

Tips for Safe Water Skiing

A. WATER SKIERS

1. **ALWAYS** be confident in the water and always wear a buoyancy aid / ski vest. If you cannot swim make sure the boat driver and /or your instructor know this.
A buoyancy aid need not be worn by competent trick skiers who can swim.
Competent means capable of performing 240 trick points.
2. **ALWAYS** use approved signals between skier and observer and driver
3. **ALWAYS** let the observer / driver know you are OK immediately after a fall
4. **ALWAYS** watch the water ahead of you at all times.
5. **ALWAYS** check your equipment is safe, wing nuts, loose binding, splinters and sharp metal.
6. **ALWAYS** ski clear of solid obstacles - jetties, boats, mooring buoys, rocks, banks etc.
7. **ALWAYS** let go of the handle on falling.
8. **ALWAYS** use an approved buoyancy aid and helmet when jumping
9. **ALWAYS** wear neoprene shorts if not wearing a suitable wetsuit when jumping -learners advised to wear two pairs.
10. **TAKE CARE** to remove jewellery that the rope might catch on
11. **TRY TO** avoid falling forwards - sit down, or if falling sideways, curl yourself into a ball.
12. **TRY TO** recover skis quickly
13. **Never shout** 'hit it' to the driver until the ropes is taut and your ski tips are up
14. **NEVER** wrap rope around any part of your body (fingers, hand or foot)
15. **NEVER** place any part of the body through the handle (neck, arm or leg)
16. **NEVER** ski in shallow water.
17. **NEVER** ski at night.
18. **DO NOT** ski directly ahead of, or to the side of another boat.
19. **DO NOT** attempt fast landing directly towards the shore - sit down if coming in too fast.
20. **DO NOT** ski in unknown waters.
21. **DO NOT** jump from a boat whilst it is moving.
22. **LADIES** should always wear neoprene shorts as protection if not wearing a suitable wetsuit

B. SKI BOAT DRIVER

1. **ALWAYS** have a competent observer in the boat when towing a skier.
2. **ALWAYS** wait for the skier's signal and his ski tips above the water before starting.
3. **ALWAYS** steer clear of other boats and floating obstacles.
4. **ALWAYS** when skiing in restricted waters stop and allow canoeists and rowers (who are easily swamped) to pass. You can make friends doing this!
5. **ALWAYS BE AWARE** you have a long rope behind you that should be recovered as soon as possible and before you pick up your fallen skier - if the skier is not injured and not in danger.
6. **ALWAYS** make sure observer understands water ski signals.
7. **ALWAYS** give the skier a smooth and steady pull on takeoff.
8. **ALWAYS** shut off your motor before taking aboard a skier.
9. **ALWAYS** return immediately to pick up the Skier
10. **ALWAYS** carry an extra life jacket in the boat.
11. **DO NOT** turn sharply and put the skier in the water or on the whip - gradual wide turns are the rule.
12. **DO NOT** take the skier aboard without shutting off the engine first.
13. **DO NOT** drive the boat through swimming or restricted areas.
14. **DO NOT** operate the boat sitting on the side, sit in the seat.
15. **NEVER** put the boat into reverse when a skier is in the water behind the boat