

Who May Operate a Personal Watercraft

Wisconsin

- No one under the age of 12 may operate a PWC.
- A person at least 12 years old but less than 16 must have completed a boating safety course accepted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to operate a PWC. The operator's course certificate must be carried on board the PWC. (Parental supervision is not a substitute for a boating safety course certificate as with other motorboats.)
- No one under the age of 16 may rent or lease a PWC.

Michigan

- No one under the age of 12 years may legally operate a PWC.

Those 12 and 13 years of age:

- A person who is 12 or more and less than 14 years of age may operate a PWC **only if**:
 - He or she obtained a boating safety certificate prior to January 1, 1999, **or...**
 - **All** of the following conditions are satisfied:
 1. The person is accompanied solely by his or her parent or legal guardian.
 2. Both the person and the parent or legal guardian have obtained a boating safety certificate.
 3. The PWC is equipped with a lanyard-type ignition safety switch and the parent or legal guardian has the lanyard attached to his or her person, clothing or PFD.
 4. The PWC is designed to carry at least two persons.

Those 14 years of age or older:

- A person born after December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC **only if** he or she has obtained a boating safety certificate.
- Those born December 31, 1978, or earlier may operate a PWC without restrictions.

Illinois

Persons **at least 10 years old but less than 12 years old** may operate a personal watercraft, **only if**:

- They are accompanied by and under the direct control of a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old designated by the parent or guardian.

Persons **at least 12 years old but less than 18 years old** may operate a personal watercraft, **only if**:

- They complete a boating safety course and possess a Boating Safety Education Certificate accepted by the Department of Natural Resources **or...**
- They are accompanied by and under the direct control of a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old designated by the parent or guardian. Persons 18 years old or older are not subject to operator age restrictions.