



Safety Guidelines

Kiteboarding and Windsurfing Maritime



**YOU'RE THE SKIPPER
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE**



September 2024

SAFETY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS



NON-REGISTRABLE VESSELS

Sailboards, kiteboards, windsurfers, paddle craft, tenders and sailing dinghies.

PROTECTED WATERS

Includes rivers, lakes, estuaries, harbours and waters within 400 metres from the shore in unprotected waters but excludes Cambridge Gulf and Lake Argyle.

UNPROTECTED WATERS

Beyond 400 metres from the shore.

NOT REQUIRED

NOT REQUIRED

RECOMMENDED

✓
Minimum Level 50S
MUST BE WORN

RECOMMENDED

✓
Minimum Level 50S
MUST BE CARRIED

RECOMMENDED

✓
Minimum Level 50S
MUST BE WORN

RECOMMENDED



RECOMMENDED



RECOMMENDED

RECOMMENDED

RECOMMENDED

RECOMMENDED

17-09-03-0924



Recreational Skipper's Ticket

The skipper of a recreational vessel, powered by a motor greater than 6 horsepower must hold an RST.



Lifejacket Carriage

A lifejacket, as indicated in the table opposite, must be carried for every person on board.

Vessels smaller than 4.8m

Vessels 4.8m and larger



Lifejacket Wearing

As indicated in the table opposite.

Children older than one and younger than 12



Distress Beacon (in-date)

A GPS enabled 406 MHz EPIRB OR if worn by at least one person, a GPS enabled PLB. Distress beacons must be in-date and registered with AMSA.



Red and Orange Flares (in-date)

At least two hand held red flares and two hand held orange flares must be carried.

OR



Electronic Visual Distress Signal (EVDS)

An electronic signalling device may be carried in lieu of flares IF a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn) is also carried.



Marine Radio

A VHF or HF marine radio on any Registrable Vessel when operating more than 4 nautical miles from shore in unprotected waters.



Recommended Additional Safety Equipment

It is recommended an anchor and line and a means of removing water be carried.

Contact details

Department of Transport

Email: Ed.Boat@transport.wa.gov.au

Website: www.transport.wa.gov.au/imarine

Marine Safety Hotline: 13 11 56

Police

Emergency: 000

Water Police: 9442 8600

Boating Weather Forecasts

Boating weather: 1300 815 916

Website: www.bom.gov.au

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Website: www.dbca.wa.gov.au



DECKEE

Boating in WA just got smarter.
Download the free Deckee app.

DoT Direct

anywhere, anytime!
Save time and go online today



Join us at
facebook.com/MarineSafetyWA



For further information go to
www.transport.wa.gov.au/kitesafe
or scan the QR Code

The information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and believed to be accurate at time of publication. The State shall in no way be liable for any loss sustained or incurred by any person relying on the information. 04-03-SE-SER-0924



Kiteboarding and windsurfing

Kiteboarding and windsurfing are popular pastimes in WA and there are some key actions kiteboarders and windsurfers can take to be safe.

Kiteboarders and windsurfers are subject to laws in WA. This means there are rules for safety equipment, areas of operation and collision avoidance that need to be followed.

Lookout

The most important rule on the water is to keep a good lookout. By doing so a kiteboarder or windsurfer can act to avoid a collision which is a key responsibility of an operator and fundamental to water safety.

Avoid collisions

Every person operating vessels, kiteboards and windsurfers have a responsibility to take all necessary steps to avoid a collision.

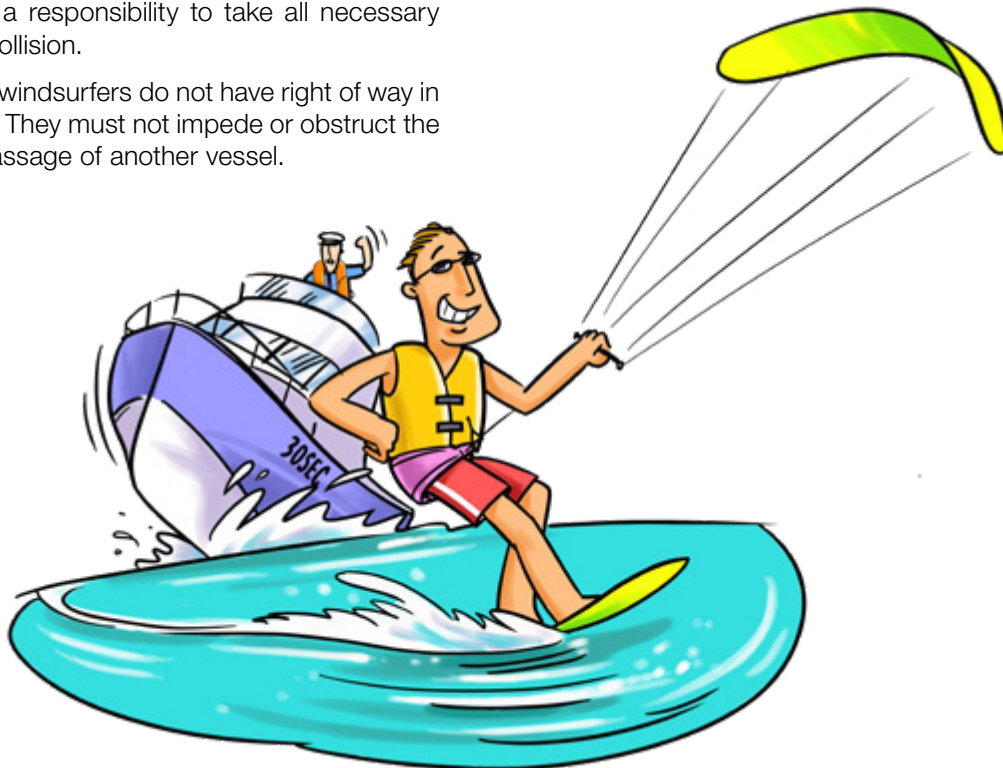
Kiteboarders and windsurfers do not have right of way in all circumstances. They must not impede or obstruct the safe and lawful passage of another vessel.

Safe speed

Operating a kiteboard or windsurfer at high speed in a busy boating area is dangerous and can have tragic consequences. Kiteboarders and windsurfers need to determine a safe speed for the area they are operating in.

Slow down when:

- visibility is poor;
- there is lots of traffic on the water;
- your manoeuvrability is restricted by other kiteboarders or water users;
- you are close to navigational hazards; and
- the water is shallow or sea conditions become unpredictable.



Required safety equipment

Kiteboarders and windsurfers are required to carry safety equipment in accordance with the WA marine laws. Ensure your safety equipment is in good working condition and is easily accessible.

When operating beyond 400 metres from the shore in unprotected waters the following safety equipment is required;

- lifejackets (minimum 50S) must be worn;
- a GPS enabled EPIRB or PLB (must be worn); and
- flares or an Electronic Visual Distress Signalling device (EVDS)

For further information visit our website or call 13 11 56

Abandoned equipment

Kiteboarding and windsurfing are hazardous sports and broken or damaged equipment can make it difficult to get back to shore.

It's a good idea to:

- to tell someone where you are launching from;
- how far you are going; and
- what time you're expected home.

Always inform the local Police if you've had to abandon equipment. In the past, marine search and rescues have been unnecessarily activated after locating abandoned equipment.

It's also a good idea to label your equipment clearly with your contact details so it is returned to you.