

# Top Ten Tips for teaching personal watercraft courses

I am often asked what the key points are for teaching the PW course. As you can imagine there are many, so here are ten top tips to consider.

## Be considerate

When planning your training area, remember other water users and consider the impact on them. If another boat is passing close by, consider slowing the group down to avoid conflict. Give them a wave - you never know it may be returned!

## Avoid the classroom

Remember, the best teaching aid that you have is the ski itself. The more hands-on experience the students get, the better.

## Rules of the road

Students can find this subject boring, so make it a fun exercise. Don't treat it as a one-off session - keep re-introducing it throughout the course. Your students must leave the course confident they will be safe in the future. Consider confirming their knowledge with a short quiz.

## Kill cord

Ensure best practice at all times. Always wear the kill cord and check your students do too. If they forget at first, gently remind them so it



PWs can adapt to a variety of tasks

becomes second nature by the end of the course.

## Courtesy to other users

Throughout the course gently remind your students of the perceived dangers and prejudices that other water users may have towards PWs. Explain that if used responsibly in designated areas, there will be less conflict.

is the most important element taught on the course.

## External influences

You may not be the only group on the water. Keep a lookout for other vessels approaching your training area. You may have to consider suspending your session until it is safe to continue.

## Be prepared to assist others

There have been occasions where PWs under tuition have been called upon to assist others. They make excellent rescue craft, especially in shallow waters.

## Students' age

When booking students onto a course ensure they are at least 12 years old. Do not be pressurised into accepting anyone under that age onto the course. If in doubt, ask for proof of age. Remember, the RYA does not condone the use of PWs by under 12s.

## Gain respect

Gain respect and support for RYA PW training in your area. Be seen to be responsible and fly the RYA training centre flag during your course.

## Group control

From the start of the course, students are likely to be in control of their craft without an instructor on board. For safe group control, a precise briefing ashore is essential. Define the training area, acceptable speeds, hand signals, what to do in an emergency and what will happen if the rules are broken. Consequences can range from removing a dangerous student to cancelling the rest of the course. Remember, safety