

GOSFORD RSL FISHING CLUB

Boat Orientation

Members who want to become approved Skippers of the GRSLFC boat must attend and pass a 'boat orientation' to familiarise the member with the boat and its equipment.

Further, the member's competency and capability to launch, operate and retrieve the boat in a safe manner, as well as the knowledge of the operating rules will be assessed.

This assessment is comprised of 'off-water' components such as Boat Shed and Trailing, as well as 'on-water' components such as launching, docking, man over board drills and other boat driving skills demonstrations.

The assessment will be performed by the Boat Captain or the Safety Officer with a nominated second committee member – the decision of the assessors to grant or deny the 'Skipper' status to any new aspirant is binding for the current assessment, and aspirants who failed to attain Skipper status can re-apply in any future session.

The assessors will record the assessment of competency of each applicant, including boat license information, date of assessment, name, etc. Assessors may exercise discretion in granting skipper status to club members with current and known boating experience and skills and may choose to skip components of the assessment.

Boat Orientation Process

The orientation starts at the Boat Shed / Club.

- Hand out boat usage rule copies to aspiring skippers. Prepare assessment sheets for each aspiring skipper. (Gary to prepare a draft)
- Show location of log book and maintenance items, trailer pad-lock key, and other boat inventory in shed such as oil, spare anchors, tyres, etc.
- Check fuel status based on previous log-book entry.
- Remove the engine cowling and demonstrate how to measure / fill oil
- Familiarise the aspiring skippers with the boat: location of battery switch, safety equipment, radio antennas, bait tank, etc.
- Procedure with Battery chargers, and Jump starter pack
- Make note of the Roller-Door height vs Windscreen, roll out boat/trailer with jockey wheel at low.
- Demonstrate hooking up to the tow vehicle. Check lights are working, depart to the ramp.
- Take a fender along to assess boat driving skills

At the ramp:

- All aspiring skippers must demonstrate the ability to reverse the boat / trailer.
- Go over the rigging checklist with the aspiring skippers –
 - Ensure bungs have been installed / install bungs.
 - Remove the tie down strap.
 - Install radio antennas and confirm that turn them on.

- Turn on the Fish-finder / GPS combo unit to track your progress & find fish throughout the day.
- Check your gear – tackle, ice, hat, sunnies, etc... make sure you have everything on board.

Go over the launching procedure prior to demonstration.

- Members are to keep the safety chain attached to the boat when reversing the boat/trailer down or driving the up the boat ramp!!! The winch strap may slip... ensure you keep the boat on the trailer!
- Reverse the trailer down the ramp, remove winch strap and safety chain, and launch the boat.

On the water:

- Go over radio use: Logging on, hailing other boats, emergencies. 'CentaCo' radio callsign.
- Demonstrate use of GPS / Fishfinder – changing pages from Chart to Sounder, what is your position? Turn on the tracking... follow your own track back, etc.
- Point out location of life-jackets, flares, V-sheet, first aid kit.
- Demonstrate starting and driving the boat – Neutral, reverse and forward.
- Aspiring skippers should instruct new crew of above procedures when out on the water.
- Boat driving skills assessment:
 - Every aspiring skipper needs to take the helm.
 - Accelerate from drift to planning speed, get comfortable with the boat. Drive in circles over your own wake, change directions and speeds, etc.
 - Trim the engine at speed for maximum performance (up)
 - Trim the engine at speed for maximum comfort (down)
 - Practice a MOB manoeuvre and/or discuss the procedure: with the aspiring skipper at the helm and the boat running at planning speed, throw a fender overboard and call MOB. Actions to take:
 - Mark the spot on the GPS, reduce speed
 - Assign a crew member to not lose sight of the fender – point with arm into direction.
 - Safely return to the spot
 - Idle up to the fender and retrieve
 - Practice / assess docking manoeuvre: approach jetty and dock side-on.
 - Practice / assess line attachment to cleats:



Returning to the ramp:

- Have an aspiring skipper reverse the trailer onto the ramp.
- Demonstrate how to retrieve the boat onto the trailer.
- Every aspiring skipper needs to demonstrate competency in launching and retrieving the boat back onto the trailer.

- Every aspiring skipper may direct other 'crew' to perform tasks... all 'crew' are just to do as they are told. Skipper is in charge.
- Note successful completion on assessment sheet.
- (Note to Assessors: if ramp is busy, keep the ramp procedure to a minimum and allow other boaters the right of way – don't hug the ramp.)

Drive boat away from immediate ramp area to complete de-rigging.

Go over the 'returning' check-sheet:

- Remove bung plugs
- Tie down the boat with the safety strap.
- Remove Antennas and store in side-bunks.
- Turn off all electronics / fishfinder / radios.
- Clear any gear for the road trip as necessary.

Completing the Assessment process

Perform all tasks of the 'Returning the boat' checklist:

1. Fuel up the boat – keep the receipt for proof of purchase & log-book entry.
2. Thoroughly clean the boat inside and out – return it at a minimum as clean as you took it.
3. Flush the motor with fresh water for at least 2 minutes.
4. Hose down the trailer – pay attention to the brakes, hubs and springs.
5. Check the oil level in motor.
6. Remove all personal items from the boat.
7. Trailer parts and motor nuts/bolts to be sprayed with-WD40 or similar.

Prior to backing the boat into the shed, disconnect the boat from the tow vehicle and lower the jockey wheel to the minimum height so that the windscreen clears the roller door. Push the boat into the shed by hand, as far to the left as possible.

1. Turn off the battery isolator switch
2. Connect the battery charger – check the log book for previous charge and alternate.

Complete the log-book entry, stating engine hours, fuel bill, battery charge and any other notes on incidents or problems.

Note all assessment results, congratulate those who have passed and are joining the 'approved GRSLFC Skippers' list. Keep assessment records in the Boat Captain folder.