

AQUA BUDDY™

Operator's Manual



1-800-659-0790

www.ravesports.com

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Water sports can be safe and fun for all levels of enthusiasts. The Operator's Manual is presented to enhance your enjoyment of the sport. It is intended to alert you to some of the potentially dangerous conditions that can arise in all water sports.

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WARNING

USE OF THIS PRODUCT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE SPORT INVOLVES INHERENT RISKS OF INJURY OR DEATH.

This tube is designed for use as a water sports trainer only.

Read Operator's Manual before use.

Product Instructions and Warnings

To reduce the risk of injury or death using the Aqua Buddy, follow these guidelines:

- Carefully read this manual and follow the instructions.
- Only use your Aqua Buddy with a responsible watercraft operator who knows how to operate a watercraft properly.

Product Instructions and Warnings (continued)

Before you start:

- Scout the area before use to avoid any debris or obstacles that might present a safety hazard.
- Check the rope and connectors for frays, cuts, sharp edges, knots, or wear before each use. Discard rope if any such condition exists or if rope appears to be worn. Such conditions may lead to breaks.
- Rope is subject to deterioration when exposed to direct sunlight. The life of the product will be extended when stored away from sunlight.
- Always have a person other than the driver as an observer.
- Skier/rider, observer, and driver must agree on hand signals.
- Never start until skier/rider signals they are ready.
- Do not use in shallow water or near docks, shore, pilings or other watercraft.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved type III (PFD) life jacket that fits skier/rider properly.
- Make sure skier/rider has properly fitting bindings.
- Use tow rope that is 50-65 feet long and do not shorten rope for beginning riders.

Directions on how to start with the Aqua Buddy:

1. Rider needs to first put on skis or wake board.
2. To load the Aqua Buddy the rider must pull themselves onto the seat using the handles.
3. Have the boat hand the rope to rider.
4. Boat must slowly remove any slack in the rope and be sure that the boat and rider are facing the same direction.

5. Rider must keep skis straight or wakeboard at about a 45 degree angle to the boat. Rider must be facing the back of the boat.
6. Once the rider signals to the spotter they are ready the driver can take off. (take off speed depends on weight and strength of rider)
7. It is best to just start going and not drag the rider. (dragging rider causes fatigue and causes the rider to veer off course)
8. Once the rider is moving fast enough to stand up its time to ski/ride. The Aqua Buddy will stay behind once the rider takes their weight off of the seat.

This Product acts as a dock start but safer because there isn't anything hard for the rider to strike and easier since the seat moves along with the rider until they are ready to stand up.

WARNING

USE OF THIS PRODUCT AND PARTICIPATION IN THE SPORT OF SKIING/WAKEBOARDING INVOLVES INHERENT RISKS OF INJURY OR DEATH



WARNING

- Do not use at speeds that exceed the skill of the rider.
- This product should never be used by children except under adult supervision.
- This is not a personal flotation device.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type III (PFD) vest.
- Always have a person other than the driver observing the rider.
- Watercraft driver should avoid excessive speed or sharp turns that might cause the rider to lose control, resulting in serious injury to the rider.
- Do not tow in shallow water or near shore, docks, pilings, swimmers or other boats.

Watersports Responsibility Code

Water sports are fun and challenging but involve inherent risks of injury or death. To increase your enjoyment of the sport and to reduce your risks, use common sense and follow these rules.

Before you start:

- Familiarize yourself with all applicable federal, state and local laws, the risks inherent in the sport and the proper use of the equipment.
- Know the waterways.
- Always have a person other than the boat driver as an observer.
- Rider, observer and driver must agree on hand signals.
- Never start out until rider signals he/she is ready. Observer and rider should maintain eye contact.
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning from engine exhaust may cause injury or death. Do not sit on the boat transom or swim platform while the engine is running. These activities may lead to excessive CO exposure which may cause injury or death. If you can smell engine exhaust while in the boat, do not stay seated in that position for prolonged periods. Never “Platform Drag” by holding onto the swim platform or be dragged directly behind the boat. An improperly tuned engine will produce excessive exhaust. Have your engine checked and corrected by a mechanic. Changing boat speed or direction relative to the wind can reduce or increase boat exhaust from accumulating near the boat and rider. Consult your boat Owners Manual, or the United States Coast Guard’s website: www.uscgboating.org for more information on how to help protect others and yourself from the dangers of CO poisoning
- Use caution and common sense.

Your Equipment and Your Tow Rope:

- Inspect all equipment prior to use. Check Aqua Buddy and skis/wakeboard prior to each use. Do not use if damaged.
- Always wear a U.S. Guard Type III (PFD) vest.

- Ropes should be attached to the watercraft in an approved fashion with hardware designed for pulling. Refer to your watercraft manual for instructions on proper tow rope attachment.
- Tow ropes stretch during use. If a rope breaks or is suddenly released, it can snap back into the watercraft. Warn all riders and occupants of the danger of the rope recoil.
- When in the boat, keep away from the tow rope to avoid injury. Passengers can be hit or become entangled in the rope.
- Inspect tow rope and its attachments before using. Do not use tow rope if frayed, knotted or damaged. Replace when signs of excessive deterioration are indicated by discoloration, broken filaments, unraveling or other obvious signs of wear on the rope or hardware.
- Use proper tow rope for the activity.
- Ensure rope is clear of all body parts prior to starting out or during use.
- Keep persons and ropes away from propeller when engine is running, even in neutral. Should rope become entangled in propeller, SHUT OFF ENGINE AND REMOVE IGNITION KEY BEFORE RETRIEVING ROPE.

When You Ride:

- **USE THIS PRODUCT ONLY ON WATER.**
- Always remove any slack in the rope between watercraft and rider before starting. Sudden shock loads may cause injury to the rider or failure of rope, resulting in snap-back or breakage.
- Do not ride in shallow water, near shore, pilings, docks, rafts, swimmers, other boats or other obstacles. Such obstacles are examples of risks that are inherent in the sport.
- The driver and rider must watch for and be able to stop or turn to avoid obstacles.

- Always ride in control and at speeds appropriate for your ability. Ride within your limits. Follow instructions on tube for safe speed limits.
- Falling and the injuries that may result are inherent risks in the sport.
- Use a flag to signal to others that a rider is in the water.
- Driver must use extra caution approaching fallen rider and keep eye contact on fallen rider at all times.
- Put the boat in neutral when near a fallen rider. Turn the engine off when people are getting in or out of the boat, or while in the water near the boat.
- Do not operate watercraft or ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Inflating Instructions

CAUTION: DO NOT OVER-INFLATE. Use of an air compressor or over-inflation can rupture the tube beyond repair, thus voiding the warranty.

Step 1:

Lay Aqua Buddy on a flat surface. Make sure there are no sharp objects under the product that might puncture the tube.

Step 2:

Inflate both pontoons then center seat till tube feels firm. **DO NOT OVER INFLATE.**

NOTE: Moisten the plug of the clear stem valves prior to inserting into the valve and push plug down into the valve body fully.

To Deflate:

- Remove all of the plugs and place deflating straws into valves.

Troubleshooting

Air chamber(s) won't hold air:

- Check stem valves to ensure plugs are fully seated down into the valve body.
- Check for holes in bladder following the procedures in the "Repair" section.

Cleaning and Storage

- When the inflatable product is not being used, we recommend that you store it in a covered, shaded area. This will help protect it against ultraviolet (UV) rays and extend the life of the product.
- Clean the inflatable completely with a mild soap and fresh water. NEVER USE PETROLEUM BASED PRODUCTS OR SOLVENTS FOR CLEANING.
- Product should be completely dry and remain dry while stored.
- Roll the product loosely and place in a vented storage bag or container.
- Store in a cool, dry location. Do not store product directly on concrete surface. Place mothballs around stored inflatable to keep mice and insects away.

Repairs

For minor holes or tears:

- Inflate the tube and locate the leak by spraying the tube with soapy water. Bubbles will appear where there is a leak.
- Determine the hole size and cut a circular patch $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 inch wider than the hole.

- Remove air from the tube and dry tube completely where the patch is to be applied.
- Peel off paper back from patch, apply repair patch to area and work out any air bubbles from beneath the patch.
- Apply weight to the patched area for one hour before re-inflating.

For warranty and repair information, visit www.ravesports.com.

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