



Boating Safety On Seed Lake

This is a summary of Georgia boating safety laws. It is the responsibility of each boat owner to know the laws and ensure all operators of the vessel are educated.

“Boat unto others as you would have others boat unto you.”

- Every person on a vessel must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD). An approved throwable device must be on any vessel over 16 feet.
- Children under the age of 13 must wear an approved PFD on any vessel underway.
- All persons engaged in towed water sports or riding a personal watercraft (PWC) must wear an approved PFD.
- All paddle boarders, canoers, and kayakers must have an approved PFD.
- Navigate on the starboard (right) side of the lake and keep oncoming vessels on your port (left) side – it is the law!
- Motorized vessels operating above idle speed must be at least 100 feet from the shoreline, shoreline structures, moored or adrift vessels, or persons in the water.
- Vessels engaged in wakesurfing, wakeboarding, or producing a wake capable of being surfed must be 200 feet from any moored vessel, shoreline structure, or shoreline.
- Vessels operating after sunset or before sunrise must use navigational lights and an anchor light. Sunrise and sunset times may be found on weather websites.
- PWC may not be operated after sunset or before sunrise.
- Riding on the gunwales, bow, or outside the railing of a pontoon boat is prohibited.
- Operating a vessel under the influence of drugs or alcohol is illegal.
- A person older than 16 may operate any vessel, provided any operator born after 1/1/1998 must have passed a boating education class approved by the Georgia DNR. For rules that apply to younger operators, go to www.gadnrle.org.
- If engaged in towed water sports, there must be an observer or a wide-angle rear-view mirror. If towing with a PWC there must be an observer, as mirrors are not legal.

- Georgia law governs the activities of wakesurfing, wakeboarding, and producing a wake capable of being surfed. The law requires a 200 foot buffer for these activities, which means these activities are prohibited in certain parts of Seed Lake.

WAKESURFING BEST PRACTICES

- Distance – Keep a minimum 200-foot buffer, but stay as close to the center of the lake as possible.
- Direction - Wakesurf from one end of the lake to the other to reduce repetitive passes.
- Points – Stay wide at the points to improve visibility.
- Proper Turn-Around – When retrieving a fallen rider, throttle back to idle and turn 180 degrees inside the wake.
- Weight – Empty ballast when not towing a rider.
- Sound carries over the water, and others may not share your taste in music. Be courteous and keep music to a reasonable volume.

Dial 911 For Emergencies!

Call the DNR hotline 800-241-4113 to report Boating Safety concerns.

For more info regarding boating laws and responsibilities, visit www.gadnrle.org