



Boat Handler Requirements Policy

Aim

The aim of this policy is to communicate the requirements for becoming an approved boat handler to be allowed to be responsible in taking the club boats for a club activity.

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1 Revision

This policy is to be maintained and reviewed by the AUSC Committee.

2 Application

This policy applies to members who would like to take on the position of boat handler, and to those boat handlers already certified.

3 Boat handler requirements

Boat handlers must:

- Hold a valid boat license;
- Have either:
 - attended a Seamanship course (or equivalent course) and successfully passed all requirements; or
 - held sufficient prior experience to be approved competent, and completed a boat handler application form detailing experience;
- Have conducted an internal AUSC boat familiarisation day, or a comparable boat training trip;
- Have been judged competent to take the boat out, authorised by the boat officer or other suitably competent committee member (as discussed in further detail); and
- Approved by the committee by majority vote.

3.1 Seamanship course

SA Sea Rescue Squadron (<http://www.sasearescue.org.au>) organise these at various times of the year, and AUSC members are strongly encouraged to attend to satisfy AUSC boat handling requirements.

Content of Course:

- Regulations for the prevention of Collisions at Sea,
- Navigation lights and pilotage;
- Knots, splices and their use;
- Types of anchors and applications; Launching and recovery of trailable craft on ramps and beaches; Close quarter manoeuvres;
- Fire extinguishers and fire types; Safety at sea; Flares and their use; and Basic weather forecast interpretation.

This course is recognised and accepted by the Department Transport as sufficient to obtain a Boat Operators License.

AUSC will provide participants five (5) free boat trips upon successful completion of the course. It is encouraged that the member will develop their boat handling skills through the use of these boat credits. These free boat trips expire 12 months from the completion of the course.

(Reference: Motion of AUSC Committee Meeting 2/06/2009)

Note that should AUSC sponsor members through other means (such as financial compensation from grants), then this clause is no longer valid.

3.2 Club boat familiarisation session

Upon completion of the seamanship course, potential AUSC boat handlers must organise familiarisation with the club's vessels.

Content:

- Where items are kept;
- Safety items in the vessel;
- Use of the boat's radios;
- Use of the boat's GPS: Setting waypoints, highway display, etc. and
- Safe towing, driving, launching and retrieval.

A club boat familiarisation session should occur for each of the club's boats, since there are specific differences in the boat configurations.

Refer *AUSC Boat Handling Policy* and *AUSC Towing Policy* for further information on these topics.

4 Recommended certification

Although not compulsory, boat handlers are strongly encouraged to have the following:

- First aid, including CPR;
- Oxygen provider; and
- VHF radio competency.

5 Competency

As a final requirement, potential boat handlers must take the boat out on a dive trip, supervised by the AUSC Boating Officer, or other suitably qualified committee member.

The new boat handler will give a dive briefing explaining where the safety equipment is on the boat, the dive procedure to be followed and details of the dive site.

The AUSC Boating Officer (or other suitably qualified committee member) must be confident of the potential boat handler's abilities, skills and duty of care.

6 Refresher

If a boat handler has not taken one of the club boats out in the past 12 months, it is mandatory that the boat handler conduct boat handler refresher training (i.e. refer Section 3.2), and get approval from the AUSC Boating Officer before taking out trips again.

(Reference: Motion of AUSC Committee Meeting 14/07/2015)

Note that this also applies to the different club boats also. For example, regularly taking a club boat "Stargazer" and not taking another boat out by 12 months means a boat refresher training session on this boat is then required.

7 Register

Upon satisfying the requirements of becoming a boat handler, the member's name will be placed on the club register of qualified boat drivers.

The register is to be maintained by the AUSC Boating Officer.

A copy of this register must be lodged with AU Sport.

8 Practical experience

It is recommended that the person with the least experience handling the boat gain experience and confidence under another boat handler judged competent.

9 References

South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron – *Seamanship*, <https://sasearescue.org.au/seamanship/>.

10 Document control

Revision (Date)	Person	Comments
0 (13/10/2015)	Author: David Warren Reviewed: Committee (via Meeting 13/10/2015) Approved: David Warren, President	Document released to club membership. Note: Split sections from Diving chapter, and club boat familiarisation section from Training chapter. Also split boat handler development (this policy) away from activity boat handling.
1 (10/11/2015)	Author: David Warren Reviewed: Committee (via Meeting 10/11/2015) Approved: David Warren, President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 2 <i>Application</i>: Slightly reworded to make more applicability for developing / certified boat handlers. Section 3.1 <i>Seamanship Course</i>: Added disclaimer for boating credits that should AUSC sponsor members, then the member is not given boating credits. Section 7 <i>Register</i>: Removed “the” from register lodged with the AU Sport. Section 3.2 and Section 6: Added familiarisation/refresher training applied to each boat, rather than the boat handling skill as a whole.