



## SUMO TUBE OWNER'S MANUAL

\*This product is not for use by children under 10 years of age!

Important information enclosed in this manual please read these materials prior to assembling and using this product. Keep for future reference.

For questions on assembly, parts, or warranty, contact the experts at Sportsstuff. **DO NOT RETURN** this product to the store!

Contact us TOLL FREE: 888-814-8833 (USA) (8am-5pm, CST Monday-Friday)

Congratulations on your new towable purchase! Sportsstuff prides itself in making the most innovative inflatable products on the planet. Your high performance towable is designed to provide an exciting and unique riding experience for the whole family.



### GENERAL USE AND SAFETY:

To lessen your risk of serious injury or death, follow these rules:

- Not A Lifesaving Device. Never Leave Children Unattended. Use Only Under Competent Supervision.
- Read all instructions and warnings provided to you in this owner's manual and those printed on the product before using your Sportsstuff product. Do not discard this manual.
- When using a Sportsstuff product, you are engaging in an exciting recreational activity that can result in injury if this product is not used properly. Users of this product must exercise caution and common sense at all times. Act responsibly and only use your product with the awareness of and willingness to accept the risks involved. **USE AT YOUR OWN RISK!**
- As in any recreational activity, reckless use, misuse, inexperience, and/or neglect of the proper equipment used may result in serious injury or death.
- Not for use by children under ten (10) years of age. This product should never be used by children except under adult supervision.
- The watercraft driver is responsible for the towable and riders since the towable cannot be completely controlled by the rider. The rider may not be able to see where he/she is going.
- Always have an experienced watercraft driver at the helm and always have three or more people present for safe tubing: one to drive the watercraft, one to observe, and one to ride.
- Observer in the boat/watercraft should keep the driver aware of the towable rider status.
- Always keep a lookout for other boats/watercrafts, swimmers, towables, and other obstructions in the water. Stay away from other boats and personal watercraft, docks, pilings, bridges, shallow water, and the shore.
- The watercraft driver should avoid excessive speed or sharp turns which could

result in serious injury to the rider.

- Never exceed 20 mph when towing adults or 15 mph with children. Do not use at speeds that exceed skills of the rider.
- Never attempt jumps or dangerous tricks with your tube. Do not tow more than one Sumo Tube from the same boat/watercraft at the same time.
- Never operate the boat/watercraft or ride the towable under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Never place wrists or feet through the rope handle or tow rope. Ensure tow rope is not wrapped around any body parts prior to or during use.
- Rider should not hold tow rope while the product is in use. Use handle only.
- Riders should keep arms and feet out of the water.
- Use the handle/rope extension included with this tube together with a WSIA approved rope designed specifically for towables.
- Use a tow rope of at least 1500 lbs average tensile strength for pulling a single person. The tow rope should be at least 50 feet in length but not to exceed 65 feet.
- Do not exceed the manufacturer's recommended number of riders for your particular tube. The recommended number of riders for this tube is one (1).
- The stress on the rope is different from the stress on the tube, and will vary with the weight of the passenger, design, and surface area of the tube.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type III (PFD) ski vest or as recommended by proper government authorities.
- This is not a personal flotation device. A ski vest, as described above, must always be worn in addition to the tube.
- Do not stand on this product at any time. Use only in the prone position.
- Tow this product only on water.
- Make sure the product is properly inflated with the air valve closed tightly.
- Examine all components of the product before and after each use. Do not use this product if it is damaged or leaking air.
- This product must be inflated on land. Do not inflate this product in or near the water.
- Be conscious of the weather conditions as weather changes can occur very quickly.
- Check with your state and local government to learn their specific legal requirements concerning watersports.
- Do not use this item as a baby or pet float.
- Do not use this item as a fishing vessel.
- Store this item deflated and indoors in a cool, dry place.
- Sportsstuff products are NOT intended for rental use.
- Know your limits. Stop when you're tired. Act responsibly. Be in good physical condition and be cautious in your use of this or any other towable.
- Do not use this unit when it is under-inflated. The risks involved with this could include entrapment which may result in death or serious injury.

## **RELEASE OF LIABILITY:**

By assembling and inflating this product, you agree that you have read and understand the entire Sportsstuff's product manual, including all instructions and warnings contained in that material prior to using this product. You additionally agree that you will ensure any additional or subsequent users of this product will read and understand the entire owner's manual. Misuse or improper use of this product could result in risks, dangers and hazards which may result in serious injury or death. The risks and dangers that may be encountered through the improper use of this product can be avoided by reading and following the warning guidelines listed within the owner's manual and by proper use of this product. Your assembly and use of this product shall be evidence of your agreement, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to properly follow the instructions and abide by the warnings set

forth within the product manual. Your assembly and use of this product shall also constitute a release, to the extent permitted by law, by you and by any third party permitted by you to use, in any manner, this product, to Sportsstuff from any and all liability for any loss, damage, injury and/or expense that you or any user of this product may suffer as a result of the use of this product. This release shall extend to any loss, damage, injury or expense due to any cause whatsoever, including negligence or breach of contract on the part of Sportsstuff and/or any party participating in the design and/or manufacture of this product. The terms of this release shall be effective and binding upon you, your heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, assigns and representatives. Your assembly and use of this product shall constitute your agreement to assume and accept any or all known or unknown risks of injury to you and/or to third parties through the use of this product. Sportsstuff and related parties have not made and hereby expressly deny any oral or written representation and/or warranty, including warranty for a particular purpose, other than what is set forth herein and in the Sportsstuff's owners manual.

**WARNING! SUMO TUBE USE AND SAFETY:**

This item is different from any other traditional tow tube. Carefully follow the instructions below to reduce chance of serious injury.

- The rider must be at least 5 feet tall (150cm) to ride this tube.
- The rider must weigh a minimum of 120 pounds
- Not for use by children under ten (10) years of age. This product should never be used by children except under adult supervision.
- It is recommended that the rider wear a watersport helmet and goggles.
- This tube fits over the rider like a shirt would - head through head hole and arms through arm holes. Do not use this tube in any other position.
- Do not place legs through the head or arm holes.
- Only use the rope handle included with this product. Attach this rope/handle to a standard WSIA approved tow rope designed specifically for water towables.
- When starting out, hold on to the handle with both hands.
- Always keep your head up.
- When starting off, the boat/watercraft should slowly accelerate until the tube has planed out on top of the water. Never jerk-start or dock-start the ride, or accelerate quickly.
- Speeds and maneuvers should be kept to a minimum until the boat/watercraft driver and tube rider get a good feel for what the tube will do and how it reacts regarding drag, balance, and maneuverability.
- Never exceed recommended speeds - 15 mph with children or 20 mph with adults.
- After the tube has planed on the water, shifting hand pressure or alternating hand holds causes the item to track left or right.
- Let go of the handle at any time to stop the ride.

Product Name	Model #	Inflated Dimensions	# Riders	Approx. Weight Limit
Sumo Tube	53-1805	33" x 38"/83 x 96 cm (diameter x length)	1	170lbs

**The Sumo Tube includes:**

- Heavy-Gauge PVC
- 60" Rope Extension with Handle (connects to standard towable rope)
- Speed Safety Valve
- Single Inflation Chamber

## **SUMO TUBE USE INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Visit [www.sportsstuff.com](http://www.sportsstuff.com) for a Sumo Tube instructional video!**

Introducing a World's First in tow tubing! The Sumo Tube... the world's first and **ONLY** towable that you wear! Unlike any other towable, this amazing tube is put over the rider like a shirt – head through the head holes, arms through the arm holes – and rides on his/her belly over the water. Instead of being directly attached to the boat, the Sumo Tube makes use of a waterski-type handle with a rope extension that attaches to your standard towable rope. You'll be amazed at what the Sumo Tube can do. By simply switching grips and grip pressure, you can steer the tube back and forth, jump the wake, roll it, or steady out for a straight ride – all with more control than any tow tube!!

As with any tube, safety should always be considered a priority. Riding the Sumo Tube requires specific techniques and skills that every rider must learn and be aware of before attempting to ride. Using proper technique and safety guidelines will also give you a more enjoyable ride.

Before assembling the tube, you'll want to read all warnings and instructions included with and on the product.

Although the Sumo Tube looks like a vest, it's not a life vest. A US Coast Guard approved life vest must always be worn while riding the Sumo Tube. We also recommend that you wear goggles and a watersports helmet. Take note that riding this tube takes good arm, neck, and grip strength.

Like any Sportsstuff tube, the Sumo Tube must be properly inflated to begin with. This is especially important with this tube since the tuber will be riding so close to the water. The PVC must expand and the tube must be firm to the touch – barely giving in when you press on it. You cannot inflate any tube with your mouth! See the inflation guide section in this manual for more info, or go to [www.sportsstuff.com](http://www.sportsstuff.com) to see a video on proper inflation.

Now attach the included rope handle to a standard WSIA approved towable rope and attach the tow rope to the boat's tow point. When you attach the tow rope to the boat, use the highest secure tow point possible. Please note: After market tower or tow points are not suitable for towing tubes. Please refer to the section in this manual marked "Warning: Boat Owners with High Tower and Pylons."

Always start out on your belly in the water. Even if you think you know what you're doing, this is a new concept, so take it slow until you get a good feel for how the tube will react in different situations. When starting out, hold on to the handle with both hands, with your head held up high, facing the boat. Never attempt to dock start or jerk start this tube. Slowly accelerate the boat until the Sumo Tube planes out on the water. Never put your head in the water while the tube is in motion. Keep the boat at a slower speed and try different grips to see how the tube will react. Try switching hand holds to make the tube track left and right. Remember to keep your head up! Now hold on with both hands and try to roll the tube over. Let go of the handle at anytime to stop the ride. Practice starting and stopping, varying grips on the handle. Before long you'll be a Sumo Pro.

Remember, safety always comes first! Ride smart and have fun.

## **ASSEMBLY AND INSTALLATION:**

1. Locate the valve on the tube.
2. Inflate tube until it is firm to the touch (Please see the INFLATION section below for proper inflation instruction).
3. Close valve completely.

## REPLACING PRODUCT PARTS:

If a leak or problem is suspected with your tube, locate the valve and deflate the item to inspect possible problem areas. Contact Sportsstuff warranty department for prompt parts replacement if a problem is located. For non-warranty parts replacement, follow the same procedure. When a replacement is received, repeat the steps above in the ASSEMBLY AND INSTALLATION section.

## INFLATION:

Your Sportsstuff towable is equipped with the following type of valve:



**Speed Safety Valve** - A hybrid valve utilizing the best of both the Oversized Safety Valve and the Speed Valve. Pulls out for fast inflation/deflation, then can be pushed in flush with the tube. For use with standard electric pumps, shop vac, wet vac, leaf blowers, and vacuums with a 2-way switch for fast inflation/deflation.

Secure the valve by firmly inserting the bottom portion of the valve into the base. To inflate, open only the top portion of the valve. Using the hose from your inflator, inflate through the top opening of the valve.

The best air pumps to use are:

- 110v electric: 2.5 psi (model #57-1504A) or 3.0 psi (model #57-1508)
- Hand/foot pump specifically for towables: LP1 (model #57-1003)
- 12v pumps (model #57-1510) can also be used but their maximum output is only .8 psi so a secondary pump such as the Sportsstuff LP1 hand pump (model #57-1003) will need to be used.
- Leaf Blower
- Vacuum with two-way switch

Various types of air pumps are available from Sportsstuff. These products may be ordered directly from us at 1-888-814-8833 or [www.sportsstuff.com](http://www.sportsstuff.com).

### IMPROPER INFLATION



### PROPER INFLATION



**Photo "A"** shows a severely underinflated tube. Note how the adult sinks in when standing on the tube. Underinflation causes the towable to sit low in the water. Additional stress is applied to the tube, rope and boat/watercraft, by being dragged through the water instead of pulled across it. This stress causes the air in tubes to be displaced and the tube may rupture. The boat/watercraft cannot plane off and extra gas is consumed.

**Photo "B"** shows a properly inflated tube. Note how the adult barely sinks in when standing on the tube. This tube would ride high on the water, providing you with an exciting ride - less stress on the tube, rope, and boat/watercraft. Proper inflation will insure a longer life-span for your product.

## **Inflation Maintenance:**

Finally, it is not enough to simply fill it up and go! It is important to monitor the amount of air in this product as heat will cause the bladder to expand, possibly causing damage to the seams or I-beams. If you leave a full tube sitting in the sun for any length of time, it will expand. Either store it in the shade, or let some air out. Don't let it sit on the beach, dock, or boat full of air! At the same time, if it is stored out of the sun in a cool place, you may need to add air. Check and adjust inflation levels each time you use your tube. You'll have more fun, and your toys will last longer.

## **MAINTENANCE:**

Very little care is required for the bladder:

- You may clean your towable using soap and water or mild detergent.
- Never use strong cleaning agents.
- The towable, when clean and dry, can be deflated and stored in a cool, dry area out of direct sunlight.
- To deflate, simply unfasten the entire valve from the base.
- Avoid storing this product in areas of extreme temperatures and take precautions against animals and rodents.

## **GENERAL TROUBLE SHOOTING GUIDE:**

**Symptom:** Product won't hold air.

**Solution:** Check to see that the valve is installed properly. Re-fasten the valve if needed. Check to see if the product was inflated fully from the beginning. If you suspect it wasn't inflated fully, add more air. If a leak is detected, the bladder may be patched by using Sportsstuff PVC Adhesive which can be purchased directly from Sportsstuff by calling 888-814-8833, for small hole or seam repairs.

**Symptom:** Valve is leaking

**Solution:** Listen closely to hear if air is leaking. Be sure the valve and cap are screwed in or fastened straight and are tight. Leakage can occur if the valve is not fastened correctly.

**Symptom:** Product inflates but doesn't become firm.

**Solution:** Please check to make sure it was inflated firmly with a high volume air pump. If you are sure you inflated it properly, fully assess it for a leak or re-install the speed valve. If a leak is detected, the bladder may be patched by using Sportsstuff PVC Adhesive which can be purchased directly from Sportsstuff.

## **TOW ROPE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPORTSSTUFF PRODUCTS:**

- The watercraft owner/operator is responsible for informing all the persons riding or using tow ropes of the WSIA Recommendations for tow ropes. Improper use of your tube and rope could result in serious injury or death.
- Following are the WSIA (Water Sport Industry Association) Recommendations for tow ropes (Do not exceed recommended rider capacity for this tube):

<b>Number of Riders</b>	<b>Combined Weight of Riders</b>	<b>Rope Tensile Strength</b>
One	170 lbs	1500 lbs
Two	340 lbs	2375 lbs
Three	510 lbs	3350 lbs
Four	680 lbs	4100 lbs
Five-Six	1020 lbs	6100 lbs
(Sportsstuff recommendation- no current industry standard exists for 5-6 riders)		

- A standard tow rope should be at least 50 feet in length, but not exceed 65 feet.

- The tow rope should be assembled in a manner appropriate for the watercraft and tow tube.
- Please check all rope connections for frays, cuts, sharp edges, knots and wear and tear before each use. Discard any ropes that appear to be worn. It is recommended that you replace each tow rope at the beginning of the boating season.
- Tow ropes are subject to stretching during use. Please warn riders and persons in the boat/watercraft of the danger of ropes recoiling.
- DO NOT place arms, legs or head in the handle section as serious injury may result.
- Ensure that the tow rope is free from all body parts prior to towing a rider.
- Do not use a tow rope with a bungee material to pull skiers or riders. This type of apparatus could also result in serious injury or death to the tube rider or passengers in the boat/watercraft.
- Ropes will deteriorate with direct sunlight exposure. Store away from direct sunlight and discard any rope that is frayed, discolored or raveling.
- Do not add hardware to this product that is not supplied by Sportsstuff.
- Avoid the propeller and engine at all times. Should the rope become tangled in the propeller, shut off the engine and remove key from ignition before retrieving rope from propeller.

### **WARNING! BOAT DRIVERS NOTICE:**

- The boat/watercraft driver has the ultimate responsibility for the safety of the riders.
- Carefully survey the water before you begin towing riders.
- Do not pull a towable without a rider. A towable is designed to have a rider in order to balance the weight distribution of the product
- Be aware of water conditions along with changes in the weather. The condition of the water greatly influences the type of ride the rider will have. Take into consideration the age and physical ability of the rider.
- It is the boat/watercraft driver's responsibility to instruct the riders how to ride a towable. The boat/watercraft driver should carefully instruct the riders of potential risks and possible injury that may occur if they partake in careless behavior.
- At the beginning of the ride, carefully take the slack out of the tow rope. Never jerk-start or dock-start a towable. After the rider has signaled that he/she is ready, the driver can slowly bring the towable to a planing point.
- Most towables will plane out at 10 to 20 mph, depending on the weight of the rider(s). It is important to keep the nose of the item up until the item is planing.
- The resistance of the product varies widely with these factors: boat speed, turns, water conditions, number of riders and their weight, towable size, shape and function. The boat/watercraft driver should adjust the boat speed to fit these situations to minimize resistance of the towable.
- Use in wide, open spaces. Stay 50 yards from shallow water, shore, rocks, boats, docks and buoys. Most accidents happen on turns and in congested areas.
- The boat/watercraft driver determines the speed and the action of the towable in turns and when crossing the boat/watercraft wake. In the straight-a-ways, the boat/watercraft towing speed is the same as the towable speed. The towable speed will increase when the boat/watercraft makes a 90 to 180 degrees turn without increasing the boat/watercraft speed. If the boat/watercraft speed is 20 mph, the towable speed can be 30-40 mph. The "slingshot effect" sends the user outward from the center of the towable. Be aware of the limitations of the rider.
- Large wakes combined with the wave action and speed can contribute to a rough ride. Use a safe speed that enables the towable to plane out. The boat/watercraft driver should adjust the boat/watercraft speed and turns to fit the water conditions and the age, experience, skill and physical strength of the rider(s).
- Under normal conditions, the maximum safe speed for adults is 20 mph. Safe speeds for children are less than 15 mph, depending on the age and physical capability of the child.

- Please make sure your boat/watercraft is tow-worthy and has the appropriate horsepower to pull rider and the tow tube. Do not exceed the boat/watercraft passenger capacity.

### **WARNING! BOAT OWNERS WITH HIGH TOWER AND PYLONS**

- Tow/Ski towers are not designed for use with any inflatable tube towing. Never tow a tube from any tow/ski tower.
- Use only lifting eyes/transoms on the boat for towing tubes with 2 or more riders.
- Do not tow any inflatable from a ski pylon or ski eye.
- Any tow pylon or ski pylon installed after market are not intended for inflatable tube towing.

### **WARNING! SPOTTERS NOTICE:**

- Always use a spotter (observer) in the boat to communicate the needs of the rider to the driver.
- The spotter must be the eyes of the driver and the rider, always alert to recognize possible danger so proper action can be taken to avoid any risk to the rider.
- If the rider falls off of the tube, the boat/watercraft driver should not exceed 5 mph until the rider is back aboard the towable and ready to go.
- The spotter should hold up a safety flag cautioning all other boaters that a rider is in the water.

### **WARNING! RIDERS NOTICE:**

- Do not use this items as a personal flotation device.
- Do not exceed the manufacturers recommended number of riders for your particular tube. Recommended rider capacity for this tube is one (1).
- Use a tow rope of at least 1500 lbs average tensile strength for pulling a single person. The tow rope should be at least 50 feet in length but not to exceed 65 feet.
- Only use this product with a responsible boat/watercraft operator who knows how to effectively operate the equipment.
- This product should be used in water only. Do not launch from dock or land.
- Do not use near pilings, docks, shores or shallow water or other obstructions that could cause serious injury to the rider.
- Carefully instruct the other riders the proper way to attach rope and operate the towable.
- DO NOT strap or attach arms or legs to any part of the tube or tow rope/tow handle.
- Do not attempt stunts, aerial tricks or jumps as they can increase the risk of being seriously injured. Use good common sense to prevent serious injury at all times.
- This item has no braking mechanism and can develop high speeds under certain towing conditions. Use at your own risk!
- This product is not a life saving device.
- Take necessary breaks when you are tired.
- Never get near the propeller with the engine running, even if it is in neutral.

### **WARRANTY POLICY:**

Sportsstuff warrants, to the original purchaser only, that their high performance products, when used for normal recreational purposes, are free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of purchase. This warranty does NOT cover: products for rental, for hire and other uses

not considered for normal recreational purposes; nor punctures, cuts, abrasions in normal use. For prompt parts replacement or warranty issues, contact Sportsstuff directly at 888-814-8833. Replacement parts are shipped within 48 hours of notification Monday through Friday. Do not return to your dealer (USA ONLY). This warranty is only valid in the USA.

If you have any questions about any Sportsstuff, Inc. product, replacement parts or locating a dealer in your area, contact us at:

Sportsstuff Inc.  
11213 E Circle Suite A  
Omaha, NE 68137  
Toll Free: 888-814-8833  
Tel: 402-592-9085  
Fax: 402-592-1354  
E-mail: [customercare@sportsstuff.com](mailto:customercare@sportsstuff.com)

Warranty registration is available on-line at: <http://www.sportsstuff.com>

Prior authorization is required for returned merchandise. No credit will be given for a product that is sent back without prior authorization from Sportsstuff, Inc. After receiving an authorization number, please ship returned products to the following address:

Sportsstuff, Inc. Return Center  
11213 E Circle, Suite A  
Omaha, NE 68137  
(Please label package with RA #)

## **WATERSPORTS RESPONSIBILITY CODE**

Be aware that there are elements or risk in boating, skiing, and riding that common sense and personal awareness can help reduce. Know your ability level and stay within it.

To increase your enjoyment of the sport follow the "Watersports Responsibility Code".

It is your responsibility to:

- Familiarize yourself with all applicable laws, the risks inherent in the sport, and proper use of the equipment.
- Know the waterways where you will be skiing or riding. Do not ski or ride in shallow water, near shore, docks, pilings swimmers or other watercraft.
- Always have a person other than the boat driver as an observer and agree on hand signals before starting.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard Type III (PFD) vest.
- Read your owner's manual and inspect your equipment prior to use.
- Ski or ride within your limits. Always ski or ride in control and at speeds appropriate for your ability.
- Always turn ignition off when anyone is near watercraft power drive unit.
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning from engine exhaust may cause injury or death. Never "Platform Drag" or touch a swim platform while the engine is running.
- Not operate watercraft, ski or ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.