



This National Boating Education Standard, as overseen by the National Boating Education Standards Panel (ESP), is the product of voluntary consensus of representatives of federal and state government, industry, nonprofit organizations, and public sectors. It is intended as a guide to aid the boating community in the design and implementation of boating courses and boater education.

ESP will review this standard at least every five years, at which time it may be reaffirmed, revised, or withdrawn. ESP welcomes written comments on the Standard during open public comment periods via <http://esp.nasbla.org/esp/>. Requests for interpretation may be submitted at any time via esp@nasbla.org.

American National Standard

ANSI/NASBLA 101-2022: Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Human-Propelled



American National Standard (ANS)

Approval of an American National Standard requires review by American National Standards Institute (ANSI) that the requirements for due process, consensus, and other criteria for approval have been met by the standards developer. Consensus is established when, in the judgment of the ANSI Board of Standards Review (BSR), substantial agreement has been reached by directly and materially affected interests. Substantial agreement means much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity. Consensus requires that all views and objections be considered, and that a concerted effort be made towards their resolution. The use of American National Standards is completely voluntary; their existence does not in any respect preclude anyone, whether that person has approved the standards or not, from manufacturing, marketing, purchasing, or using products, processes, or procedures not conforming to the standards. The American National Standards Institute does not develop standards and will in no circumstances give an interpretation of any American National Standard. Moreover, no person shall have the right or authority to issue an interpretation of an American National Standard in the name of the American National Standards Institute. Requests for interpretations should be addressed to the secretariat or sponsor whose name appears on the title page of this standard.

CAUTION NOTICE: This American National Standard may be revised or withdrawn at any time. The procedures of the American National Standards Institute require that action be taken periodically to reaffirm, revise, or withdraw this standard. Purchasers of American National Standards may receive current information on all standards by calling or writing the American National Standards Institute.



Published by
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators
1020 Monarch Street, Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40513

Copyright © 2022 by National Association of State Boating Law Administrators
All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form, in an electronic retrieval system or otherwise, without prior written permission of the publisher.

National Boating Education Standards Panel

Jeffrey Wheeler, Chair

Paul Alber	Kim Jackson	Harry Munns
Bob Brandenstein	Ernie Lentz	Amanda Perez
Bob Beck	Eric Lundin	Tim Spice
Carolyn Belmore	Joseph McCullough	Walt Taylor
Edward Cossette		Joshua Underwood

The list above represents the membership at the time the draft standard was presented for consensus ballot in 2019.

Jeffrey Wheeler, Chair

Paul Alber	Charles Hayes	Amanda Perez
Bob Brandenstein	Ernie Lentz	Tim Spice
Bob Beck	Eric Lundin	Walt Taylor
Carolyn Belmore	Joseph McCullough	Kelli Toth
Edward Cossette		Joshua Underwood

This list represents the membership at the time the revised draft standard was presented for consensus ballot in 2020.

Amanda Perez, Chair

Paul Alber	Edward Cossette	Joseph McCullough
Ash Ashbaugh	Jerry Desmond	Melissa Miranda
Bob Brandenstein	Charles Hayes	Walt Taylor
Bob Beck	Eric Lundin	Kelli Toth
Carolyn Belmore		Joshua Underwood

This list represents the membership at the time the revised draft standard was presented for consensus ballot in 2021.

NOTE: Membership on a panel or committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) or any document developed by the panel or committee on which the member serves.

This standard was developed under procedures of essential requirements for the American National Standards Institute. The Panel that approved the standard was balanced based on interest categories to ensure that individuals representing those with material interests in the standard had an opportunity to participate.

This standard, which is the result of extended and careful consideration of available knowledge and experience on the subject, is intended to provide minimum performance requirements.

National Boating Education Standards Panel meetings are open to the public. All contact regarding standards activity, interpretations, or meeting attendance should be directed to NASBLA ESP Staff at esp@nasbla.org.

REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATIONS

Upon written request, the Education Standards Panel will render an interpretation of any requirement of the standard. The request for interpretation should be clear and unambiguous. Requests should be presented to the ESP in a manner in which they may be answered in a “yes” or “no” fashion.

The Panel reserves the right to reconsider any interpretation when or if additional information which might affect it becomes available to the ESP. Persons aggrieved by an interpretation may appeal to the Panel for reinterpretation.

REQUEST FOR APPEALS

Any directly and materially affected interest who believe they have been or will be adversely affected by a Standard, or by the lack thereof, shall have the right to appeal substantive or procedural actions or inactions of the National Boating Education Standards Panel per Part XII of the [Panel Rules](#) (latest version) posted at www.nasbla.org under Advocacy > National Education Standards. As stated in the Rules, prior to the filing of a formal appeal, communication of the alleged actions or inactions, with mutual effort to informally resolve the dissatisfaction, shall be attempted and documented.

Contents	Page
Scope.....	1
1.0 Terminology	1
2.0 Boat Types and Characteristics.....	1
3.0 Required Equipment	1
4.0 Trip Planning and Preparation	2
5.0 Safe Boat Operation	2
6.0 Navigation	3
7.0 Emergency Preparedness and Response	4
8.0 Other Water Activities	4
9.0 Environmental Concerns	4

FOREWORD

This standard defines general, entry-level knowledge a boater should possess for safe recreational boat operation. This consensus-based standard is designed to support course providers and raise the overall level of quality, availability, and consistency of instruction in entry-level recreational boater knowledge. This standard functions within a national system of standards for recreational boat operation.

It is recommended this standard be used in conjunction with any accompanying Technical Report.

The standard is organized as follows:

- The numerical identifiers assigned to each element are for ease of reference only, and they do not imply any sequential process of learning or that the information only applies to that particular section.
- Individual numbered elements are organized for ease of reference. Each individual numbered element can be applied within other elements during design and delivery of instruction.
- All items listed after the word “including” are requirements of the standard. Additional items may be added.

REFERENCES

The following is a listing of all American National Standards for Basic Boating Knowledge. Additional listed references provide content to supplement this standard for specific boat types. Unless otherwise noted the latest version of referenced standards shall apply. NOTE: Per ANSI Essential Requirements, identification of products or services is not an endorsement of those products or services or their suppliers.

Source: NASBLA - National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, 1020 Monarch, Suite 200, Lexington, KY 40513. Phone: (859) 225-9487. Standards and ANSI-Registered Technical Reports are available at www.nasbla.org.

- 100-2022, Basic Boating Knowledge – Core
- 101-2022, Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Human-Propelled
- 102-2022, Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Sailing
- 103-2022, Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Power
- 103.1-2022, Supplement - Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Water-Jet Propelled

The following American National Standards for on-water boating skills provide information to guide on-water skill training which can be used to supplement the knowledge standards.

Source: ABYC - American Boat & Yacht Council, Inc., 613 Third Street, Suite 10, Annapolis, MD 21403. Phone: (410) 990-4460. Website: www.abycinc.org.

- EDU-1, On-Water Recreational Boating Skills - Power
- EDU-2, Skill-Based Human-Propelled Standard
- EDU-3, Skills-Based Sailboat Standard
- EDU-4, On-Water Instruction Standard

Education providers are also encouraged to use the National On-Water Standards (NOWS) Technical Support Documents (TSDs) that accompany each standard to support the design and implementation of on-water entry-level instruction. These documents are available for free download at www.usnows.org.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this document the following definitions apply:

accident (n) – 1) An unforeseen and unplanned event or circumstance. 2) In boating, a general term referring to a recreational boating event that results in an injury, fatality, property damage, and/or vessel that is a total loss. *(Note: The boating safety community, including Marine Law Enforcement Agencies, are transitioning away from “accident” and to the term “incident.”)*

beginner (n) – A novice who has begun a course of instruction or is learning the fundamentals.

boat (n) – A small vessel for travel on water; Includes every description of watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

boat (v) – To place in or bring into a boat, to go by boat.

entry-level (adj) – Of or being at the lowest level of hierarchy. The proficiency reached by a person who has successfully completed an appropriate amount of beginner instruction, or has achieved a sufficient level of experience, to be ready to pursue (or “enter” safely into) recreational boating.

human-propelled vessel (n) – Any vessel propelled by human power, typically with oars or paddles.

incident (n) – An occurrence of an action or situation that is a separate unit of experience. Something dependent on or subordinate to something else of greater or principal importance. *Also see “Accident”.*

knowledge (n) – Cognitive outcome of the learning process usually tested by verbal or written questions.

go-no-go (adj) – Being or relating to a required decision to continue or stop a course of action. Being or relating to a point at which a go-no-go decision must be made.

passenger (n) – Any person onboard, excluding the operator.

power-driven vessel (n) – Any vessel propelled by machinery.

sailing vessel (n) – Any vessel under sail provided that propelling machinery, if fitted, is not used.

standard (n) – According to the American National Standards Institute, 1) a recognized unit of comparison by which the correctness of others can be determined; 2) a set of characteristics or qualities that describes features of a product, process, or service.

skill (n) – The learned capacity, aptitude, or ability to do something.

underway (adj)– occurring, performed, or used while traveling or in motion.

underway (adv) – In motion: not at anchor or aground. A vessel is not at anchor, or made fast to the shore, or aground.

water-jet propelled vessel (n) – Any vessel propelled by machinery which powers a pump producing a jet of water.

vessel (n) –Any watercraft, including nondisplacement craft and seaplanes, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

American National Standard

Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Human-Propelled

Scope

This discipline-specific "Plus" standard, when combined with the "Basic Boating Knowledge – Core" standard, establishes minimum essential knowledge to reduce human-propelled recreational boating risk factors. The combined standards are to be used for development of basic boating education courses and student assessment for human-propelled vessels. This standard applies to basic knowledge for human-propelled recreational boating in the U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia.

1.0 Terminology

1.1 - See "Basic Boating Knowledge – Core" (*latest version*)

1.2 Discipline Specific

1.2.1 – Define terms specific to the vessel and related equipment.

2.0 Boat Types and Characteristics

2.1 through 2.4 - See "Basic Boating Knowledge – Core" (*latest version*)

3.0 Required Equipment

3.1 through 3.3 - See "Basic Boating Knowledge – Core" (*latest version*)

3.4 Discipline Specific

3.4.1 Describe the importance of wearing life jackets at all times on a human-propelled vessel.

3.4.2 Describe safety equipment boaters should carry that is appropriate for the circumstances, such as:

- helmet, whistle, river knife, rescue throw bag, rescue hardware (webbing, carabineers, z-drag kit), leash, first aid kit, signal mirror, flotation bags, and dry bags;
- dewatering equipment (pump, sponge or bucket); and
- a map or chart of the area (if applicable).

3.4.3 Describe importance of carrying visual distress signals, communication devices and survival items ON YOUR PERSON so they are readily available including whistles, waterproof radios, and waterproofed cell phones.

4.0 Trip Planning and Preparation

4.1 through 4.10 - See “Basic Boating Knowledge – Core” (*latest version*)

4.11 Discipline Specific

4.11.1 Describe how to make informed go-no-go decisions based on water conditions such as;

- strong currents, waves, hydraulics;
- dangerous areas and features in and around the water including rocky shores, human-made structures, debris, trees, or other items; and,
- the importance of considering water conditions in trip planning.

4.11.2 Describe the need for regular inspection of common failure points of a human-propelled vessel including;

- water tightness, gaskets, flotation air bags, etc.; and,
- importance of maintenance, cleaning, and proper storage.

4.11.3 Describe proper procedures for transporting a boat to prevent accidents/incidents and property damage, including making sure the boat is securely fastened to the car or racks, and use of proper tie downs and knots.

4.11.4 Describe courteous use of common access areas to include launching and leaving quickly to clear the area for others.

4.11.5 Describe the benefits of paddling with a partner or others and near shore when possible.

5.0 Safe Boat Operation

5.1 through 5.5 - See “Basic Boating Knowledge – Core” (*latest version*)

5.6 Discipline Specific

5.6.1 Describe the importance of marking vessels with owner information in order to identify unregistered vessels for emergency situations.

5.6.2 Describe the boater's ultimate responsibility for:

- their personal safety;
- the safety of anyone else on board and all activity aboard the human-propelled vessel;
- evaluating environmental conditions including currents, weather, etc. and determining which should be avoided based on skill level;
- refraining from careless, reckless, or negligent operations on the water;
- abiding by general boater courtesy;
- crossing a channel as a group;
- understanding the impact of waves and wakes on boat handling; and
- sharing water features such as eddies and rapids with other paddlers.

5.6.3 Describe how to safely board, exit, and propel a small boat, including:

- sufficient clearance or proper fit so that entry into and exit from the human-propelled vessel is not impeded; and
- basic ergonomics of rowing or paddling including proper body and arm position both to maintain balance in/on the boat and to reduce the possibility of injury.

5.6.4 Describe how to secure the human-propelled vessel at the shore to prevent it from drifting away.

5.6.5 Describe the responsibility to report boating accidents/incidents as it applies to human propelled vessels.

5.6.6 Describe the importance of evaluating trip and environmental conditions to include individual skill levels and preparation of each member of the group.

5.6.7 Describe various types of anchors, associated equipment, and their use. Describe the proper scope, anchoring and retrieval procedures, and safety considerations.

6.0 Navigation

6.1 through 6.4 - See "Basic Boating Knowledge – Core" (*latest version*)

6.5 Discipline Specific

6.5.1 Utilize the content of the most recent version of the NAVIGATION RULES AND REGULATIONS HANDBOOK as published/maintained on the United States Coast Guard's online Navigation Center to describe:

- use by larger vessels and when navigating in a channel, giving way to vessels constrained by the channel;
- avoiding collision with vessels by keeping a sharp lookout;
- using light and sound signals to identify your presence; and
- maneuvering out of the way.

6.5.2 Describe why human-propelled vessels have no special privileges under the Navigation Rules.

7.0 Emergency Preparedness and Response

7.1 through 7.6 - See “Basic Boating Knowledge – Core” (*latest version*)

7.7 Discipline Specific

7.7.1 Describe procedures and tools for assisting other boaters in difficulty, while minimizing risk to the rescuing boater.

7.7.2 Describe how to prevent and respond to emergencies using techniques specific to an individual vessel including falling from a stand up paddleboard.

7.7.3 Describe emergency response procedures including:

- wearing life jackets,
- taking a head count,
- staying with the boat when appropriate,
- signaling for assistance,
- using improvised floating aids,
- initiation of procedures to recover people in the water, and
- proper procedures to use when boating.

7.7.4 Describe dressing for cold water immersion as it pertains to use of human-propelled vessels.

8.0 Other Water Activities

8.1 through 8.2 - See “Basic Boating Knowledge – Core” (*latest version*)

8.3 Discipline Specific

8.3.1. Describe safe practices for hunting and fishing from a human-propelled vessel.

9.0 Environmental Concerns

9.1 through 9.2 - See “Basic Boating Knowledge – Core” (*latest version*)

####

Origin and Development of *Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Human-Propelled*

ANSI/NASBLA 100-2022: Basic Boating Knowledge – Plus Human-Propelled was developed in 2019-2022 by the National Boating Education Standards Panel. It was adapted from work previously compiled by the Education and Outreach Committee of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and from other organizations within the boating education community.

####

This standard represents, as of the date of publication, the consensus of knowledgeable persons, currently active in the field of small craft, on knowledge components that contribute to small boat safety. The National Boating Education Standards Panel assumes no responsibility whatsoever for the use of, or failure to use, standards or technical information reports promulgated by it, their adaptation to any processes of a user, or any consequences flowing therefrom.

Prospective users of the standards and technical information reports are responsible for protecting themselves against liability. The National Boating Education Standards are guides to achieving a level of knowledge and are not intended to preclude attainment of desired results by other means.