



National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Policy Position on Professional Safe Boating Practices

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Committee: Enforcement and Training Committee

Background

The National Association of State Boating Law Administrators' mission is to strengthen the ability of the state and territorial boating authorities to reduce death, injury and property damage associated with recreational boating and ensure a safe, secure and enjoyable boating environment. Toward that end, the first goal in the Association's strategic plan is to "provide national leadership and advocacy to focus policies and resources on reducing risks in recreational boating and in waterway security." Reducing risks in recreational boating begins with the safety of those boating safety professionals engaged in on-the-water law enforcement, public education, and search and rescue. In addition, the adoption of safe boating practices by those same professionals, as public role models, is an important way to actively promote positive change in the behavior of the boating public.

Policy

The NASBLA membership encourages all state and federal agencies and organizations engaged in law enforcement, search and rescue, and other professional on-water boating safety activities to:

- Require all employees wear appropriate life jackets at all times when under way in open boats or on open boat decks.
- Develop and implement comprehensive boat operator training and certification policies, for employee boat operators, that at a minimum include:
 - a. completion of a NASBLA-approved boating safety course;
 - b. a process for demonstrating and assessing skills; and
 - c. a process for assessing comprehensive knowledge of, and ability to appropriately apply, the navigation rules of the road.
- Require employee boat operators to conduct pre-departure checks and passenger briefings and communicate a float plan before each departure.