

Active on the water!

Objective	The aim of this course is to develop boat handling, seamanship, pilotage and navigation skills up to the standards required to drive a planing powerboat safely by day in all coastal waters and by night in coastal waters with which you are familiar.
Previous knowledge / experience	Participants must hold the Irish Sailing National Powerboat Certificate or an equivalent certificate and have been boating regularly with a minimum of 32 hrs logged as helm following this course It is strongly recommended that at least one member of a safety boat's crew should hold a first aid certificate and the Short Range (SRC) VHF radio operator's
Types of Boat	The course may be conducted in either a planing or displacement boat suitable for use in open sea.
Duration	The Advanced Powerboat Course should ordinarily consist of a minimum of 25 hours contact time. This will include a pilotage exercise conducted at night. The minimum course contact time may be reduced to 17 hours where a candidate already holds the course completion certificate from the "<i>Coastal Navigation for Small Boats course</i>" or equivalent. The length of the course may be extended where it suits participants to take a more relaxed approach to the programme.
Assessment	Assessment is continuous throughout the course.

	<i>By the end of this course you will be able to do the following:</i>
Preparation of boat for use.	Have prepared a powerboat for use. Including; ⇒ Fuelling the boat. ⇒ Equipping the boat for its intended use and stowing equipment properly. ⇒ Conducted pre- departure checks on the boat, engine and controls.
Basic Boat Handling	• Be able to hold position off of another boat that is underway. • Be able to come alongside another boat while underway at displacement speeds. • Be able to land and recover the boat from a lee shore. • Be able to explain how to handle a powerboat in rough weather. • Where possible, have demonstrated that you can handle a powerboat in rough weather.

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Weather	<i>Be able to identify common weather conditions and describe how they may affect your powerboating activities.</i> <i>Be able to identify sources of weather forecasts</i> <i>Be able to interpret the forecast with regard to planned activities.</i> <i>Be able to explain the significance of commonly used terms in marine forecasts.</i> <i>Be able to identify the significance to powerboaters of common weather patterns illustrated on synoptic chart</i> Be able to interpret the current forecast and make sound decisions on planned activities in view of expected weather and sea conditions.
Navigation	<i>Have demonstrated that you can;</i> <i>Orientate a chart or map using topographical features, navigation marks and / or a compass.</i> <i>Identify features, including hazards, from a chart.</i> <i>Identify your position on the chart.</i> <i>Identify distances from the chart and accurately predict expected progress</i> <i>Describe the effects of compass deviation and variation.</i> <i>Use transits to fix position and hold a course.</i> <i>Plot a course to steer, taking account of the effects of wind & current.</i> <i>Be able to describe the principal features of, and considerations to be made, when using the following equipment to navigate by day and by night.</i> GPS Electronic Chart plotter Radar Depth sounder Compass <i>Be able to identify</i> <i>The principal day marks used in IALA A buoyage system and describe their significance.</i> <i>Be able to identify these buoys at night.</i> Be able to demonstrate the use of the following in navigating the boat by day and by night; GPS Depth sounder Steering Compass Hand bearing Compass

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Passage Planning	<i>Have devised passage / pilotage plans for;</i> <i>A coastal passage by day</i> <i>A coastal passage by night</i> <i>entering into and departing from a harbour.</i> <i>Be able to identify where to obtain the information needed to devise a passage plan.</i> <i>Be able to programme a passage plan into a GPS set.</i> <i>Be able to accurately predict how much fuel you will need</i> Have devised and implemented passage plans based on the boats, crew and conditions present on the course and its location.
Passage making	Have, both with and without the use of electronic navigation aids, skippered the boat on; A coastal passage by day in waters with which you are not familiar. A coastal passage by night in waters with which you are familiar.
Coastal Knowledge	<i>Be able to describe the effect tides can have on your powerboating activities.</i> <i>Be able to identify relevant tidal information on charts and in almanacs.</i> <i>Be able to calculate tidal heights and rates of flow for any port and apply these when planning activities.</i> Be able to calculate tidal heights and rates of flow as necessary for those activities planned and undertaken on the course.
Application of "Rules of the Road"	Have demonstrated the ability to apply the International Rules for the Prevention of Collision at Sea in all circumstances. <i>Be able to identify the type, aspect and behaviour of vessels by day and by night from navigation lights and day shapes</i> <i>Be able to identify the correct navigation lights and day shapes to use on powerboats used.</i> <i>Be able to use and understand manoeuvring (sound) signals.</i>
Boat Types	To be able to describe the characteristics you would look for in powerboats used for passage making in open sea. Be able to identify what types of boats, engines and drive types would have these characteristics.

Where can you go to do this course?

This course can only be run by an Irish Sailing Training Centre. Irish Sailing Training Centres have all gone through a rigorous accreditation process to ensure that they provide high quality training in a safe environment. With Training Centres based in every corner of Ireland there are plenty to choose from for training close to home or while on holiday.

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Safety	Be able to demonstrate how to communicate with other vessels. <i>Be able to describe when and how to summon assistance.</i> <i>Be able to describe how to manage a medical emergency afloat.</i> <i>Be able to describe causes, symptoms & remedies for;</i> <i>Hypothermia</i> <i>Sea sickness</i> <i>Sun stroke</i> <i>Dehydration</i> Be able to deploy a sea anchor and describe it's use. Be able to demonstrate how to set up and implement a search for a missing person or boat, both in good and limited visibility or darkness.
Care of boats & equipment	Be able to; Undertake basic fault diagnosis on the engines used Change a propeller Explain how to manually start an engine Be able to de-rig a powerboat after use and store equipment properly.
Further training	Be able to identify what further training courses are available and where to find out about them.

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