

BOATING SEASON IS UPON US AT SUNSET LAKE—LET’S HAVE FUN WITH OUR BOATING, FISHING AND SWIMMING, BUT LET’S THINK SAFETY FIRST!

We have been very fortunate at Sunset Lake, as no serious injuries have occurred on the water in many years. Sunset Lake has established rules for enjoying our lake, that are designed to keep everyone as safe as can be, whether fishing, swimming or general boating. It is imperative that Members both adhere to the established rules, as well as informing any guests and family members using the lake of the rules, be that boating, fishing, swimming, or otherwise. A few safety issues have been brought to the attention of the Board and a review of the highlights of our rules is in order at the beginning of the season. The following reminders are only a portion of the rules and regulations and everyone should review ALL of the current SSL’s Rules and Regulations before operating a boat on the lake. A current version of these Rules and Regulations can be found on our website. Violation of the Rules and Regulations is subject to fines and/or loss of privileges on the lake.

1. **ILLINOIS FISHING AND BOATING RULES APPLY TO SUNSET LAKE.** While we are a Private Lake Community, our Lake is subject to ALL of the Illinois Rules and Laws regarding boating and fishing licensure, including the Illinois Boating law requiring ANY operator of a boat born after January 1, 1998 to have a valid Boating Safety Certificate issued by the Department of Natural Resources. The boating laws are found in the Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act (625 ILCS 45) <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/Documents/BoatDigest.pdf> The fishing rules and regulations can be found at: <https://www.ifishillinois.org/> and our specific rules regarding boating and fishing can be found in Section 5, Section 7 and Section 8 of the SSL Rules and Regulations.
2. **NO WAKE IN COVES AND INLETS.** ALL of the COVES and INLETS are “no wake” zones. This means that any boats travelling in the coves and inlets must proceed at “idle speed” causing no wakes. A wake is defined as “a wave created by a moving boat that washes upon a shoreline or disturbs a boat at rest that is docked or anchored.”
3. **FAST AND SLOW BOATING RULES/TOWING RIDERS.** The main body of the lake has established “fast” and “slow” boating times, that allow all members to enjoy various activities in a predictable and safe manner. Boating speed is restricted to no more than 6 mph from dusk until Noon each day. 6 mph is about the speed of a “fast” walk. From Noon until dusk, higher speeds are allowed, but this requires more attention by boaters. During “fast” boating times (Noon until dusk, daily), boat traffic exceeding 6 mph must adhere to a “Counter-clockwise” pattern around the lake and remain AT LEAST 40 feet from the shore. Paddle boats, canoes, kayaks and fishing boats powered by a trolling motor may travel in either direction. Any boats towing skiers/riders must at all times have (in addition to the driver of the boat) at least one person 12 years of age or older as a spotter who is competent to handle the boat in the case of an emergency. All boats towing a skier or rider must display a 12”x12” bright orange flag AT THE HIGHEST POINT OF THE HELM and both the boat as well as the skier or rider must stay a minimum of 40 feet from the shoreline.
4. **LIGHTS ON BOATS REQUIRED.** Lights are required for ALL boats on the lake from sunset to sunrise (excluding boats secured to a dock). See Section 5, paragraphs “i9” and “i10” of the SSL Rules and Regulations for the particular lighting requirements. It should be noted that “headlights” on a boat should only be used for docking and NOT for general boating around the lake.

5. **NEW BUOYS.** Placement of additional Buoys on the lake will be accomplished in the near future. Please look for the new Buoys designating “no wake” zones. Again, this is a safety issue and we all want to have fun, but safety comes first.

6. **AGE RESTRICTIONS.** No one under 10 years of age may operate a motorized boat. Persons 10 and 11 may operate a motorized boat only if they are accompanied by and under the direct control of a parent, guardian, or person at least 18 years of age designated by the parent or guardian (provided parent, guardian or person designated holds a Boating Safety Certificate). Persons 12 and older, but less than 18 may operate a motorized boat **ONLY** if they complete a boating safety course and possess a Boating Safety Certificate issued by the IL Department of Natural Resources.

All of the Board Members will be displaying a red “LAKE PATROL” flag on their boats when they are on the water. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to “wave us over” and we will be glad to explain any rules and discuss any concerns you may have. We all need to work together to maximize the enjoyment of our lake and keep our families safe.