



# PERSONAL WATERCRAFT LIVERY REGULATIONS



(i.e., Jet Ski's, Wave Runners, etc.)

- 1. An operator of a Personal Watercraft (PWC) must be at least 16 years old. If born on or after July 1, 1972, the operator must also carry a NASBLA approved certificate of boating safety education. Livery operations under contract with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Natural Resources Police (NRP), are exempt from the boating safety education requirement if they comply with all the terms and conditions of the livery operator's contract.**
- 2. ALL renters/operators who do not possess a boating safety certificate and are 16 years of age or older, must take a safety quiz provided by the DNR/NRP. Each renter/operator must score no more than one (1) wrong answer in order to rent and operate a PWC.**
- 3. Rental PWC must be accompanied by one (1) certified guide for up to five (5) PWC rented at one time. Six (6) or more PWC rented at one time must have at least two (2) certified guides and so on. A certified guide has the authority to end a person's and/or groups ride that violates any law or regulation.**
- 4. All renters/operators must possess a valid form of identification and carry an original or current copy of that identification with them during the time of operation.**
- 5. All persons on board a PWC must wear a US Coast Guard approved life jacket of appropriate size for the intended wearer.**
- 6. PWC may not be operated between the hours of sunset and sunrise; or in or near an area of restricted visibility (dense fog, rain or snow).**
- 7. Every PWC must be equipped with a safety engine cut-off device or self-circling device. The engine cut-off device must be attached to the operator at all times and must be operational.**
- 8. A person may not operate or give permission to operate a PWC at a speed greater than 6 knots when within 100 feet of any shore, wharf, pier, bridge abutment, another PWC or persons in the water.**
- 9. A person may not operate or give permission to operate a rental PWC in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean.**
- 10. Water skiing is only permitted on those PWC having the capacity to carry 3 persons and vessels specifically designed by the manufacturer for water skiing.**
- 11. A person may not operate or give permission to operate a PWC in excess of 6 knots within 100 feet of a vessel except in a crossing or overtaking situation.**
- 12. A person may not operate or give permission to operate a PWC in a negligent manner. Negligent operation includes but is not limited to: wake jumping within 100 feet of another vessel; weaving through congested boat traffic; operating in a manner which endangers the life, limb, or property of any person, including the operator.**
- 13. An individual may not operate or give permission to operate a Maryland registered PWC if they are under the influence of alcohol, impaired by alcohol, impaired by any drug, combination of drugs, or combination of one or more**

**drugs and alcohol that the person cannot ride a vessel safely; or impaired by any controlled dangerous substance, as defined in Criminal Law.**

- 14. An individual may not operate or give permission to operate a Maryland registered PWC unless a regulation sticker approved by the Department of Natural Resources is attached properly to the PWC.**
- 15. A person may not operate or give permission to operate a PWC in excess of idle speed in any waters of the state less than 18 inches in depth.**

### **TIPS FOR SAFE RIDING**

- 1. A PWC is not a toy. You are responsible for your actions!**
- 2. Show consideration for other boaters!**
- 3. Maintain a proper lookout at all times!**
- 4. Most PWC have no brakes!**
- 5. When you let go of the throttle, you have no steering!**
- 6. Ride responsibly! Always wear your life jacket!**

**This board is a summary of the Maryland Regulations governing Personal Watercraft operations.  
It is your responsibility to follow all the PWC regulations as described in COMAR.**