

## ***Things to Know about Riding a Jet Ski in Florida:***

- 1) **Anyone born after January 1, 1988** must have proof of Boater Safety Education to operate a vessel of 10hp or more, alone with a picture ID.
- 2) The Florida Boater Education Temporary Certificate is good for **12 months and must be carried with a photo ID.**
- 3) An example of **not** operating a PWC defensively is **being careful when you spray other vessels.** You should **never** spray other vessels to drive defensively.
- 4) The **engine cutoff/ safety lanyard** or “kill switch” is **mandatory to wear** in Florida. It will shut the engine off if the operator falls off the Jet Ski.
- 5) When your vessel is being passed (overtaken) by another vessel you are required to **maintain your speed and direction.**
- 6) When crossing paths with another vessel, the **give-away vessel** (the one that must give the other the right-of-way) should **slow down or change course.**
- 7) When you see a boat approaching from your right, you should **slow down and give way to that boat,** they have the right-of-way.
- 8) In a head-on situation, **both vessels should stay right and prepare to give way.** Meaning to pass each other left side to left side, just like cars.
- 9) If two vessels should collide, the person not injured should **help the injured person and then report the accident.**
- 10) You **do not** have to report a boating accident when the damage is **less than \$1,000.**
- 11) The most critical part of boating is **staying alert.**
- 12) The primary cause of boating accidents is **careless operation.**
- 13) Ways to **avoid** having a collision include **not riding too close to another vessel and jumping its wakes.**
- 14) Constant awareness is required **on all boats at all hours** to avoid collisions or accidents.
- 15) An example of safe PWC operation is to **keep a safe distance from other vessels.**
- 16) The main cause of boating fatalities is **falling overboard and drowning.**
- 17) When returning from the open sea, you must **keep the red buoy on your right; and the green buoy on you left.**

- 18) Red and green markers indicate **the edge of the channel.**
- 19) When operating in shallow water or sea grass, if you see a mud trail behind you: **stop your vessel and walk or pole it out of the area.** Meaning get off and walk the jet ski to deeper water to prevent from sucking up sand or sea grass into the engine.
- 20) **Everyone riding or being towed by a PWC** must wear a life jacket at all times while participating.
- 21) **All children under 6 years old** are required by law to wear a life jacket at all times on any vessel under 26 feet long.
- 22) If you let off the throttle on a PWC **you will lose steering.**
- 23) If the engine shuts off: the **vessel will lose steering and continue to move in the direction you are moving.**
- 24) If the person in front of you and stops very abruptly: you must **use the throttle to turn away and avoid the collision.**
- 25) PWC are **small and fast so they are difficult to see on the water.**
- 26) Florida law prohibits anyone under **14 years of age** to operate a PWC.
- 27) Florida law requires a **whistle or horn** be on all vessels.
- 28) In Florida, it is illegal to operate a vessel at a speed that **endangers the life or property of another person.**
- 29) To re-board a PWC if you fall off, you should roll it over in the direction **shown on the label** on the back of jet ski.
- 30) **“Slow speed / minimum wake”** means your vessel should be **completely settled in the water.** Meaning you are moving slowly and creating no waves.
- 31) When you see a “Diver Down” flag (red square with a white diagonal line) you **must go to idle speed If you are within 100 ft. of the flag in a channel** and also if you are within 300 ft. in the open ocean.
- 32) A boater is considered “Under the Influence” in Florida at **0.08 blood alcohol level,** just like an automobile driver.
- 33) Drinking alcohol before operating a vessel will **slow your judgement and reaction time.** It is not legal in Florida to operate under the influence.
- 34) A first indicator of bad weather is a **built up of dark clouds.**
- 35) **Operating a PWC in the rain is not considered reckless** in Florida.