# BAWSC Driver Skills Practice, Boat Driver Certification and Boat Certification

### Student or Boat Owner: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Boat, equipment & safety pre-check

* Drain plug installed
* Blower run
* Check for leaks, fumes, etc.
* Equipment check – paddle, bumpers, ski ropes, ski soap, dock ropes, skis,

fire extinguisher charged

* Approved life vests, throw cushion
* Seat adjustment
* Mirror adjustment
* Equipment stowed
* Passengers seated, rope & people in water clear
* Start engine
* Check gas, oil pressure, temperature, voltage

1a. Boat Certification (boat type & model\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)

* Clean and dry bilge
* Steering wheel turns freely
* Throttle control moves freely
* Suitable ski mirror installed
* Fire extinguisher charged (non-plastic handle/trigger)
* Throw cushion readily available
* Life vests readily available
* Orange ski flag available
* Secure seating available
* Blower and bilge pump operational
* Speedo operational
* Horn operational
* Swim platform secure
* Current registration & tags
* Delta map

### 2. Docking and basic handling

* Throttle – forward, neutral, reverse detents – idling, grip
* Turning – the tail swings out effect
* Reverse – backing up in open water
* Low speed practice approaching & picking up an orange vest
* Crabbing up to a dock – using forward & reverse, currents, & wind
* Dock approach keeping passenger’s hands inside boat
* Using finesse

### 3. Basic driving and maneuvering

* Rudder position prior to acceleration
* Driver identifies crew responsibilities – flag, observer, rope, skis
* Dealing with currents, wind, choppy water and boat drift
* Passengers are in position prior to acceleration
* Smooth acceleration to a predetermined speed
* Maintaining a predetermined speed
* Avoiding obstacles – the bank, debris, reeds, ropes, sand bars etc.
* Driving in a straight line in curves
* Awareness – skier, other boats, downed skiers, ropes, safety
* Turning at speed
* U-turns safely
* Crossing wakes – your own & others, bow up

### 4. Driving around corners

* Position entering the corner
* Decrease in speed
* General awareness of blind corners, sand bars, other boats, obstacles
* Defensive maneuvers

### 5. Driving in traffic

* Recognizing when it’s safe to proceed
* Defensive driving - anticipating what other boats are likely to do
* General awareness
* Practicing navigation rules
* Approaching other boats
* Passing other boats

### 6. Pulling a skier

* Engine off when skier is exiting, entering, or near the boat
* Signals are reviewed with skier and observer
* Ski speed is established
* Rope is gently pulled taut prior to accelerating
* Acceleration is smooth to predetermined speed
* Speed is maintained
* Drives in a straight line
* Maintains skier in center of channel if traffic allows

### 7. Retrieving a skier

* Positioning the skier for drop off
* Flag is up
* Circling with skier on the driver’s side
* Bring the rope to a fallen skier
* Pulling the rope thru a skier’s hands
* Positioning the boat for skier pick-up
* Turning the engine off
* Monitoring the conditions – boat drift, rope, equipment, etc

### Safety & general awareness

* **Safe driver = knowledge + experience + attitude** ***Plus a safety focused & knowledgeable crew***
* Cell phone with sheriff numbers (CCC Sheriff’s Marine Patrol – 925-646-2441) (San Joaquin County Marine Patrol – 209-468-4400) (Coast Guard – 707-374-2871) (Vessel Assist – 925-382-4422)
* Driver must keep track of the skier & **everything** else going on around him/her   
  – Wind, current, underwater obstacles, floating debris, submerged logs and pilings, changing water depth, blind corners, passengers, channel position, sand bars, etc.   
  - Other boats with skiers, ropes or equipment in the water, passing boats  
  - Gauges, speed, boat path, waves & boat wakes, jet skiers
* Skier or others sitting, standing, or dragging behind the platform with engine running   
  - Exhaust fumes and the prop – Carbon monoxide poisoning
* **Passengers should not sit/stand on the gunwales, bow, stern or tower when the boat is in motion.**
* **BAWSC absolute rule**: **NO DRINKING or DRUGS DURING BAWSC EVENTS**

### Comments:

### Instructor/Certifier:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_