



Education & Outreach Committee Final Report

**2022-2023 Committee Charges, Membership, and Next Cycle Recommendations
August 15, 2023**

**Chair: MariAnn McKenzie, Oregon
Vice Chair: Betsy Woods, Tennessee**

NASBLA Education & Outreach Committee Charter

Education & Outreach Vision Statement

The Education and Outreach Committee will provide guidance, support, and expertise to advance boating safety and develop national education and outreach program recommendations.

Program recommendations will:

- *Advance the strategic plans of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program and NASBLA;*
- *Incorporate best practices and current research;*
- *Support the implementation of national standards for boating education;*
- *Identify effective innovations in education and outreach;*
- *Develop communication strategies using targeted marketing and educational tactics; and*
- *Connect the public, member organizations and stakeholders with the products of the committee and others.*

Education & Outreach Committee members are assembled into project teams, taking the lead on specific, assigned charges and monitoring activities.

This report provides a summary of committee deliverables and work products for the 2022- 2023 Committee year

Ongoing Projects and Programs

The following projects fall outside the committee charge team process but remain an integral part of the Committee work for 2022-2023:

1. Boating Education Advisory Panel (BEAP)

Formed in 1980, the purpose of BEAP was to have a forum for statewide education coordinators to share ideas, support one another and meet once a year face-to-face. In 2022, NASBLA Executive Board re-imagined BEAP to meet the needs of current and the future of boating safety education. It is now a voluntary consensus body authorized by NASBLA Executive Board. The panel's mission is to strengthen boating safety through professional development opportunities for recreational boating educators. BEAP administers events, credentialing programs, and trainings for boating educators.

Applications for panel membership are accepted year-round. Members of the panel are selected and announced by the NASBLA Executive Board as terms expire or as vacancies occur.

2. International Boating & Water Safety Summit (IBWSS)

The Education & Outreach (E&O) Committee met following the IBWSS meeting in Little Rock, AR. In addition of having the Committee meetings at IBWSS, the Education & Outreach Committees submitted a priority list, identifying presentations, and speakers that would benefit statewide boating education coordinators and other attendees and provide the list to the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC). We assisted with scheduling the Education & Outreach and Paddlesports Committee Meeting prior to the start of IBWSS and the list of presentations during IBWSS.

3. Boating Education Toolkit

Continue updating the living documents; NASBLA Boating Education Coordinator Quick Reference Guide, Outreach Activities and Products Resource lists. Continue to work with NASBLA staff to update the webpage so states and other boating education partners can access the materials. E&O and Paddlesports Chairs and Vice Chairs, with NASBLA staff continue facilitating the Water Cooler meetings with new topics and/or guest speakers every month.

4. Seal of Safe Boating Practices

Three individuals and one alternate will be identified, by the Chair of the Committee, as the review team for projects submitted as needed.

5. NASBLA Test Questions

The Committee will continue to gather test questions to add to the test question pool when needed.

6. Knowledge Management

The Committee will continue to work with NASBLA staff to update and make recommendations for the upkeep and improvement of NASBLA's iDashboards and website.

2023-2024 Education & Outreach Committee Charges

E&O_P&BP_2021-3: Boating Education Toolkit

Charge Leader: Chelsea Hofmeier (KS)

Charge: Create a boating education toolkit including webinars, reference materials, support, and training. Facilitate the Boating Education Advisory Panel (BEAP) for continued collaboration among education professionals. Encourage boating education collaboration and discussion by holding monthly "Water Cooler" meetings. Work with NASBLA staff to update and make access to the Boating Education Toolkit Quick Guide and other relevant documents easily accessible on the NASBLA website. Deliver orientation/training at meetings (including BEAP) and virtual sessions. In addition, conduct a national webinar-based orientation/training to ensure broader reach.

Accomplishments:

- The Charge Team met five times during the 2022-2023 session.
- We met nine times using the "Water Cooler" forum. Several boating topics were brought up from state education coordinators and discussed among the attendees.
- The Team completed its revision of the NASBLA Boating Education Toolkit Quick Guide and now titled as the NASBLA Boating Education Coordinator Quick Reference Guide (Guide).
- The teams discussed the best way to make the final products and information easily available for all NASBLA members. The Guide was made available to NASBLA staff who hope to have a webpage available by the Annual NASBLA Conference in September. Postings will continue to the webpage.

Recommendations:

- This Charge is completed and does not need to continue in the 2023-2024 session as the project falls outside the committee charge team process but remains an integral part of the Committee work and is now under the Ongoing Projects and Program section of this report.

EO_2023_2: NASBLA Education Policy Sections

Charge Leader: Betsy Woods (TN)

Charge: Provide boating education course approval training to state reviewers. Evaluate the current process which the boating education assessment questions are weighted to ensure they are aligned with the US Coast Guard Incident (Accident) Reports. When necessary, advise on course submissions to determine compliance with NASBLA interactive course requirements. Provide boating education course approval training to state reviewers.

Accomplishments:

- The Charge Team met one time during the 2022-2023 session.
- The Team completed the updates to the NASBLA Policy for Course Delivery Platform and Student Assessments for a Boating Safety Education Course and it has been posted on the NASBLA Course Approval page.
- A course approval training was conducted by Stacey Brown (VA) and Betsy Woods (TN) at the in-person E&O and Paddlesports Committee meeting on April 16, 2023, in Little Rock, AR.

Recommendations:

- This Charge is completed and does not need to continue in the 2023-2024 as the project falls outside the committee charge team process but remains an integral part of the work of state educators. However, every five years the document should be reviewed for any updates or changes to the process.
- The newly created BEAP should continue the training to new state coordinators to ensure they understand the review process of online and classroom Boating Safety Education Courses and the approval process.

EO_2023_3: Enhanced Recreational Boating Certificate (ERBC)

Charge Leader: Amanda Perez (BoatUS)

Charge: Establish an enhanced boating certificate that would encourage boaters to take existing knowledge and hands-on skill-based boating education courses. Establish guidelines for issuing an ERBC based on completion of an existing NASBLA Approved Knowledge Course and an existing Verified On-Water Skills-based course. Work with NASBLA staff to draft a comprehensive process boaters would be required to use to obtain an ERBC. Identify potential vendors that could be used to administer the ERBC program. Approximate the cost of issuing an ERBC to boaters. Identify any industry partners that would have an interest in participating in or utilizing an ERBC program.

Accomplishments:

- The Charge Team met 23 times during the 2022-2023 session.
- The Team completed the program policies and process to conduct a pilot program. The deliverables are still being reviewed by the committee prior to submitting to the NASBLA Executive Board.

Recommendations:

- Carry over into the 2023-2024 session.
- Review the process thoroughly, answer questions before opening the pilot program to those interested.
- Once final review has been completed, present the program in the 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 cycle to the full Education and Outreach Committee for a vote and to make a presentation to the Executive Board. Once approved, begin the pilot program with interested states or vendors.

EO_2023_4: Recreational Boating Safety (RBS) Instructor Credentialing (RBSIC)

Charge Leader: Brian Rehwinkel (FL)

Charge: Work with NASBLA staff to develop test questions for the RBS Instructor Credentialing assessment. Collaborate with other NASBLA Committees to identify, update, or create instructional modules. Identify and outline a process that could be used to offer these instructional modules. Conduct a bi-annual assessment to ensure that the minimum requirements for credentialing are being sustained.

Accomplishments:

- The Charge Team met 21 times during the 2022-2023 session.
- The Team completed developing a Recreational Boating Safety Instructor Credential (RBSIC) outline and domain assessment questions. The deliverables are still being reviewed by the committee prior to submitting to the NASBLA Executive Board.

Recommendations:

- Carry over into the 2023-2024 session.
- Create a comprehensive online NASBLA course to compliment the test questions that were completed. Students should not have to go to several resources to provide for the training.
- Once final review has been completed, present the program in the 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 cycle to the full Education and Outreach Committee for a vote and to make a presentation to the Executive Board. Once approved, begin the pilot program with interested states or education instructors.
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2023 Annual Education & Outreach Committee Meeting

The Committee with the Paddlesports Committee held an in-person meeting on April 15-16, 2023, in Little Rock, AR in conjunction with the International Boating Water Safety Summit (IBWSS).