



# Safety Guidelines Personal Water Craft Marine Safety



## Personal water craft

Personal water craft (PWC) – often called jet skis - must be registered with Department of Transport and are subject to an annual registration fee.

PWCs are regarded as powerboats as far as the rules are concerned, meaning there are rules covering the age of skippers, safety equipment, speed and areas of operation.



Stay safe on your PWC

## Requirements for PWCs

### Recreational Skipper's Ticket

You must hold a Recreational Skipper's Ticket (RST) to operate a PWC. A skipper of a PWC aged between 14 and 16 years who holds a RST must only operate a PWC during daylight hours and at a maximum speed of 8 knots.

Wear your lifejacket



### Wear your lifejacket

- Every person on board a PWC must wear a lifejacket (minimum level 50S) at all times, from launching until retrieval.
- For more information about lifejackets, scan the QR code.



### In unprotected waters

Additional to wearing a minimum level 50S lifejacket, when operating in unprotected waters beyond 400 metres from the shore, you also require:

- A GPS-enabled Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or wear a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB)
- At least two handheld red flares and two handheld orange flares. Electronic Visual Distress Signals (EVDS) may be carried instead of flares if a GPS-enabled EPIRB is carried or PLB is worn
- A marine radio when travelling beyond 4 nautical miles from shore in the ocean.

## You're the skipper, you're responsible

It is illegal for skippers to have drugs in their system or blow .05 or more for alcohol. Limits and penalties are the same if you're on the road or on the water.



## Speed limits

PWCs are not allowed to travel at a speed or in a way that causes a nuisance or damage to people or other vessels or causes damage or erosion to the bank or property.

PWCs travelling more than 8 knots must not be driven:

- through an arch of a bridge (unless water skiing is specifically permitted);
- in or through a mooring area;
- in any water having a depth of less than 3 metres (except ski areas);
- within 15 metres of a vessel underway; and
- within 50 metres of:
  - (i) a moored vessel;
  - (ii) a person in the water;
  - (iii) a jetty or wharf; or
  - (iv) a river bank or low water mark.



Excessive speed can kill

Keep a lookout



## Water skiing

When using a PWC to tow a skier you must follow all rules and regulations for water skiing.

- There must be a minimum crew of two on a PWC; the skipper and an observer. The observer who must be at least 14 years of age, faces backwards to watch the person being towed, whilst the skipper must be at least 17 years of age and hold an RST, faces forward to maintain lookout.
- PWC operators need to familiarise themselves with the rules and regulations for each ski area they use. Scan the QR code to find the rules for each area in our boating guides.
- For more information about water skiing, scan the QR code.



## Freestyling, wake and wave jumping

Freestyling is driving a PWC in a way that the skipper of another vessel would be unable to predict your course or speed to avoid a collision with you.

Wave and wake jumping is driving a PWC over a wave or swell with the aim of becoming airborne.

Freestyling and wake jumping is prohibited within:

- any speed restricted area;
- 30 metres of another PWC; and
- 50 metres of another vessel or person in the water.

Freestyling is prohibited on the Swan Canning Riverpark except in the gazetted freestyle area at the Narrows Bridge.



Freestyle safely

## Prohibited areas for PWC

You cannot use a PWC in the Swan Estuarine Marine Park or in waters upstream of the Windan Bridge in East Perth.

Always check the information signs at boat launching ramps for any restrictions, check on Deckee or download the local boating guide before using your PWC.

## Tow-in surfing

Tow-in surfing is a technique where a PWC tows a surfer onto a breaking wave. There are regulations for tow-in surfing in WA. Scan the QR code to learn more.



## Aerial freestyle devices

Aerial freestyle devices are such craft as jetpacks, hover-boards and fly-boards.

There are safety equipment requirements and permitted areas of operation for these devices. Scan the QR code to learn more.



## Stay safe on your PWC



Slow down and stick to the speed limit.



Lifejackets (min level 50S) must be worn at all times.



Freestyle in approved areas.



A Recreational Skipper's Ticket is required.



Water ski, with an observer, in approved areas.



Be courteous to others.

## Contact details

### Department of Transport

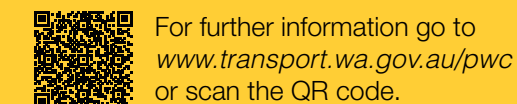
Email: [Ed.Boat@transport.wa.gov.au](mailto:Ed.Boat@transport.wa.gov.au)  
Website: [www.transport.wa.gov.au/imagine](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/imagine)  
**Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56**

### Police

Emergency: 000  
Water Police: 9442 8600

### Boating Weather Forecasts

Boating weather: 1300 815 916  
Website: [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)



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