



STONY BROOK YACHT CLUB



LAT. 40° 55' 14" LONG. 73° 09' 01"

December 9, 2019

New York State's New Boating Safety Law (Briana's Law) - Takes Effect January 1, 2020

The following is a summary of New York State's new boating safety law effective January 1, 2020, which will be phased in over five years and will require every operator of a motorized craft regardless of age (10 years of age and older) to complete a boating safety course. Operating rental boats are the only exception to this requirement.

The New York State Department of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (NYS Parks Department) manages the boating safety program, and permits the completion of either a classroom course or an online course. The classroom course option is an eight hour comprehensive study of boating safety, which may or may not be free, depending on who sponsors the course. In addition to any course fee, there is also a \$10.00 permanent certificate fee payable to the NYS Parks Department for students 18 years of age and older. Children less than 18 years old and at least 10 years old are given the course certificate free by NYS Parks Department. The above applies to courses given under the oversight of the NYS Parks Department, typically by county police and sheriff's departments, and bay constable and harbormaster departments, to name a few, who do not charge a fee for the course.

Duplicate copies of lost certificates previously issued by New York State may be available for replacement for courses taken from the early 1990s going forward. Boating safety courses given by the USCG Auxiliary, and private instructors may involve a fee. Contact them directly for replacement certificates. The NYS Parks Department **does not** issue course completion certificates for on line courses, nor courses given without their oversight.

On-line boating safety courses can be completed through the following web-sites:

- BOATERexam
- Boat-ED
- BoatUS
- America's Boating Club (formerly known as US Power Squadron)
- BoatSmart
- iLearnToBoat

Refer to the NYSDEC website for more on-line course information. On-line course providers are responsible for charging any fees and should include the cost of your course completion certificate.

Read the table below to determine what year you must complete a boating safety course, based on the five year phase-in period:

<u>Born On or After</u>	<u>Must Take the Course Beginning In</u>
May 1, 1996	Currently Required
January 1, 1993	2020
January 1, 1988	2022
January 1, 1983	2023
January 1, 1978	2024
Regardless of age	2025

Fines for failing to operate a motorized craft without completing the course range from \$100.00 to \$250.00.

Richie Otterstedt, Env. Health, and Safety Committee