

Operation of Motorized Boat Rules

OPERATOR AGE AND BOATER EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- You must be sixteen (16) years of age to operate a motorized boat, be able to show a current Texas Driver's License and be able to show evidence of the completion of a Texas Parks & wildlife Commission Boater Safety Course.

DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

- Operating a boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol is STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

PFD'S (Personal Flotation Devices)

- All children under age thirteen (13) must wear a life jacket while boat is underway.

OPERATION

- The maximum permitted speed between sunrise and sunset is thirty miles per hour (30 mph).
- Boats must stay a minimum of 200 feet from active skiers or other water activities.
- Boats must operate at NO WAKE speed within the following areas. NO WAKE speed is defined as at such speed that the boats wake is NOT VISIBLE.
- Areas designated as NO WAKE (see attached map).
- Within 30' of a person in the water.
- Within 30' of shorelines (excluding bridges not marked as No Wake Zones).
- Within 30' of other vessels (motorized and non-motorized).
- Boats must slow to no wake speed PRIOR to reaching no wake buoys (not after passing it).
- Swamping docks or other boats with your wake is PROHIBITED.
- Everyone knows that you should slow down when passing near or between groups of other boaters. This means you leave no wake as you pass. Slowing down just a little so that your boat "plows" thru the water is potentially dangerous and more disruptive to others than flying past with your boat on plane. Beware of small craft; do not plow past kayaks and canoes. Plowing also creates large waves and damages docks and shorelines. IF YOU CAUSE BOATS TO BANG INTO EACH OTHER, SWAMP THEM WITH WAKES, KNOCK SOMEONE DOWN IN THEIR BOAT OR OTHERWISE HARM THEIR PROPERTY, YOU ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DAMAGES.

NIGHTTIME OPERATION

- The following rules apply between sunset and sunrise:
- Must have visible navigation lights turned on.
- Spotlights are prohibited while underway.
- Loud music is prohibited. Keep in mind that sound travels over water!
- Reduce speed and navigate with extreme caution at night.

OBSTRUCTING NAVIGATION

- Anchoring in any recreational portions of the lake is PROHIBITED.

MOORING AND NO WAKE BUOYS

- Moving, displacing, tampering with, or damaging any buoy is PROHIBITED.
- Mooring Buoys: The maximum number of boats that may attach to a mooring buoy is four (4).

TOWING SKIERS AND OTHER SIMILAR ACTIVITIES

- Power Turns are **PROHIBITED**, except in the case of an emergency.
- This is a **SAFETY** and **ETIQUETTE** issue. A power turn is when your skier falls and you immediately throttle up and make a large turn at high speed to pick up the rider. Power turns create large rolling waves that destroy lake conditions for other skiers, create unsafe conditions for picking up your skier, and creates high waves that go back towards your down skier. The only time a power turn should be used is if there is an emergency and you need to get back to your rider quickly. Otherwise, completely let off your throttle while keeping the boat traveling in a straight line. Once the boat has slowed down to no wake speed, turn the wheel sharply and head back towards your skier at no wake speed. This will keep the water smooth for everyone.

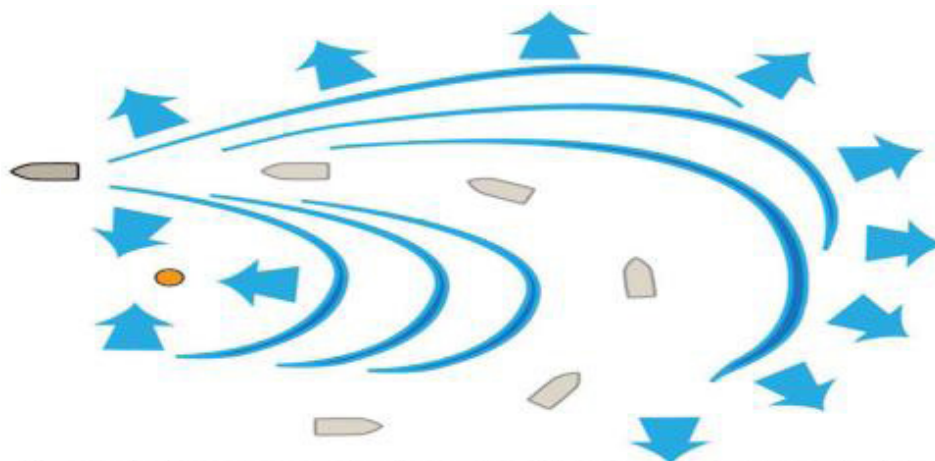


Diagram 1: Power turns send wakes out in all directions, even toward the rider.

- DURING WEEKENDS AND OTHER PEAK BOATING TIMES, driving in "Circles" and "Figure 8's" is **STRONGLY DISCOURAGED**. Pull skiers, tubers and other similar activities in straight lines or "S-Shapes"
- This is a **SAFETY** and **ETIQUETTE** issue. Driving in circles may seem like the thing to do, but it's not! Not only is Towne Lake too small and congested to have boats driving erratically, but eventually you will begin to hit all of the rollers that you created. These rollers will collide with other rollers and turn the lake into a huge mess for other boaters.

TEXAS WATER SAFETY ACT

In addition to the above Towne Lake rules, all motorized boats must be operated within the guidelines of the Texas Water Safety Act at all times. A copy is available at tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/pwd_br_l2000_0001/

- It is unlawful to operate at a rate of speed greater than is reasonable and prudent or greater that will permit to bring such boat to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.
- It is unlawful to operate a boat so as to cause a hazardous wake or wash.
- It is unlawful to operate in a circular course around another vessel or individual engaged in water activities.
- It is unlawful to operate within an area designated for swimming or otherwise restricted areas.
- It is unlawful to operate within a designated "no wake" area except at headway speed without creating a swell or wake sufficient to cause possible injury or damage to other persons, boats, or property.
- It is unlawful to engage in water skiing or other similar activity between the hours of ½ hour after sunset to

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½ hour before sunrise.

- All motorboats having in tow or otherwise assisting in towing a person on water skis or similar activity shall be operated in a careful and prudent manner and at a reasonable distance from persons and property so as to not endanger the life or property of any person.
- It is unlawful to operate any vessel in a willful or wanton disregard of the rights or safety of others and at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property.

BOATING SAFETY TIPS

- Stay alert.
- Watch for other boats. When pulling skiers, use your rear-view mirror, do not turn around and watch the skier behind you. Your job is to make sure you are not going to hit anyone or anything in your path. Let your spotter(s) alert you if the skier falls down.
- Share the water!
- If you come into an area and someone is skiing, reduce your speed to no wake. If you need to get somewhere, continue on plane in a straight line. Do not plow! If you wish to ski, try to find another calm location. If there are not any other areas to ride, wait until the other boat finishes pulling their skier, then approach and ask to take turns. This will help keep the water calm and more enjoyable for everyone. If you are tubing, take turns. Tubing for hours and hours is not considerate to others.

ENFORCEMENT

- The above rules are enforced by A Marine Safety Officer (MSO). They have the authority to stop any boat for rules violations. Boaters must stop when requested to do so by the MSO. Boaters will be notified of violation(s), and will be reported to the HOA.
- Reporting violations: Residents may report violations to kyoung@ccmcnet.com must provide a video that clearly shows violation taking place and must clearly identify the boat.
- Boaters will be notified via letter of any violation(s).
- A first violation by a boat operator shall result in a warning issued to the boat operator, however if the boat operator is under the age of 18 violation may result in removal of boat decal and boat prohibited from lake use for up to 90 days.
- A second violation by a boat operator may result in removal of boat decal and boat prohibited from lake use for up to 90 days.
- A third violation by a boat operator may result in removal of the boat for one year from the violation date.