

SLSNSW Silver Medallion IRB Driver
Pre-Course Powercraft Workbook
Navigation & Preparing for Boat Operation



SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES



Powercraft Workbook

Version 5 – 9th July 2024 - Emma Woodward, Training & Education Support Officer, SLSNSW

Candidate Details:

Name: _____ D.O.B. / /

Club/Branch: _____

Assessor Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date of Assessment: / /

Competent / Not Yet Competent

NOTE: This page to be submitted with IRBD or RWC Assessment Portfolio

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Introduction

Welcome to the Powercraft Workbook 1 - Navigation and Preparing for Boat Operations for the Silver Medallion Inflatable Rescue Boat Driver (SMIRB Driver).

This workbook must be completed successfully (80% correct) and signed off by an endorsed Assessor or Facilitator prior to commencing any Powercraft training in the water.

IRB Driver participants to complete Questions 1 to 40

The Assessment consists of a series of multiple-choice questions. They are designed to reflect the knowledge and skills required to demonstrate competency in Navigation and Preparing for Boat Operations, as deemed by SLSNSW and NSW Maritime.

NOTE: If a member already holds a NSW Maritime General Boat, there is no need to complete the Powercraft Workbook 1 prior to commencing IRB training in the water.

NSW Maritime General Boat Licence & SLSNSW Powercraft Licence

Participants are not required to do the General Boat course prior to the commencement of SMIRBD training. SLSNSW will issue you with a Powercraft License on successful completion of the SMIRBD. This licence allows you to drive an IRB for Surf Life Saving activities only and is an exemption agreement between SLSNSW and NSW Maritime.

The trainee driver **MUST** be under the direct supervision of someone who holds a proficient SLSA SMIRBD award **AND** is a currently endorsed SMIRBD Training Officer. The completed workbook must be on the beach during all SMIRB Driver training.

If a SLSNSW member would like to upgrade their Surf Life Saving SMIRB Driver award to NSW Maritime General Boat Licence, they will need to obtain a letter from SLSNSW and take it into an NSW Maritime office and pay the normal fees.

Prerequisites for the SMIRB Driver

Powercraft Workbook 1 - **MUST** be completed and signed off by an Assessor or Facilitator before a participant begins driver training in the water OR already hold a NSW Maritime General Boat licence.

- See the SLSA “Silver Medallion IRB Course Overview” for more prerequisite information.

Suggested Supporting Resources

- [The Surf Life Saving IRB Manual – 9th Edition](#) This manual is a resource for candidates, trainers and assessors and contains information on skills and knowledge relating to IRB & Boat Operations.
- [NSW Maritime – Boating Handbook](#) This handbook outlines the essential and general boating information required to safely operate a vessel in your State / Territory Waters.
- [Powercraft Owner’s Manual](#) (found at your club) This document comes with your powercraft and contains specific information relevant to set up procedures, maintenance & servicing, etc.

Assessment

Navigation

1. **Navigational maps and charts are fundamental tools available for emergency response. What are the four main areas where they will assist lifesavers? (select all that apply)**
 - A. Determine objective.
 - B. Respond to an incident.
 - C. Locate and incident.
 - D. Plan a course or search pattern.
 - E. Plan what resources are required.
 - F. Understand an unfamiliar environment.

2. **The basic measure of distance in all nautical navigation is called the**
 - A. Nautical kilometer.
 - B. Nano Mile.
 - C. Nautical Mile.
 - D. Rule of thumb.

3. **A Nautical chart depth with metric measurements has a depth mark of 48. What does 48 (forty-eight) stand for?**
 - A. 48 centimetres.
 - B. 480 metres.
 - C. 4.8 metres.

4. **The purpose of GPS for search and rescue is to**
 - A. Help retrieve lost sailors at sea.
 - B. Figure out where you will be at a certain time.
 - C. Provide and obtain coordinates to locate missing craft or patients.
 - D. Help find the best fishing locations.

5. **What is an EPIRB and when would it be used?**
 - A. Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon – used only in life-threatening situations.
 - B. Emergency People Indication Radio Beacon – used to record the number of people on the craft.
 - C. Emergency Position Instructional Radio Beacon – used to give you instructions on what to do in an emergency.

6. **What is the minimum distance a Powercraft may travel from shore before an EPIRB must be carried by law in your State / Territory?**
 - A. 5 Nautical Miles.
 - B. 2 Nautical Miles.
 - C. 15 Nautical Miles.
 - D. 15 Nautical Miles.

- 7. In Surf Life Saving what important information should be communicated to Surfcom when planning a navigational course?**
- A. Brief description of the planned course, destination and estimated time of arrival.
 - B. What craft is being used and if pre-operation checks were completed.
 - C. What the weather and conditions are like.
- 8. Why is knowledge of local conditions important to lifesavers involved in search and rescue operations?**
- A. To have a chat with the locals about the surf.
 - B. Local conditions are constantly changing, and the changes may not be obvious on a map or chart.
 - C. To update the patrol so they can move the flags.
- 9. Why is it important to have alternative route strategies when performing a SAR operation?**
- A. Conditions can change quickly; seas may become rough and unnavigable.
 - B. To cover as much area as possible.
 - C. In case you don't like the first route strategy option.

Preparing for Boat Operations

- 10. Relevant state marine authorities should be notified:**
- A. As soon as possible following a boating or marine incident.
 - B. Within 24 - 48 hours of a boating or marine incident.
 - C. Only if there is a fatality.
 - D. Within 3 working days of a boating or marine incident.
- 11. Powered boats have right of way over sailing craft and rowing boats.**
- True / False
- 12. When two powered craft are meeting head on, to what direction must each craft alter each course?**
- A. Port.
 - B. Starboard.
 - C. Largest powercraft continues in a straight direction while smaller craft alters course to starboard.
 - D. Smallest powercraft continues in a straight direction while larger.
- 13. Port-hand marks are painted red and have a can shaped top mark or buoy.**
- True / False
- 14. Starboard-hand marks are painted green and have a cone shaped buoy or top mark.**
- True / False
- 15. What does cardinal mark indicate?**
- A. Dangerous waters.
 - B. Submerged objects.
 - C. Best and safest waters.
 - D. Powerlines under water.

16. What distance can craft approach a whale or dolphin up to?

- A. 100m - 300m from a whale and 50m - 150m from a dolphin.
- B. 10m - 30m from a whale and 5m - 15m from a dolphin.
- C. 150m - 400m from a whale and 25m - 100m from a dolphin.

17. When stowing equipment for transport, items can be placed anywhere on the powercraft so long as there is space.

True / False

18. What PPE is applicable to Lifesavers whilst operating a power craft (RWC / IRB) (select all that apply)

- A. Wetsuit.
- B. Thongs.
- C. Fins.
- D. Personal flotation device (PFD).
- E. Gloves.
- F. Gath Style Helmet (ASA approved).
- G. Strobe light.
- H. Shoes and socks.

19. The responsibility of the master (driver) is to:

- A. Maintain a proper lookout and avoid collisions.
- B. Ensure the safety of those onboard the vessel.
- C. Ensure that all safety equipment is accessible and stored onboard correctly.
- D. All the above.

20. Where should you drive a vessel in a channel?

- A. On the port (left-hand) side.
- B. In the middle of the channel.
- C. On the starboard (right-hand) side.
- D. On any side – it does not matter as long as a collision does not occur.

21. When crossing a coastal bar it is COMPULSORY to:

- A. Ensure that everyone onboard is wearing an approved life jacket Level 50.
- B. Notify a coastal radio station of your intention.
- C. Ensure that everyone onboard is wearing an approved life jacket Level 100 or above.
- D. Proceed only if the bar is flat.

22. All vessels are required to travel at a safe speed at all times. Which of the following is considered safe?

- A. A vessel travelling at speed in poor visibility.
- B. A vessel travelling at a speed at which sudden danger can be avoided.
- C. A vessel travelling at speed towards background shore lights at night.
- D. A vessel travelling at speed in unfamiliar waters.

23. When driving a power vessel at 10 knots or more or towing a person, what is the MINIMUM distance both the vessel and the towed person MUST keep from a non-powered vessel or a person in the water?

- A. 60 metres or if not possible a safe distance.
- B. 30 metres or if not possible a safe distance.
- C. 100 metres or if not possible a safe distance.
- D. Any distance which you consider safe.

24. For environmental reasons, where should you avoid driving your boat?

- A. Deep river channels.
- B. Shallow weedy areas, which may contain endangered seagrasses.
- C. Boundaries between murky and clear water.
- D. Bar crossings.

25. What MUST you do when driving your vessel within a 'Minimise Wash' Zone?

- A. Travel at a speed which creates minimal wash to ensure that your wash does not affect other people or vessels.
- B. Travel at no more than 8 knots.
- C. Always travelling at the speed shown on a speed restriction sign.
- D. Not tow a water-skier or an aquaplaner.

26. Which of the following vessels are required to have or display lights at night?

- A. Powered vessels.
- B. Canoes and rowboats.
- C. Sailing vessels.
- D. All vessels need to have or display lights at night.

27. You are driving a vessel at high speed and your vision is suddenly affected by sun or spray. Your immediate reaction should be:

- A. Slow down or stop.
- B. Continue driving at speed in anticipation that you will regain your vision.
- C. Increase speed & manoeuvre vessel to find a direction to minimise spray & the effect of the sun.
- D. Alter course to port and continue at speed.

28. An efficient sound signaling device is required to be carried:

- A. Only by vessels proceeding to open waters.
- B. Only by powered vessels over 8 metres in length.
- C. On all vessels.
- D. Only vessels that are operating after sunset.

29. When is it COMPULSORY to carry an EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon)?

- A. When crossing a coastal bar.
- B. When operating a vessel less than 5 metres in length on enclosed waters.
- C. At all times.
- D. When operating a vessel, 2 or more nautical miles off the coast.

30. How often should you check your vessel's safety equipment and fittings?

- A. Before every long journey.
- B. Before every journey regardless of duration.
- C. Before every journey out of sight of land.
- D. At the conclusion of each journey.

31. In this picture is the powercraft entering the harbour or leaving the harbour to the open sea?

Entering / Leaving



32. You are driving the blue vessel (on the left side of picture) and there is a risk of collision with the yellow vessel. What must you do to avoid a collision?

- A. Give way.
- B. Keep your current course and speed.
- C. Increase speed to pass ahead of the other vessel.
- D. Alter course to port and maintain your speed.

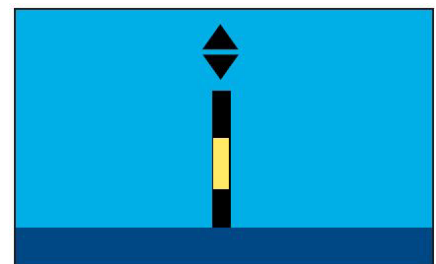


33. You are driving this vessel between sunset and sunrise. What navigation lights MUST be displayed?

- A. Red and green sidelights with an all-round white light.
- B. Red and green sidelights only.
- C. A white masthead light only.
- D. No lights are required.

34. What does this navigation mark indicate? Deeper water lies to the:

- A. North.
- B. East.
- C. South.
- D. West.



35. What kind of navigation mark is this?

- A. A port lateral mark.
- B. A channel blocked mark.
- C. A special mark.
- D. An isolated danger mark.



36. When travelling **UPSTREAM** (away from the sea) on which side should you keep this type of navigation mark to stay in the channel?

- A. Your port (left hand side).
- B. Your starboard (right hand) side.
- C. Either side (it does not matter).
- D. Stay in the middle of the channel regardless of the mark.



37. What do these signs mean?

- A. 4 kilometres to the next hazard.
- B. Water depth is below 4 metres in this direction.
- C. Keep 4 metres from the banks in this area.
- D. Maximum speed 4 nautical miles per hour (knots).



38. When is the **MOST DANGEROUS** time to cross a coastal bar?

- A. On an incoming tide (flood tide).
- B. On an outgoing tide (ebb tide).
- C. Slack water (top or bottom of the tide).
- D. All of the above.

39. When a vessel displays this signal what does it mean?

- A. The vessel is fishing.
- B. There are divers working below.
- C. The vessel is a commercial vessel. Keep clear.
- D. Assistance is required.



40. When returning over a coastal bar or travelling with a large 'following sea' offshore, the **SAFEST** option is to:

- A. Maintain a position behind a wave, but not too close.
- B. Maintain a position just in front of a wave.
- C. Proceed at speed through the waves.
- D. Maintain a position on top of a wave.