

**Read This Manual First Before Using This Product!! This Manual Contains Important Product and Safety Information**

# **O B R I E N**

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## **WATER SKI & BINDING OWNERS MANUAL**

Congratulations on your purchase of one of the finest watersports products available. O'Brien uses the very best materials to help insure a long-lasting, quality product. Please complete and remove the warranty card included with your new ski, and mail it within 10 days of purchase.

Before using your new product, please take a minute to read the following warning and safety information. Also enclosed are instructions on how to fine tune your new ski and bindings. These instructions will help you obtain the most enjoyment possible from your new O'Brien product.

### **WARNING**

Use of this product and participation in the sport involves inherent risks of injury or death. To reduce risks:

- Ski in control and do not ski at speeds that exceed the skier's ability. **BEGINNERS SHOULD USE EXTRA CAUTION.**
- Use correct size ski and binding. Wet binding and foot with water before use. Adjust binding for a snug, not tight, fit.
- Even if properly fitted, the binding may or may not release in a fall which could result in injury.
- Attempting land or dock starts can increase the risk of injury or death. **USE ONLY ON WATER.**
- Do not use in shallow water or near shore, docks, pilings, swimmers or other watercraft.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type III (PFD) Life Jacket.
- Read the Operator's Manual before use.

### **WARNING**

This water sports product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

# WATERSPORTS SAFETY CODE

Watersports 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 driver as an observer.
- Skier/ rider, observer and driver must agree on hand signals.
- Never start out until skier/ rider signals he/ she is ready.
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning from engine exhaust may cause injury or death. Do not sit on the boat transom or boarding 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 boarding 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](http://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.
- Do not exceed the weight guidelines of your boat. Only use water ballast and people for additional weight. Do not allow passengers to hang outside the boat or sit on the gunwales outside the normal seating area of the boat. Uneven weight distribution or additional weight may affect the handling of the boat. Never allow water to overflow the gunwales of your boat.

## **Your equipment and your tow rope:**

- Inspect all equipment prior to use. Check bindings, fins, tube and attachment point, and flotation device prior to each use. Do not use if damaged.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard Type III (PFD) Life Jacket.
- Rope should be attached to the watercraft in an approved fashion with hardware designed for towing. 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, skiers and occupants of the danger of 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 tow 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 ski or ride:**

- Attempting land or dock starts can increase the risk of injury or death.  
**USE THIS PRODUCT ONLY ON WATER.**
- Always remove any slack in the rope between watercraft and skier/ rider before starting. Sudden shock loads may cause injury to skier/ rider or failure of rope, resulting in snap-back or breakage.

- Do not ski or 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 skier/ rider must watch for and be able to stop or turn to avoid obstacles.
- Always ski or ride in control and at speeds appropriate for your ability. Ski or ride within your limits. Do not ski or ride over ramps or jumps without prior instruction.
- Falling and the injuries that may result are inherent risks in the sport.
- Use a flag to signal to others that a skier or rider is in the water.
- Driver must use extra caution approaching a fallen skier/ rider and keep eye contact on fallen skier/ rider at all times.
- Put the boat in neutral when near a fallen skier/ rider. Turn the engine off when people are getting into or out of the boat, or in the water near the boat.
- Do not operate watercraft, ski or ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

**THE WARNINGS AND PRACTICES SET FORTH ABOVE IN THE WATERSPORTS SAFETY CODE REPRESENT SOME COMMON RISKS ENCOUNTERED BY USERS. THE CODE DOES NOT PURPORT TO COVER ALL INSTANCES OF RISK OR DANGER. PLEASE USE COMMON SENSE AND GOOD JUDGMENT.**

**Please contact us if you have any questions on the proper selection, function, or safe use of this product. write to O'Brien or call:  
(800) 662-7436 OBRIEN P.O. Box 97087, Redmond, WA 98073**

If your ski is equipped with a high performance binding, please read the following warning:



## **WARNING**

**HIGH PERFORMANCE BINDING: FOR USE BY EXPERIENCED SKIERS ONLY. Use of this product and participation in the sport involves inherent risks of injury or death. Even if properly fitted, the binding may or may not release in a fall which could result in injury. To reduce risks: 1) Binding should be properly fitted for a snug, not tight, fit. 2) Binding must not be used by others for whom it was not properly fitted. 3) Read Operator's Manual before use.**

Watersports 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 watersports.

The binding, even if properly adjusted, may or may not release in a fall which could result in injury to the ankle, knee, leg or other parts of the body.

To reduce your risk of injury or death, follow these guidelines:

- Use correct size ski and binding. Binding should be adjusted for a snug, not tight, fit.
- Wet binding and feet with water before use.
- Inspect skis, fins and bindings for loose screws, wear, cracks, delamination or tearing.
- Check foot straps (bindings) and fins prior to each use to insure they are fastened securely to the ski.
- The faster you ski, the greater your risk of injury. Exercise additional caution when skiing at competitive speeds. Beginners should be towed at slower speeds that allow for reasonable control and stability.
- Water skiing instruction is recommended before use. Instruction will teach general safety guidelines and proper skiing techniques, which may reduce your risk of injury.

## BINDING MOUNTING INSTRUCTIONS

**NOTE:** It is not recommended that any extra holes are drilled into the top surface of the skis. O'Brien slalom skis have phenolic strips under the surface of the ski that help retain any screws or inserts that come in the ski. It is very important that all screws are checked for snugness each time before use of the ski, but without overtightening. Never use a ski that has missing or loose screws.

## O'BRIEN BINDINGS

**BIO BINDINGS:** The BIO bindings feature a front lace system that allows them to open up for ease of entry and exit. They also feature built in lateral stiffeners, contoured EVA footbeds, and fabric overlays to fine tune the level of comfort and support preferred.

**TARGA BINDINGS:** The Targa bindings feature a front lace system for easy entry, but have a softer feel and more flexible fit. It is a perfect choice for the aggressive recreational skier who needs both comfort and support.

**X-9 BINDINGS:** The X-9 bindings feature three sizes and each size will accommodate a wide range of shoe size. Features front lace system for easy entry with comfort and versatility.

## BINDING LOCATION CHART

Note: Binding locations are given from FRONT bindings only. Rear binding location should be decided after the front binding is mounted. The rear binding should be mounted as close as possible to the rear of the front binding, allowing for toe room. There should be little to no gap between the rear of the front binding and the toes of the rear binding.

Front binding location is determined by measuring from the rear of the ski to the rearmost part of the rubber or fabric on the front binding.

## TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK OF INJURY

The faster you ski, the greater your risk of injury.

Beginners should never exceed 20 mph (32km). Under no circumstances should your boat speed exceed 36 mph (58km).

Water skiing instruction will teach falling skills, general safety guidelines, and proper skiing techniques, thereby reducing your risk of injury.

# FIN ADJUSTMENTS

## HORIZONTAL ADJUSTMENTS

Moving the fin back towards the tail of the ski increases the pressure in the forebody of the ski during the pre-turn and turn, resulting in more tip area of the ski engaging the water. This action will cause increased drag and deceleration in the pre-turn as well as larger arcing turns.

Moving the fin forward causes the tip of the ski to ride higher with more of the forebody out of the water during the turn. As a result, the ski will accelerate slower and provide quicker, tighter turns.

- Move the fin forward for tighter, quicker turns.
- Move the fin back for larger and slower arc style turns.

## VERTICAL ADJUSTMENTS

Moving the fin down increases the surface area in contact with the passing water, resulting in more pressure forced on the fin. This action will increase stability, holding power and acceleration, but also makes the ski harder to turn.

Moving the fin up reduces the surface area in contact with the passing water, resulting in less pressure forced on the fin. This action will allow the ski to initiate turns with less effort but will also decrease stability and acceleration.

- Move the fin down to increase stability and holding power
- Move the fin up to make the ski easier to turn

## DIAGONAL ADJUSTMENTS

Moving the fin in diagonal directions (“tilting” the fin) will help correct problems occurring on one side of the wake. Diagonal adjustments will increase or decrease the speed of the ski as well as make it easier or harder to turn. Improvements on one side generally decreases performance on the opposite side, so only make very small adjustments to fine tune performance.

- Tilting the fin blade forward so it is lower and longer in the front will slow the ski down on the off-side\* turn and improve stability.
- Tilting the fin blade back so it is shorter and narrower in the front with increased surface exposed at the back of the fin will allow the ski to turn easier on the off-side\* turn.

Once your optimum performance settings have been found, mark and measure the position of your fin for future reference. Over time, additional adjustments may be necessary since water temperature, personal fitness, and performance levels can change the characteristics of a ski. Fine tuning your fin will help improve your performance. Every skier’s style is different and there is no right or wrong setting. O’Brien’s adjustable fins allow you to customize your ski to the performance you desire.

\*Off-Side - Left foot forward off-side turn is on the left side of the wake and right foot forward off-side is on the right side of the wake.

## O'BRIEN FINS

### LINE-LOCK ADJUSTABLE FIN:

The Line-Lock Adjustable Fin features a 3 point adjustment system to allow exact fin positioning in any direction. The Line-Lock Fin is easily adjusted by loosening the 3 set screws, positioning the blade in the desired position and then tightening the 3 set screws. O'Brien slaloms equipped with the Line-Lock fin are pre-set with the best overall fin position for that ski. Before adjusting the fin from the stock setting it is recommended to mark that position on your fin so that it can be easily positioned back to stock. Please refer to the chart below for suggested fin adjustments to help maximize the performance of your ski. Remember small adjustments will significantly change how your ski performs.

### A.R.C.

(Adjustable Radius Control) FIN: The A.R.C. Fin features a performance blade with elliptical slotted screw holes for customized horizontal adjustments. The A.R.C. Fin is easily adjusted by loosening the 6 phillips head screws on the top of the fin, positioning the blade either further forward or back, and then re-tightening the 6 phillips head screws. Before changing from the stock setting it is recommended to mark that position on your fin so that it can be easily positioned back to stock.

### PROBLEM

### SOLUTION

Difficult to initiate turn	Decrease fin depth and/or move fin backward
Too fast through off-side turn only	Move fin back or tilt front of fin down
Too much ski tip in the water during both the on and off-side turns	Increase fin depth and/or move fin forward
Too much ski tip in the water during off-side turn, causing skier to break at the waist	Move fin forward or tilt front of fin up
Too much ski tip out of the water during on-side turn	Move fin backward
Not enough angle after the turn to quickly cross wakes	Move fin forward
Ski is overturning and gets too much angle across the wakes	Move fin forward
Ski changes edges too slowly	Decrease fin depth and/or move fin backward
Ski is too responsive	Increase fin depth and/or move fin forward

### CARE AND MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do not leave your ski exposed to the sun or bad weather for long periods of time. We recommend purchasing and storing your ski in a slalom case when not in use.
2. Rinse ski after use to remove sand, dirt, and salt water. Do not clean ski with abrasive materials. Use only a soft cotton cloth.

**NOTES**

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FROM

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

**O B R I E N**

PO BOX 97087  
REDMOND, WA 98073

## O'BRIEN CUSTOMER RETURN/WARRANTY POLICY

1. All customer returns (warranty and non-warranty) require an approved return authorization issued by customer service or the shipment will be refused and sent back to the consumer at the consumer's expense.
2. **O'Brien Warranty:** All O'Brien Product is warranted to the original retail purchaser to be free of defects in material and workmanship except as provided in 2A and 2B below. These warranties are not transferable and are effective from the original date of retail purchase as evidenced by retail proof of purchase, unless otherwise specified below. O'Brien dealers and/or sales reps do not have authority to make any warranties in addition to or inconsistent with the then-current established/published O'Brien warranties.
- All claims/returns for warranty must:**
1. Be handled directly through the O'Brien customer service via RA issuance.
  2. Be returned postage paid.
  3. Be accompanied by proof of purchase. If proof of purchase is missing warranty period will be limited to product season (Aug. 1 to July 31) manufactured.
- A. What is covered:**
1. Skis, Kneeboards, Wakeboards, Inflatables and Accessories: For a period of 12 months following date of original retail purchase as evidenced by proof of purchase, or product season manufactured ( Aug.1 to July 31) if retail proof of purchase is not available, O'Brien will at its option repair or replace defective parts and components, including labor and cost of shipment back to the customer. Any O'Brien product purchased prior to the current season (two to three seasons before current season) and has proof of purchase available may be replaced at the consumer's discretion by purchasing a replacement product at 40% off retail plus shipping costs. Any O'Brien product manufactured prior to past three seasons (3 years and older) will not be replaced or repaired by O'Brien warranty.
  2. Trick and jump skis, wakeboards used for sliding on any object, fins and decals are excluded from this extended service.
- B. What is not covered:**
1. Cost of shipment to O'Brien.
  2. Normal wear and tear, including scratches and fading.
  3. Damages caused by alterations, modifications, or changes not approved in writing by O'Brien, due to unauthorized service and/or repair, or due to improper use, neglect, or failure to perform normal maintenance.
  4. Damage caused by extended exposure to the sun, striking solid objects or beaches (including damaged screw mounts, fins or bindings) standing on fin areas while on hard surface, tow rope striking product, over-inflation and tears or punctures of tubes or inflatable products, and failure to follow instructions provided with product.
  5. Sales outside the United States. If O'Brien product is purchased by a foreign consumer from a domestic dealer then the domestic dealer is completely responsible for all warranty processing including all shipping cost.
  6. Products used in commercial, rental, or instructional programs.
  7. Consequential damages, incidental damages, or expenses, including damages to property.
- C. Implied Warranties:**
- Any implied warranties, including implied warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, shall be limited to the duration and terms or the limited warranties expressed above.
3. Only customer service department is authorized to issue return authorizations RA's. Please call toll free 1-800-6OBRIEN for customer service department. Warranty Dept. cannot issue RA's.
4. Customer return shipments must (1) have a pre-approved RA number on file in distribution center prior to receipt of shipment (2) have one carton containing a pack slip, and (3) must have the RA number clearly identified on the outside of the carton containing the pack slip or the complete shipment will be refused at the receiving door and returned to the consumer at consumer expense.
5. Warranty returns are claims for warranty, however there is no guarantee that warranty coverage will apply. Product must be received and examined by warranty department before any warranty is granted. This disclaimer is found on warranty cards, the RA and/or is communicated to customer via phone/fax/email by customer service.
6. Warranty department determines if product is under warranty if not per the above parameters. Any deviations from this policy can only be made by an officer of the company.
7. If product is determined to not be under warranty, warranty department will call consumer to determine consumer's desired disposition of the product.
- (a) Return as is at consumer's expense  
(b) Do not return - scrap/destroy (No credit is issued to Consumer)  
(c) Repair and return at consumer's expense
- NOTE: Repair charges will be billed at \$40.00 per hour for labor (minimum labor charge of 1/2 hr or \$20.00) and standard wholesale for parts.**
8. If product is determined to be under warranty, appropriate disposition options are as follows:  
(a) Repair and return to consumer. (Transportation cost back to the consumer at O'Brien's expense.)  
(b) Replace and either scrap or blam the product returned. (Replacement product at no charge to consumer. Transportation cost back to consumer at O'Brien's expense.)

**TEAR OFF COMPLETED SECTION BELOW AND MAIL TO O'BRIEN. KEEP TOP HALF.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Model Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ski Length \_\_\_\_\_ Binding Size \_\_\_\_\_  
Store Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Pro shop  Boat dealer  Sporting goods store  Mass merchant  Catalog

### Which magazine(s) do you read?

- WaterSki  Fishing  Water Skier  Boating Life  WindSurfing  
 WakeBoarding  Alliance Wake  Ski (snow)  Powder  Powerboat  Boating  
 Boating World  Trailer Boats  Sports Illus.  Outside  Watercraft Illus.  
 Watercraft World  Transworld Snowboarding  Snowboarder

### Which website(s) do you visit?

- obrien.com  obrienelite.com  obrienwake.com  waterskimag.com  
 wakeboardingmag.com  wakeworld.com  alliancewake.com  usawaterski.com  
 skifly.com  ncwsa.com  wakeboarder.com

### Which feature(s) did you base your decision on?

- Graphics & Styling  Construction  Performance  O'Brien reputation  Price  
 Demo Ride  Other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you attended a boat show in the past 2 years?**  Yes  No

**You are:**  Male  Female

**Your age:**  Under 18  18-25  26-35  36-50  Over 50

**Education:**  High School  Some College  College  Graduate Work