 1 Prerequisite

To Sailing Program Directors:
Subject: Certification Changes

Recent changes to the NASBLA certification standards require every NASBLA course to contain at least 8 - 11 hours of NASBLA material. Previously, the Level 1 course contained a powerboat skills element was NASBLA approved and all candidates took a short "Boating Basics" examination to meet this requirement. The National Faculty recommended to the Training Committee that Safe Power Boat Handling certification become a prerequisite to the Level 1 Instructor Course to address the generally poor powerboat handling skills of many Level 1 Sailing Instructors. The Level I course will not receive NASBLA re-certification.

In the interim all candidates taking the Level 1 Course in 2006 will have to have their state's safe boating certificate. In states that do not have one, national certification will suffice. It is preferred that candidates take Safe Power Boat Handling but state/national certification can be obtained by taking an approved course or by taking the test on-line. Two such URLs are <http://boatsafe.com/nauticalknowhow/boating/index.htm> <http://www.boatus.org/onlinecourse/>

SPBH certification can be obtained by either taking the course under a US SAILING Powerboat Instructor using the proper certification materials or for experienced powerboat operators the certification may be challenged as per the certification standards. Locally, Gretchen Stang and Jim Ryan both are US SAILING Power Boat Instructors. For information, contact Gretchen at gretchens190@aol.com or at 631-583-8603.

Cruising Powerboat Program

Based on input from the Commercial Committee, the NATFAC is developing a multi-tier Cruising Powerboat Program as follows:

Power Level 1 Certification (2006)

Prerequisites: None

Equipment: approx. 30' with single or twin screws & appropriate equipment

Curriculum: (approx. 2 days)

NASBLA approved, basic systems & boat handling, basic anchoring, communication, command & control, weather, safety, knots, navigation aids, navigation rules, charts & basic piloting

Power Level 2 Certification (2006)

Prerequisites: Course/Level 1 Certification

Equipment: approx. 39' with single or twin screws & appropriate equipment

Curriculum: (approx. 3 days)

Intermediate boat handling & systems, spring lines, bow thruster, advanced anchoring, mooring, communication, command & control, bridges, locks, vessel traffic separation, daytime trip planning, meals, emergencies, navigation & piloting, GPS, radar, dinghy management (optional).

Optional: introduction to nighttime operation

Power Level 3 Certification (2007)

Prerequisites: Course/Level 2 Certification

Co Nav Certification (power sp)

Equipment: approx. 40' with single or twin screws & appropriate equipment

CPM Curriculum: (approx. 4-5 days)

Systems (fuel & waste management), weather, trip planning, working in a seaway, sea anchors/drogues, night bar crossing, fog navigation, emergencies, action plans, SOPs

Instructor Certification will provide crossovers for both existing Powerboat Instructors and Keelboat Cruising Instructors. Crossover programs are being looked at for early Spring next year.