



Silver Medallion IRB Driver Learner Guide

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Acknowledgements

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Launching and boarding the IRB

Reference: *Powercraft Training Manual, 8th Ed, p. 44-48*

Practical activities

This session will involve you in a number of practical activities. Your trainer will explain and demonstrate the following tasks, which you will then have the opportunity to practice. Where possible you should run through all procedures on dry land before progressing to flat/calm water and finally to more challenging conditions:

Activity 1

Simulate coordinating the launch and boarding of the IRB – making sure you communicate clearly to your crewperson when to board the IRB and the position to take up.

Activity 2

Complete pre-operational checks before proceeding to practice coordinating the launch and boarding of the IRB in the water. Follow the operational start checks and the start-up procedures.

Activity 3

Coordinate the launch and boarding of the IRB in calm conditions. Brief the crewperson on the mission/task and the commands used for boarding and operating. Practice different ways of launching and boarding the IRB suitable for different conditions.

Activity 4

Practice driving the boat out through small surf while providing instructions to the crew person to enable them to effectively balance the boat. Practice the skills required to head out through the surf at an angle, unless larger waves need to be approached head on. Practice using the throttle to maintain the correct speed to ensure safe and economical progress through the waves.

Activity 5

Practice returning to shore, ensuring crew person and beach patrol are both making appropriate observation to warn you of obstacles you cannot see. Provide directions to the crew person about when/how to alight from the IRB and lift the IRB above the water line.

Advanced driving skills

Reference: *Powercraft Training Manual, 8th Ed, p. 44-48*

Practical activities

This session will involve you in a number of practical activities with your trainer or an experienced IRB Driver acting as your crewperson. Your trainer will explain and demonstrate the following tasks, which you will then have the opportunity to practice. You should expect to practice some of these tasks many times in developing your skills.

Activity 1

Practice driving the boat out through moderate surf while providing instructions to the crewperson to enable them to effectively balance the boat. Practice the skills required to approach larger waves head on and punch through waves. Practice using the throttle to maintain the correct speed to ensure safe and economical progress through the waves.

Activity 2

Driving in slightly more challenging conditions e.g. larger surf. Parallel running can also be attempted provided your trainer agrees that you are ready to practice this skill. Parallel running should be practiced in small surf first (wave height should be less than the side of the vessel) before moving on to more challenging conditions.

Activity 3

Practice solo driving, as would be required if your crewperson fell overboard. Including picking up a crewperson and returning to shore solo.

Activity 4

Practice returning to shore in more challenging conditions, including the use of signals.

Topic 5 - Drive IRB for rescues and perform emergency drills

This topic will help you answer the following questions

1. How is the IRB deployed in rescues?
2. What is the driver's role in performing rescues, including
 - a. driving and manoeuvring the IRB?
 - b. patient pick up and transport?
 - c. coordination and communication with other patrol members and other emergency response services?
3. What emergencies can occur in operating the IRB and how should these be handled?

Most of the content for this topic is in the *SLSA Powercraft Training Manual* 8th Edition. Your trainer will tell you when to refer to the Manual.

Rescue operations

Reference: *Powercraft Manual, 8th Ed, p. 56-61*

Practical activities

This session will involve you in a number of practical activities under the supervision of your trainer and with an IRB Driver acting as your crewperson. Your trainer will explain and demonstrate the following tasks, which you will then have the opportunity to practice. You should expect to practice some of these tasks many times in developing your skills.

Activity 1

Practice approaching single patients in flat/calm water, coming alongside and holding the IRB in position while the crewperson lifts the patient on board – assisting with lifting as required while maintaining control of the throttle. Next practice this for more than one patient in clear open water. (Tip: Use a waterproof LifeTec Water Rescue Dummy or similar if you have one or can borrow one) Practice all appropriate methods of patient pick up suitable – on-the-run; 1,2,3 bounce; tube rescue - and different types of patients (conscious/unconscious, different sizes). All of these rescue techniques are listed in the *Powercraft Training Manual, 8th edition*.

All personnel acting as patients in Powercraft training must wear an SLSA approved helmet. Lifejackets may be removed while in the water acting as a patient or performing a rescue, but must be put straight back on (patients and crew) after re-entering the boat.

Activity 2

Practice full rescue scenarios from launch to carrying the patient from the IRB upon returning to the beach (including use of signals). Practice prioritising patients in a simulated mass rescue.

Advanced rescue operations

Reference: *Powercraft Training Manual, 8th Ed, p.56-61*

Practical activities

This session involves a number of practical activities.

Activity 1

Practice rescues in slightly more challenging conditions e.g. broken water. Gradually increase the difficulty or level of challenge as your skills develop. Practice instructing the crewperson to perform rescues using the rescue tube when conditions require this.

Activity 2

Practice rescue skills from start to finish, making all the decisions required during the process and maintaining appropriate communication with crewperson, beach patrol and others involved, such as:

- receive the call
- prepare and launch the IRB
- maintain communication
- effect the rescue/s
- transport the patient.

IRB emergencies

Reference: *Powercraft Training Manual, 8th Ed, p. 39, 49-53*

A range of different emergency situations can arise in the operation of an IRB. These are often due to the environment and conditions in which the IRB is operated. It is impossible to predict everything that could occur and so the IRB driver needs to be prepared to take various actions to ensure the safety of themselves, the crewperson/s, patients and others in and around the IRB when the emergency occurs. As an emergency response organisation, a surf life saving club will always put a major emphasis on safety in all its operations.

This topic deals with the following types of situations:

- IRB capsize
- fire on IRB/abandon IRB drill
- IRB breakdowns and emergency maintenance

Practical activities

This session will involve you in a number of practical activities under the supervision of your trainer and/or with an experienced IRB driver acting as your crewperson. Your trainer will explain and demonstrate the following tasks, which you will then have the opportunity to practice. You should expect to practice some of these tasks many times in developing your skills to the point where you can make decisions and act appropriately under stress:

Activity 1

Practice capsizing and righting the IRB without a motor (or, with an old motor that is no longer in service if your club has one). Practice in calm water and move on to more challenging conditions as your skill develops.

Note: This task is not safe to perform on land.

Activity 2

Practice fire on IRB drill, including protecting others from potential danger, and in increasingly challenging conditions. This task should include practising abandoning (and later recovering) the IRB, although this routine may also be required in circumstances other than fire.

Activity 3

Practice recognising basic motor faults and how to rectify them while the IRB is underway, and also practice manoeuvring the IRB without a motor. Basic faults should be simulated rather than created where appropriate and be restricted to:

- fuel blockages
- faulty fuel lines
- loose electrical connections
- water in fuel
- air in fuel cell

Topic 6 – IRB towing

This topic will help you answer the following questions:

1. What state or territory marine laws affect towing?
2. How to attach/remove a tow rope

Practical activities

Reference: Powercraft Training Manual, 8th Ed, p. 49-50

Your trainer will explain and demonstrate the following task, which you will then have the opportunity to practice.

Activity 1

Discuss and practice correct towing procedures. You will cover state/NT marine laws regarding towing and attaching/removing tow ropes.

Assessment information

Below is a description of the assessment tasks required to demonstrate competence in this course. This section is for information only. All evidence should be collected in the assessment portfolio section of this learner guide.

Assessment Task 1: Training log

Candidates must demonstrate that they have completed their practical training in a variety of local surf conditions and record this training in the log of training hours presented for assessment. This training must be supervised by an IRB Training Officer and the training log sighted by an IRB Assessor.

If local surf conditions do not provide a full range of training opportunities, candidates should undertake additional training if they wish to drive an IRB in another area.

Assessment Task 2: Observation 1

Observation is to be carried out using an IRB and equipment in the beach environment during completion of training over a period of time. You must demonstrate each item in the checklist individually.

The IRB Driver has responsibility for ensuring equipment is operational and provides assistance to crewpersons in undertaking checks.

Tasks are to be performed with the IRB driver demonstrating leadership and two way communication skills with crewpersons. Organisational policies and procedures are to be followed in all situations.

Assessment Task 3: Observation 2

In addition to the training log, you will need to demonstrate to an Assessor the skills required to perform a rescue.

Tasks are to be performed with the IRB driver demonstrating leadership and two way communication skills with crewpersons. Organisational policies and procedures are to be followed in all rescue situations.

Candidates are to perform a minimum of two rescues

1. Rescue 1—unconscious casualty beyond the break
2. Rescue 2 – conscious casualty in the surf zone