



Powerboating – Operational procedures

Brenin Adventures does not offer powerboat driving as a recreational activity. Training and assessment for RYA qualifications is offered, with a minimum age of 8.

Under 16's must always be supervised when operating powerboats, regardless of their qualifications.

Staffing & Ratios

Appropriate qualifications:

- RYA Powerboat / Safety Boat Instructor delivering Powerboat Level 1 & 2 / Safety Boat courses

Instructor Ratios as per RYA guidelines for each course.

- RYA PB2 / Safety Boat if safety on a lake based activity sessions (such as Raft Building or Kayaking)

Boats: 1 instructor : 1 boat for PB L1 & L2 / : 2 boats for Safety Boat.

Instructors working alone must have an effective way of communicating with the centre base.

Weather limitations

Powerboats can be operated in winds of up to F7. In high winds due regard must be given to the wind direction and it would be advisable to operate in sheltered areas.

Venues

Llyn Clywedog

Other suitable bodies of water, following site specific assessment by a Power Boat Instructor.

Instructor equipment

Instructors should be equipped with:

- Appropriate clothing
- Buoyancy aid
- First aid kit
- Knife
- Whistle
- Throw line
- Two way radio [where more than one group is operating at the same venue]
- Mobile phone
- Spare clothing [i.e. spare hat, warm jacket, survival blanket] appropriate to the conditions
- Tow line [on boat]

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Participant equipment

Participants should be equipped with:

- Waterproofs [PB 1 & 2]
- Buoyancy aid
- Wetsuit / drysuit [SB]

General Procedures

Before starting the session the instructor must check:

- Seaworthiness of each boat
- Kill cord functions
- Inflation of tubes
- Steering
- Condition of propeller
- First Aid Kit present and sealed
- Fuel level [tanks should be filled at the end of each session]
- Towline(s)
- Engine function
- Throwline
- No drive in neutral
- Paddle(s)
- Gears engage properly [forward & reverse]
- Anchor [if appropriate]
- Spare kill cord
- Self-drainers / bailers clear

Any faults must be recorded and reported to the centre office.

Before the start of any session, instructors must be fully aware of any medical conditions that may affect participation, and any specific requirements of the group.

Buoyancy aids must be checked immediately before the session commences.

Ensure you brief the group fully. Your briefing must include;

- Activity description / goals
- Communication
- Safety rules / environment
- Capsize / Man overboard scenarios
- Wind awareness & effect on the boat
- Check all equipment is correctly fitted

Group control is very important. Boats must stay together. If an instructor is supervising 2 boats for RYA Safety Boat, each boat must carry a radio.

It is best practice that instructors keep kill cords attached to a secure point on their buoyancy aid.

When participants are driving powerboats, kill cords must either be securely attached to their buoyancy aid or around their leg.

If an instructor needs to keep the engine running whilst not attached to the kill cord [for example taking the wheelyboat off the mooring in windy conditions], this is acceptable, but this must only take place when the engine is in neutral and the engine cannot be engaged into gear. The kill cord must be re-attached before the engine is put into gear.

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Engines should be killed as contact is made with person in the water. Encourage persons in the water to swim to the front of the boat, or use the throwline/paddle to bring them in.

In shallow water instructors must follow best practice and tilt / stop / lift engines to avoid grounding the propeller. If in doubt – kill the engine, lift the engine, paddle the boat.

Care must be taken close to buoys and moorings, and beware of obstacles below the water [such as submerged fence lines] and floating debris which could damage the hull / propeller.

Boats must not be run up the banks / slipways or against jetties.

The risk assessment must be reviewed on arrival on site to take into account prevailing conditions and recent changes, and monitored throughout the activity session.

Risk factor	Control
Hypothermia / exposure	Appropriate clothing worn Spare clothing carried
Heat stroke	Appropriate clothing, sun screen & hats Drinks available Monitor group
Drowning	Buoyancy aids worn Identify non swimmers / weak swimmers Communication before manoeuvres
Loss of control	Briefing & group control Kill cords Monitoring & communication
Entrapment	Hands kept inside boat when mooring / coming alongside Rope management Knife carried
Impact injuries	Care driving in rough conditions Seated / proper stance in boats for jumps / waves / turns Communication before manoeuvres
Lifting injuries	Briefing Correct techniques used for lifting persons from water, righting craft etc.
Sharp stones / rocks on shore	Appropriate footwear Launch & recover on slipways / safe shoreline Keep clear of shoreline when sailing

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Water borne pollution / diseases	Monitor water quality / consult Environment Agency data Wash hands before eating
Conflict with other users	Keep clear of other water users Communication Abide by local rules / guidelines Low speed around slipways / jetty / island [except in emergency]
Loss of group control	Effective briefing Monitor participants both on & off the water
Equipment failure	Boat / equipment maintenance Appropriate use of boats / equipment