

OWNER'S MANUAL

Banana Boat / Water Sled Operator's Manual

READ OWNERS MANUAL BEFORE USE



Island Hopper[®]

Neoprene Distributors: DBA Aqua Sports Technology
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Water Sports can be safe and fun. This operators manual is designed to increase your knowledge of the banana boat / water sled product. It should also make you aware of the potentially dangerous conditions that can be found with any water sports.



WARNING

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

By opening and assembling this product, you are agreeing (1) to be bound to the terms set forth below and (2) to require anyone using this product to be bound by such terms. If you are unwilling to be bound by these terms, return this product (un-opened) for a full refund.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK: Use of this product and any of its components involves certain inherent risks, dangers, and hazards which can result in serious personal injury and death. In using the product, you freely agree to assume and accept any and all known and unknown risks of injury while using this equipment. The risks inherent in the sport can be greatly reduced by abiding by the Warning Guidelines listed in this Owner's Manual and by using common sense.

RELEASE AND WAIVER OF CLAIMS AGREEMENT: In consideration of the sale of the product to you, you hereby agree to the fullest extent permitted by law as follows:

TO WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS that you have or may in the future have against Neoprene Distributors International, DBA Aqua Sports Technology Inc., including its distributors and dealers, resulting from use of this product and any of its components.

TO RELEASE Neoprene Distributors International, DBA Aqua Sports Technology, Inc. from any and all liability for any loss, damage, injury, or expense that you or any users of this product may suffer, or that your next of kin may suffer, as a result of the use of this product, due to any cause whatsoever, including negligence or breach of contract on the part of Neoprene Distributors International, DBA Aqua Sports Technology, Inc. in the design or manufacture of this product and any of its components.

ARBITRATION: In further consideration of the sale to you of this product and any of its components, you hereby agree to submit to binding arbitration any and all claims which you believe you may have against Neoprene Distributors International, DBA Aqua Sports Technology arising from the use of any Neoprene Distributors International, DBA Aqua Sports Technology equipment or products. The arbitration shall be pursuant to the rules of the American Arbitration Association. Arbitration shall be commenced within (1) year from the date on which any alleged claim first arose. Further, the arbitration shall be held in White Salmon, Washington unless otherwise mutually agreed to by all parties. The submission to the American Arbitration Association shall be unlimited and the arbitration award may be enforced by any Court of competent jurisdiction.

BINDING EFFECT OF AGREEMENT: In the event of your death or incapacity this Agreement shall be effective and binding upon your heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, assigns, and representatives.

ENTIRE AGREEMENT: In entering into this Agreement, you are not relying upon any oral or written representations other than what is set forth in this agreement and the Neoprene Distributors International, DBA Aqua Sports Technology Owner's Manual.

Neoprene Distributors International *DBA Aqua Sports Technology*
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Instructions and Safety Warnings

**ANYONE PLANNING TO TOW THE BANANA BOAT MUST
REVIEW OWNER'S MANUAL BEFORE USE**

WATERSPORTS RESPONSIBILITY CODE

Be aware that there are risks in boating and Watersports that good judgment and personal awareness can help reduce. To increase your enjoyment of Watersports, follow the ten elements of the Code.

IN WATERSPORTS IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO:

- ALWAYS familiarize yourself with applicable laws, waterways, and inherent risks
- ALWAYS have a capable observer in addition to driver, and agreed on hand signals
- ALWAYS wear a properly fitted life jacket approved by your country's agency
- ALWAYS read user's manual and inspect equipment before use
- ALWAYS ride under control, at proper speeds, and within your limits
- ALWAYS turn ignition off when anyone is near watercraft power drive unit
- ALWAYS stay clear of engine exhaust to avoid Carbon Monoxide poisoning
- NEVER "Platform Drag" or touch swim platform while the engine is running
- NEVER ride near swimmers, shallow water, other boats, or obstacles
- NEVER operate watercraft or ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs

WATERSPORTS SAFETY CODE

BEFORE YOU GET IN THE WATER: Riding instruction is recommended before use. Instruction will teach general safety guidelines and proper riding techniques, which may reduce your risk of injury. For more information on riding schools, contact your dealer, Association, or local watersports club.

- Know the federal, state and local laws that apply to your area.
- If you are not familiar with a waterway, ask someone who is, to tell you about any hidden dangers or things to avoid.
- Whether you plan to be in a watercraft, or riding behind one it is important you are wearing a properly fitted life jacket (PFD) approved by your country's agency, USCG Type III, ISO, etc.
- Inspect all equipment prior to each use, check bindings, fins, tube, attachment, tow rope and flotation device. Do not use if damaged.

WATERCRAFT SAFETY: A knowledgeable and responsible driver is the most important safety device on any watercraft.

- Never operate a watercraft or ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Only use water ballast and people for additional weight.
- Never exceed the passenger or weight limitations of the watercraft.
- Never allow passengers to hang outside the watercraft or towed device or sit on the gunwales or anywhere outside of the normal seating area.
- Never allow water to overflow the bow or gunwales of the watercraft.
- Uneven weight distribution or additional weight may affect the handling of the watercraft.

CARBON MONOXIDE: The exhaust from the engine on a watercraft contains Carbon Monoxide (CO) which is a colorless, odorless and poisonous gas. Excessive exposure to CO can cause severe injury or death. Follow this advice to avoid injury.

- Never "Platform Drag" by holding onto the boarding platform or be dragged directly behind the watercraft. This is where CO will be.
- Do not sit on the watercraft transom or boarding platform while the engine is running.
- Make sure the engine is properly tuned and running well. An improperly tuned engine produces excessive exhaust and CO.
- If you smell engine exhaust do not stay in that position.
- Go to the United States Coast Guard's website: www.uscgboating.org for more information on how to help protect yourself and others from the dangers of CO.

TOW ROPES: Tow ropes come in different lengths and strengths for different activities. Make sure any rope you are using is suited for riding and that it is in good condition.

- Never use a rope that is frayed, knotted, unraveling or discolored from use or being left in the sun. If a rope breaks while in use it can recoil at the rider being towed or into the watercraft where it might strike passengers. Replace tow ropes with any sign of damage.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

- Never use a tow rope with elastic or bungee material to pull or riders.
- Rope should be attached to the watercraft in an approved fashion with hardware designed for towing. Refer to your Boat User's manual for instructions on proper tow rope attachment for each watersports activity.
- Always keep people and tow ropes away from the propeller, even when idling.
- If a tow rope should become entangled in a propeller, shut off engine, remove the key and put it in your pocket before retrieving the rope.
- Tow ropes should be neatly stowed in the boat when not in use.

PREPARING TO RIDE: Always have a person other than the driver as an observer to look out for the rider.

- Be sure the driver is aware of the experience and ability level of the rider.
- The driver, observer and rider need to agree on hand signals before riding. Signals should include READY, STOP, SPEED UP, and SLOW DOWN.
- Start the engine only after making sure that no one in the water is near the propeller.
- **Turn the engine off when people are getting into or out of the watercraft, or in the water near the watercraft.**
- Always make sure the tow rope is not wrapped around anyone's hands, arms, legs, or other parts of the body.
- Start the watercraft and move slowly to remove slack until the tow rope is tight.
- When the rider signals READY and there is no traffic ahead, take off in a straight line. Adjust the speed according to the signals given by the rider.

RIDING: The watercraft and rider should always maintain a sufficient distance from obstacles so a rider falling or coasting and/or watercraft will not encounter any obstacle.

- Do not use in shallow water or near shore, docks, pilings, swimmers, other watercraft, or any other obstacles.
- Use only on water.
- Never attempt land or dock starts. This will increase your risk of injury or death.
- Always wear a properly fitted life jacket (PFD) approved by your country's agency, USCG Type III, ISO, etc.
- The faster you ride, the greater your risk of injury.
- Never make sharp turns that may cause a slingshot effect on the tube's speed.
- Rider should be towed at an appropriate speed for their ability level.

FALLEN RIDER: Falling and injuries are common in riding.

- Circle a fallen rider slowly to return the tow rope handle or pick up the fallen rider.
- Put the watercraft in neutral when near a fallen rider.
- Always keep the fallen rider in view and on the driver's side of the watercraft.
- Display a red or orange-down flag to alert other vessels that a rider is down.

The Warnings and practices in the Watersports Safety Code represent common risks encountered by users. The code does not cover all instances of risk or danger. Please use common sense and good judgment.

Safety Warnings



WARNINGS

WATERSPORTS INVOLVES RISKS OF SEVERE INJURY OR DEATH. Follow all instructions and safety information below and read owner's manual to reduce risks: USE COMMON SENSE WHEN OPERATING AND USING THE BANANA BOAT WATER SLED.

1. Capitan or boat drivers is responsible for the banana boat riders since the tube cannot be steered or operated by the riders of the banana boat. Capitan or boat drivers should NEVER TRY TO DUMP RIDERS or tip over the banana boat water sled. Use experienced boat drivers. NEVER MAKE SHARP TURNS which may cause the banana boat to accelerate.
2. Tube cannot be controlled by rider! Signal boat driver to stop or slow down if you are not comfortable. Agree on signals in advance.
3. Always have a person other than the driver as an observer of riders. Be sure to use a flag to notify if any riders are in the water.
4. STAY SEATED AND HOLD ON TO HANDLES! No more than one rider per handle. Do not exceed recommended number of riders for your banana boat.
5. ALWAYS WEAR A PROPERLY FITTED LIFE JACKET (PDF) U.S. Coast Guard Type III, ISO APPROVED. This towable is not a personal floatation device. Banana boat water sleds should NOT be used by non-swimmers.
6. Driver towing banana boat should not exceed speed of 15 mph.
7. Never exceed skill level of riders and use experienced boat drivers.
8. Never tow in shallow water or near shore, docks, pilings, swimmers, watercraft or other obstacles.
9. Never tow more than one tube at a time, or use tube as a personal flotation device.
10. ALWAYS BE SURE TOW ROPE IS CLEAR OF ALL BODY PARTS prior to and during use.
11. Do not use while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
12. All children riding on banana boat must be under adult supervision at all times.
13. Do not attach a rider to a sled. Never place any body part through handles, under cover, bladder, towing harness or tie rider to tube.
14. With multiple passengers never allow riders' bodies to collide. Towing at slower speeds, in calm water, and cautious driving will reduce injuries.
15. Do not attempt dangerous tricks or stunts while riding the banana boat water sled. NO HORSE PLAY — NO PUSHING OR SHOVING
16. Check your equipment before use. Check connectors and rope for frays, cuts, sharp edges, knots or wear. Replace rope if it shows any sign of wear (i.e.) discoloration, fraying, or unraveling.
17. Do NOT use any tow rope with bungee or elastic to pull riders.
18. The rope will experience different stress depending on weight of the riders, design of the boat, and size of the banana boat. Check owner's manual for correct rope strength for this size banana boat.

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

Number of Riders	Combined Maximum Weight of Riders lb (kg)	Minimum Rope Tensile Strength lb (kg)
1	170 lb (77 kg)	1,500 lb (680 kg)
2	340 lb (154 kg)	2,375 lb (1,077 kg)
3	510 lb (231 kg)	3,350 lb (1,520 kg)
4	680 lb (308 kg)	4,100 lb (1,860 kg)
5	1,020 lb (463 kg)	6,000 lb (2,722 kg)
6	1,020 lb (463 kg)	6,000 lb (2,722 kg)
8	1,480 lb (671 kg)	6,000 lb (2,722 kg)
10	1,800 lb (816 kg)	6,000 lb (2,722 kg)
12	2,160 lb (979 kg)	6,000 lb (2,722 kg)
14	2,520 lb (1143 kg)	6,000 lb (2,722 kg)

Maximum Boat Speed: Adults and Children: 15 mph (24 km/h)

Length of tow rope: 50 ft. (15,25 m) - 65 ft. (19,80 m)

Banana Boat Inflation

Inflating your banana boat

To open the valve, simply push down the yellow-topped needle spring and turn to the right while in the down position. The needle spring will **stay down** and the valve will be open. You can then simply put any power inflator or Shop Vac up to this opening and fill the trampoline or banana until firm. Once it is firm, quickly remove the inflator and push down the needle spring and turn to the left - it will pop back up to the closed position.



Two-part Valve

Top screws into bottom half that is inside tube

Needle Spring

Valve Adapter

You can also use the supplied valve adapter to help secure the power inflator to the opening

How much air is the right amount?

In general, the banana boat or water trampoline is full when it is very firm. An adult should be able to sit on the tube and only sink a couple of inches. Banana boats need to be full of air and properly maintained for long product life.

Banana Boat Tow Rope Attachment

Use 6,000 lb. (2722 kg.) tensile strength rope

All Island Hopper side by side Banana Boats have a double tow harness with two extended d-ring connections on each main pontoon.

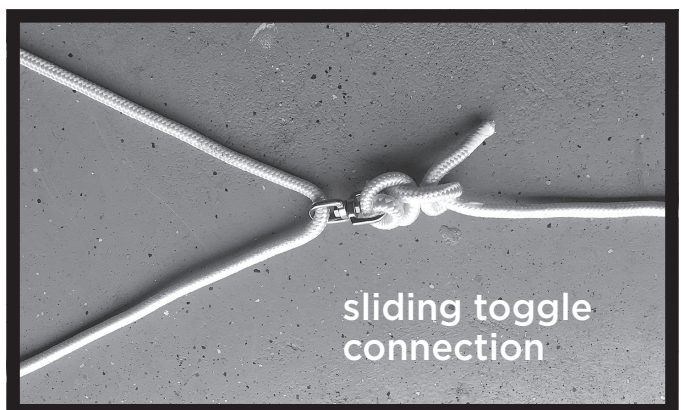
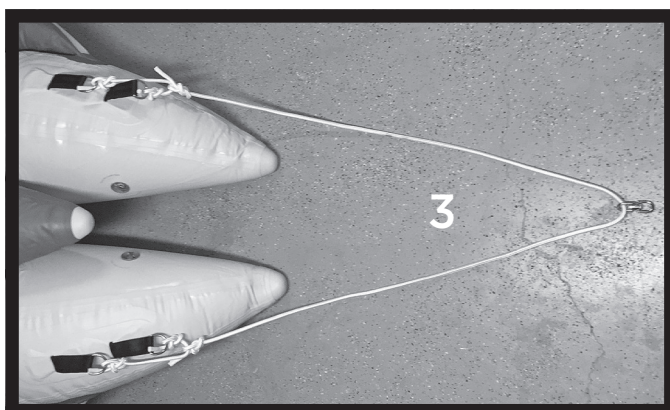
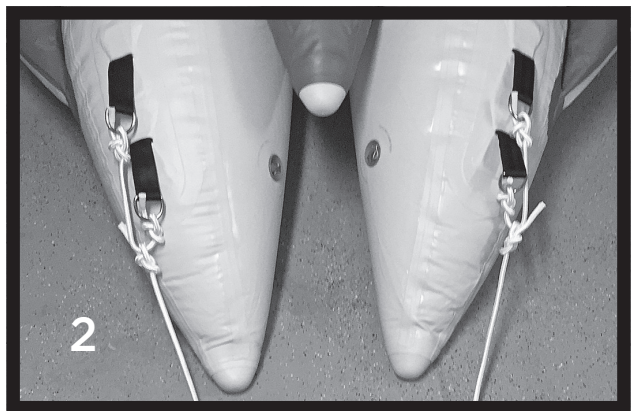
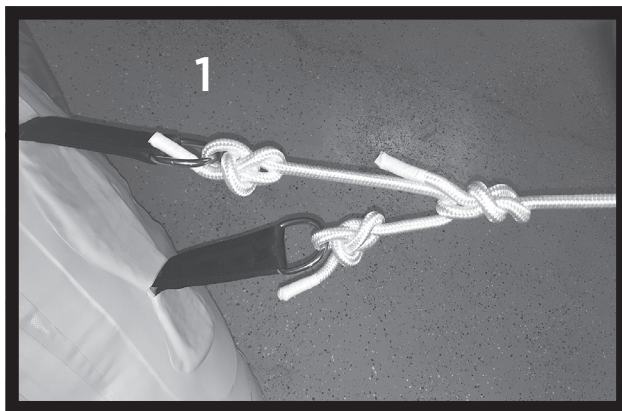
Using a 2' length of rope, tie each end to the d-rings, making a small loop on each pontoon (photos 1, 2).

Tie 10' of rope between each 2' loop, threading the sliding toggle connection through the rope so it slides smoothly (photo 3).

Thread the rope (75'-100') that will attach to the boat, through the sliding toggle and attach securely to the boat.

Note: for inline Banana Boats with one extended d-ring on each side, use this same sliding toggle connection.

CHECK THESE ROPE CONNECTIONS BEFORE EACH USE



Banana Boat Repairs

Use PVC adhesive found at your local marine store. We suggest Clifton Urethane adhesive. You can find the glue at www.NRSWEB.com / item #1901.

Before you begin, make sure you are working in a well-ventilated area, climate controlled to at least 70 degrees. It is advised that you wear protective gloves when working with chemicals.

After you have done the repair to the tube, it must sit undisturbed for at least 24 hours. When making a repair, do not inflate tube to maximum capacity. It is recommended that the tube be semi-soft for all repairs.

Repairing Holes in the Tube:

- 1.** Cut the patch larger than the area to be repaired. Be sure to round the corners of the patch. Use the patches enclosed with your banana boat or call Aqua Sports to receive the new patch material.
- 2.** Place the patch over the area to be repaired, outline with a pen.
- 3.** Wipe patch with clean towel. Using a clean towel, wipe area on the tube to be repaired.
- 4.** Place one thin coat of glue on the patch and one thin coat of glue on the tube.
WAIT 5 minutes.
- 5.** Place patch on glued area
- 6.** With dull instrument, starting at the center of the patch, gently smooth the patch in place, paying attention to all corners and sides of the patch.
- 7.** Use Aqua Seal Urethane repair adhesive to outline patch to assure patch is sealed.
- 8.** Remove any glue residue. Allow boat to sit for 24 hours. Don't rush the drying.
- 9.** Air up the tube and check for leaks.

Repairing Leaks in Seam Area:

If a seam is leaking, it is strongly suggested that you send your tube to a professional inflatable boat repair company for repairs. You can look online by using Google searching "inflatable boat repair" in your city or state to find a boat repair company. Most dealers of AVON or Zodiac boats or white water rafts will have the ability to repair the tube.

TIP: If you try to repair a small break in the seam, use the repair instructions above. Be sure you allow for the contour of the tube when letting the area dry. It is sometimes necessary to glue and set a section, and after it is dry move onto the next section along the contoured area.

Banana Boat Storage

Storing the banana boat after use:

1. Wipe down banana boat. If banana boat is dirty, clean with mild soap and water first then dry completely. **DO NOT USE ARMORAL OR PRODUCTS CONTAINING PETROLEUM DISTILLATES.**
2. Be sure the boat is dry before storing.
3. Fold pontoons in toward seated area on banana boat. Then fold banana boat in small squares. Place in a sealable plastic bin.
4. Store in a dry covered cool area. Note- storing in damp or humid areas area can cause glued areas such as seams and nose cones to separate. Avoid areas that have mice or rodents.

Warranty Registration

Your name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Daytime phone

E-mail

Date of purchase:

Retailer:

Why did you decide to purchase the product form this retailer?

Lake or area used:

Comments:

MAIL PHOTO-COPY OF COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM TO:

NDI Inc., Island Hopper Registration

11859 Lakeshore North | Auburn, CA 95602

*Warranty is void if not registered within 30 days of purchase.
Proof of purchase may be required to obtain warranty parts or service.*

Limited Warranty

The limited warranty set forth below is given by Neoprene Distributors International DBA: Neoprene Distributors International, DBA Aqua Sports Technology with respect to the *ISLAND HOPPER* brand water sled / banana boat product purchased and used in the United States. *ISLAND HOPPER* water sled / banana boats (sleds) are warranted against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of one year from the date of original purchase for recreational (family) use and 60 days for commercial users. (Examples of commercial users: Camps, beach ride business operations or any commercial business that uses the product to earn profit)

If you feel the product is defective, **DO NOT RETURN IT TO RETAILER**. Call our *ISLAND HOPPER* service representative at (530) 268-7310 to discuss warranty options or for instructions on repairing your sled. When returning a product under this limited warranty, a service representative must first issue a return authorization number. **Returned units not supported by a return authorization number will be refused.** If the product is proven to be defective upon inspection, the defective unit will be repaired or replaced and returned. The warranty period for any replacement part shall begin upon shipment, but shall in no event exceed the warranty period of the defective product. When returning any part under this limited warranty, you must pack the part in its original or similar carton with a copy of the bill of sale or purchase invoice.

Please include a complete explanation of the problem. Shipping charges, if any, must be prepaid. Products or parts covered by this limited warranty will be returned to you without charge. This limited warranty covers all defects encountered in normal use of the product and does not apply in the following cases:

1. Loss or damage due to abuse, mishandling, alteration, accident, failure to follow operation instructions, poor maintenance or storage, over inflation or environmental conditions.
2. Warranty applies to manufacturing related defects. This warranty does not include air loss due to punctures or seam blowouts from over inflation or from expansion caused by exposure to excessive heat.
3. Warranty applies only to new sleds shipped in original carton.
4. No warranty will be honored for damage from storm or animals.
5. Wear and tear from normal use and weathering.
6. No other warranty applies except the above mentioned, nor can any be given by any person, firm or corporation without the expressed written consent of Neoprene Distributors International DBA: Neoprene Distributors International, DBA Aqua Sports Technology.

USER ASSUMES ALL RISKS AND LIABILITY FOR LOSS, DAMAGE, OR INJURY TO YOU OR YOUR PROPERTY, AND TO OTHERS AND THEIR PROPERTY, ARISING OUT OF USE, MISUSE, OR INABILITY TO USE THE *ISLAND HOPPER* WATER SLED BANANA BOAT.



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Additional updates may be available at: www.watertrampolines.com/safety_info.asp