

# Who is required to pass a WISCONSIN BOATER SAFETY COURSE and hold a Lifetime Education Certificate?



*Per the Vilas County Boat Patrol Officers, this subject receives the most warnings and citations on our waterways and it's the most misunderstood by the boating public.*

**ANSWER:** ALL operators born on or after January 1, 1989, must pass the WI Boater Safety Course and hold the Lifetime Boater Education Certificate to operate a motorboat or personal watercraft (PWC) in WI.

*Are you and your family members in compliance?  
Don't be caught out on the lakes and rivers without certification.  
Sign up now and be ready for the 2024 boating season.*

## WI DNR - WI BOATING RULES & REGULATIONS - Who may operate a motorboat (Excerpt)

### A person 10 or 11 years old may operate a motorboat only if:

- They are accompanied by a parent, a guardian or a person at least 18 years old who is designated by the parent or guardian **AND** the parent, guardian or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate **OR** was born before January 1, 1989.

### A person 12-15 years old may operate a motorboat only if:

- They have completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the WI DNR. **OR**
- They are accompanied by a parent, guardian or a person at least 18 years old who is designated by the parent or guardian **AND** the parent, guardian or designated adult holds a valid boating safety certificate **OR** was born before January 1, 1989.

### A person who was born on or after January 1, 1989, and who is 16 years of age or older may operate a motorboat only if:

- They have completed a boating safety course that is accepted by the WI DNR. **OR**
- They are accompanied by another person in the motorboat who is at least 18 years of age **AND** that person holds a valid boating safety certificate **OR** was born before January 1, 1989.

**COURSE INFORMATION:** Instruction focuses on navigation, laws, ethics, personal safety and the proper use of boats. **Cost: \$10.00** in a traditional classroom **OR \$29.95 - \$54.95** online.

**To search for a recreational safety education course near you visit:**  
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/Education/OutdoorSkills/safetyEducation>

*Retain this insert and share it with neighbors, family, friends and renters.*