

# Introduction to Personal Watercraft Safety for Guests on Super Yachts

Guidance Notes for:

PW Instructors  
PW Trainers &  
PW Centre Principals



## Introduction to Personal Watercraft Safety

### Foreward

Following many requests to provide a short training course for guests on Super Yachts the RYA has introduced the following course. The course title is **Introduction to Personal Watercraft Safety**.

### Introduction

These guidance notes are for new and existing PW Instructors, Principals and Trainers. They explain the course syllabus and give advice on how to teach it. Here is a brief overview of the scheme and how it fits in with the existing Personal Watercraft Proficiency course.

- The course does not replace or affect the existing one day PW proficiency course which will continue to be delivered as before.
- The course will only be taught on Super Yachts recognised as Training Centres.
- This course will not be available to land based PW recognised Training Centres.
- The course will be taught by new and existing PW instructors. There is only one PW instructor qualification.

### Syllabus for the “Introduction to PW Safety” Course

Minimum Age 12

Ability after course – Operate a PW in good conditions *under supervision*

Minimum Duration - One Hour

Taught by – RYA PW Instructor

Instructor to Student ratio – 1 instructor can supervise a maximum of three PWs with up to two students on each craft. A safety boat or coaching craft may also be used as a teaching platform.

#### Course Content

- Layout of a PW
- Controls
- Propulsion and steering system
- Personal safety equipment
- Essential safety information. Kill cord, safe speed, local hazards etc
- Collision avoidance
- Practical control slow and high speed
- Re-boarding in deep water
- Local Hazards and regulations
- Communication with Safety Boat

All of the subjects above should be taught following the same syllabus as for the PW Proficiency course as laid down in RYA publication G35 Introduction to Personal Watercraft.

## Introduction to Personal Watercraft Safety

Ability after course – Operate a PW in good conditions *under supervision*

Having completed the basic introduction the students will be issued the following certificate signed by the Principal of the centre;



FRONT



REVERSE

## Under Supervision

Having completed the basic training the students will be able to operate personal watercraft under the direct supervision of the centre/vessel issuing the certificate. The certificate will only be valid for the duration of their charter as indicated by the expiry date on the certificate.

The holder of this certificate should always be supervised by the issuing centre. Supervision will be either from a safety boat/tender or from a suitable vantage point overlooking the area of operation.

## **Introduction to Personal Watercraft Safety**

### **Operating area**

Training centres delivering this course will by the nature of their normal business move to different locations throughout the year. This means that each time they deliver RYA training they will need to risk assess the operating area taking into account the following;

Before commencing training the instructor in charge of the session should clearly identify the training area to be used. This should be agreed with the principal of the centre. Where practically possible the agreed area should be free from hazards. Any hazards remaining should be clearly identified and all students made aware of their existence. The training area used to deliver the RYA Introduction to Personal Watercraft Safety should be within sight of the training centre.

### **Communication with the tender and mother ship**

The Principal should ensure that there is an effective means of communication between the PWs and the attending safety boat/tender. Once training is complete and certificates have been issued should the PWs leave sight of the mother vessel then they should be accompanied by a safety boat appropriately equipped to communicate effectively.

### **Eligibility to run the Introduction to Personal Watercraft Safety course**

Super Yachts offering the use of their own PWs to their guests may apply to run this course. The Super Yacht will be subject to an initial inspection along with an annual audit. This audit will be either by pre arranged inspection or by completion of a summary of activity. The RYA may decide to carry out a spot inspection, however this would not be during the course of a charter or whilst guests are on board.

The centre principal must ensure that all tuition is carried out by a suitably qualified RYA Personal Watercraft Instructor.

Further information about this course can be obtained from

### **The Royal Yachting Association**

RYA House  
Ensign Way  
Hamble  
Southampton  
Hampshire  
SO31 4YA

[Training@rya.org.uk](mailto:Training@rya.org.uk)  
[www.rya.org.uk](http://www.rya.org.uk)

Tel ++ 44 (0) 2380 604100  
Fax ++ 44 (0) 2380 604288