

FLORIDA POWERBOAT CLUB

POKER RUN SAFETY GUIDELINES

Due to the constantly increasing speeds of powerboats in our club, along with the increase in the number of boats attending our poker runs, we are forced to adopt these important guidelines.

These rules are not really new, but we have been a little lax in our enforcement of them in recent years. The time to tighten things up is now, or we will constantly be faced with a high risk of danger during our events, when they are designed to be fun and safe.

If we fail to improve the way in which we conduct ourselves on poker runs, we risk losing our organization and the future of our Florida boating lifestyles.

1. **Navigation:** An official paceboat is provided that will keep the speeds safe and lead our group through critical navigation areas. Running off course through Biscayne Bay and anywhere in the Florida Keys happens too frequently, creating unsafe situations and doing tremendous damage to both boat and to the natural environment.
2. **Speeds:** have to be maintained at 55 to 60 mph through the critical areas. There are many areas of open water where we can speed up and enjoy the performance of our boats. In a large group, high speeds are simply a recipe for absolute catastrophe. One boat out of control can run into several others and we all know this can result in a terrible accident. We MUST keep to the speeds in these critical areas of navigation.
3. **Safety Equipment:** USCG requirements must be met by all boats in the club. We will now go one step further, by enforcing compulsory PFD's for any boats exceeding 65 mph.
4. **Alcohol Consumption:** Is absolutely prohibited for any poker run captains. No concessions can be made whatsoever. If you're driving the boat, you can't drink until you get to our final destination. THIS INCLUDES THE LUNCH STOP!
5. **Splitting up the Group:** Over the years, we have learned that taking off from Miami in a pack of 50 or more boats has become a very dangerous in many ways. We recently began splitting the groups up into smaller packs of 25-30 boats, and this works much better from a safety and a logistics standpoint. Furthermore, it allows our photo/video crew in the chopper to spend more time chasing down the entire poker run fleet, giving everyone better pictures and video coverage. There will be an A group and B group for any event exceeding fifty boats. A paceboat will always be provided for navigation and to control speeds.
6. **Insurance Requirements:** We want everyone to be entirely sure that insurance coverage including personal injury is compulsory to be a member of FPC and attend our events. Any member who does not carry adequate coverage will not be allowed to attend club events. We also require that a copy of your policy coverages be carried with you on the boat at all times.

These guidelines are intended to protect our club members and the future of our organization. We appreciate your acceptance and compliance of them.

UPDATED February 2004

Stu Jones
President