

Boat Handling Syllabus



This syllabus looks at the present system of training our Boat Handlers or Cox'ns with a view to improving the method of training, raising standards and hopefully reducing the percentage of boat handling incidents. The Cox'ns should be trained prior to using the boat rather than doing the course and examination together. Some form of training is necessary prior to filling out a boat handling log. Irrespective of previous training, this log should be diving related.

The responsibility of the Cox'n and the role played by him and the boat in a dive plan must be clearly outlined, particularly in the event of an emergency. The sequence of the syllabus is outlined as follows:

1. Introduce the boat to the Cox'n at an early stage, i.e. snorkel diver standard or interested non-diver (minimum age 16 years). He will attend a course designed to teach the various basics of boat handling with an examination at the end. Throughout the course he will learn the basic theory and practical aspects of boat handling from qualified instructors.
2. Having completed the course he will then keep a log of their diving related boat handling as an assistant Cox'n. The log is designed to ensure they do not just log hours but encounter various conditions to test and improve their skills, knowledge and confidence.
3. Once the log has been completed he can go forward for the diver Cox'n examination.
4. The test will consist of an oral examination on theory as outlined in the syllabus and a practical boat handling test.

BOAT HANDLING COURSE

INTRODUCTION:

In recent years the use of small boats has played a central role in the type of diving done by most clubs in Ireland. It is therefore essential that the divers at an early stage in their development acquire a good level of knowledge and skill in the use and limitations of small boats for diving.

AIMS:

The aims of this course are to provide the basic knowledge and skill necessary to handle small power boats safely and correctly.

ORGANISATION AND INSTRUCTION:

This course will be organised by the club and the course organiser must be qualified to at least moniteur* (one star). The candidates will be at least 16 years of age and must have the consent of their Diving Officer to attend the course. Instructors assisting the course organiser should be qualified in Diver Cox'n standard.

Attendance:

Full attendance at all theory and practical sessions are required to successfully complete the course.

NOTE - unless attendance is 100%, certification **cannot** be granted.

COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE

PART 1 - THEORY LECTURES:

INTRODUCTION:

The course should be planned to provide for covering the theoretical aspects of the course contained hereafter. This should be completed before the practical exercises are undertaken.

These classroom sessions may be completed in a series of evening classes or on one day of a weekend course or however the club sees fit.

Lecture No.1 - The Boat and its Equipment: M2/S1/L1 30 mins.

Types of Craft
Seaworthiness
Ancillary and Safety Equipment
Care and Maintenance of the Boat and its Equipment
Boat Trailers

Lecture No.2 - Responsibilities of the Owner/Cox'n: M2/S1/L2 30 mins.

Insurance
Towing and the Law
Lighting Regulations
Harbour and Local Authority Bye-laws
Customs of the Sea
Salvage Laws

Lecture No.3 - Emergency Situations (Part 1): M2/S1/L3 30 mins.

Basic First Aid
Man Overboard
Towing at Sea
Fire at Sea
Craft Capsizing
Rescue Agencies
Disabled Craft

Lecture No.4 - Seamanship: M2/S2/L1 30 mins.

Use of Compass at Sea
Using Transits at Sea

Lecture No.5 - Emergency Situations (Part 2): M2/S2/L2 30 mins.

Use of V.H.F. Radio.
Distress Signals
Flares

Lecture No.6 - Pre-Launch Planning: M2/S2/L3

30 mins.

Weather
 Tides
 Charts and Chartwork
 Informing Shore Marshal
 Boat Equipment Check List

Lecture No.7 - The Boat at Sea: M2/S3/L1

30 mins.

Launching / Landing / Coming Alongside
 Turning / Stopping
 Picking up Divers
 High Speed / Rough Weather Handling

PART 2 - PRACTICAL LECTURES:
INTRODUCTION:

As the aim of the course is to provide an introduction to boat handling, the candidate should spend as much time as possible actually handling the boat and putting the craft through the exercises.

Lecture No.8 - Outboard Engines: M2/S3/L2

30 mins.

Types of engines
 Controls
 Safety devices
 Fuel system / lubrication
 Cooling system
 Care and maintenance

Lecture No.9- Practical Seamanship: M2/S3/L3

30 mins.

Anchors & Anchoring + Sea Anchor
 Ropes / Shot Lines / Lazy Lines (use of)
 Some Basic Knot Tying

Once the candidate has completed the course to the satisfaction of his/her Diving Officer, they are now qualified as an **Assistant Cox'n.**

Assistant Cox'ns must now complete a record of their boat handling experiences, known as a **Boat Handling Log.**

BOAT HANDLING LOG

REQUIREMENTS:

Entries should only be made in the log after you have successfully completed the Cox'n course.

All entries must be made during boat diving operations only.

DATE	DETAILS	LOCATION	D.O. SIG.
	Assisted Cox'n (1 hour)		
	Assisted Cox'n (1 hour)		
	Assisted Cox'n (1 hour)		
	Assisted Cox'n (1 hour)		
	Rough Weather Handling		
	Rough Weather Handling		
	River Current / Tidal Drift		
	River Current / Tidal Drift		
	Covering Divers		
	Covering Divers		
	High Speed Handling		
	High Speed Handling		
	Congested Area Handling		
	Congested Area Handling		

Entries should only be made in the log after you have successfully completed the coxwain course. As soon as the boat handling log has been completed, the assistant Cox'n is now eligible to undertake the Diver Cox'n examination.

DIVER COX'N EXAMINATION

INTRODUCTION:

During this examination the candidate will be expected to demonstrate that he/she has acquired the knowledge and the ability to plan and prepare a small boat for open sea diving.

The candidate must be able to handle his/her boat and crew to provide safe and reliable cover for divers in the water and, in the event of an emergency, be capable of dealing with the situation.

PREREQUISITES:

1. Be at least 16 years of age.
2. Have completed the Cox'n course.
3. Have completed the boat handling log.
4. Have the written permission of his/her Diving Officer to undertake the examination.

ORGANISATION:

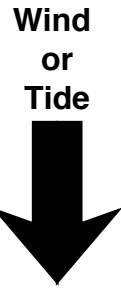
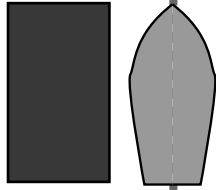
The examination will be organised by the Regional Diving Officer.

EXAMINATION DETAILS:

The candidates will be expected to handle a small boat suitably equipped and prepared by the candidates through the course outlined in figure 1. While on board, the candidate will be expected to demonstrate and answer questions on the theoretical and practical material contained in the Diver Cox'n course.

Candidates may use their own boats and/or equipment during the examination.

Start / Finish



Pick up Buoy and Anchor

Steer by Compass

Steer by Transits

Turn in own length

C.F.T. Boat Handling Practical Test

Man Overboard

"Hold off" for 30 secs

Not Necessarily in This Order

Stop / Start Engine

BEACH
Beach Landing & Launching

High Speed Runs

"S" Turns
"U" Turns

Reverse Fig. of Eight

Towing a Craft

10 mts

