

Useful Information

- All Powerboat courses provided at the Dabchicks Sailing Club will automatically include the 'Coastal Endorsement'.
- No previous experience is necessary if you wish to undertake the Powerboat Level 2 course.
- When upon completion of your course you will be provided with an RYA booklet 'Start Powerboating', this is the official course book for Levels 1 and 2 of the RYA National Powerboat Scheme, it goes through everything you need to know as a novice powerboater, from basics such as the boat and the equipment you need, through to heavy weather techniques and night navigation.
- Participants will need to provide their own waterproof and warm dry clothing as appropriate - please remember it is always feels colder at sea! Dry suits are only a good idea if the weather is very cold and wet because they may be uncomfortable if worn for long periods of time.
- You will also need your own life jacket or buoyancy aid; the School has a limited number of life jackets, if you will need to use one please let us know in advance, but we cannot guarantee to have your size.
- In hot weather it is advisable to have plenty of sun block, head protection and a bottle of water.
- Tea / coffee and snacks will be available at the Clubhouse without charge, but you will need to provide your own lunch. There are shops, pubs and cafes along the waterfront and in the nearby West Mersea High Street, but a packed lunch is a good and flexible alternative.
- Male and female showers, toilets and changing facilities are available at the Clubhouse.
- Parking on the Dabchicks forecourt is reserved for officers of the club, parking near the Clubhouse is limited, especially in summer months when no waiting restrictions apply along the waterfront; you may need to park in the unrestricted roads nearby.
- Courses start at 9.00am each day, but please come a little early for a cup of tea or coffee.
- Please read the terms and conditions on the reverse side of the booking form carefully.

Personal buoyancy equipment

The Centre reserves the right not allow personal buoyancy equipment to be used if, in the judgement of the School, it is an inappropriate design, lacks sufficient buoyancy or is in poor condition. RYA Recommendations for buoyancy are set out below:

Personal flotation devices (buoyancy aids and life jackets) have different levels of buoyancy. These levels of buoyancy should be considered and influence your choice, when selecting a personal flotation device. There are four main buoyancy levels; 50, 100, 150 and 275. In general terms, Level 50 is a buoyancy aid designed for when help is close at hand, whereas Level 150 is a general purpose lifejacket used for offshore cruising and motor boating. To determine these levels of buoyancy under test conditions, the test subjects (real people) are dressed in bathing costumes. This requirement provides good consistency and repeatability for testing, but needs to be taken into account in your selection, as foul weather clothing or babies nappies are likely to adversely effect the performance level. This is particularly true with Level 100 and 150, when turning a person over so their head is clear of the water. A garment that is the incorrect size for the wearer will adversely affect the performance level.

Level 50
Example



Label



This level is intended for use by those who are competent swimmers and who are near to bank, shore, or who have help and a means of rescue close at hand. These garments have minimal bulk, but they are of limited use in disturbed water, and cannot be expected to keep the user safe for a long period of time. They do not have sufficient buoyancy to protect people who are unable to help themselves. They require active participation by the user. Standards applicable to this level; EN 393 or ISO 12402 – 5.

Level 100
Example



Label



This level is intended for those who may have to wait for rescue, but are likely to do so in sheltered water. The device should not be used in rough conditions. Standards applicable to this level; EN 395 or ISO 12402 – 4.

Level 150
Example



Label



This level is intended for general offshore and rough weather use where a high standard of performance is required. It will turn an unconscious person into a safe position and requires no subsequent action by the user to maintain this position. Standards applicable to this level; EN 396 or ISO 12402 – 3.

Level 275
Example



Label



This level is intended primarily for offshore use and by people who are carrying significant weights and thus require additional buoyancy. It is also of value to those who are wearing clothing which traps air and which may adversely affect the self-righting capacity of the lifejacket. It is designed to ensure that the user is floating in the correct position with their mouth and nose clear of the surface. Standards applicable to this level; EN 399 or ISO 12402 – 2.