



Client Boating Safety

Quick Guide

Easy boating basics for Lake Lanier pontoon rental guests.

READ BEFORE YOU LAUNCH

This is a simplified guide, not a replacement for official Georgia boating education.

Based on The Handbook of Georgia Boating Laws and Responsibilities and current Georgia DNR safety summaries.

Source summarized from Georgia boating safety materials • Confirm current law before operating

What clients need to remember



The original handbook is 68 pages; this deck keeps only the key points a rental client should understand before boating.



Who can operate the boat?

Georgia legal basics

16+

May operate a boat with proper ID on board

1998

Born on/after Jan. 1, 1998? Boater education is required

When in doubt, ask before you book. We want the day to be safe, legal, and stress-free.

For Go Dreamz rentals

Operator must be approved before launch. Carry your government ID and any boating certificate/experience proof.

Review this guide with every adult on board.

Certification options

Online course • Classroom course • Approved out-of-state equivalent

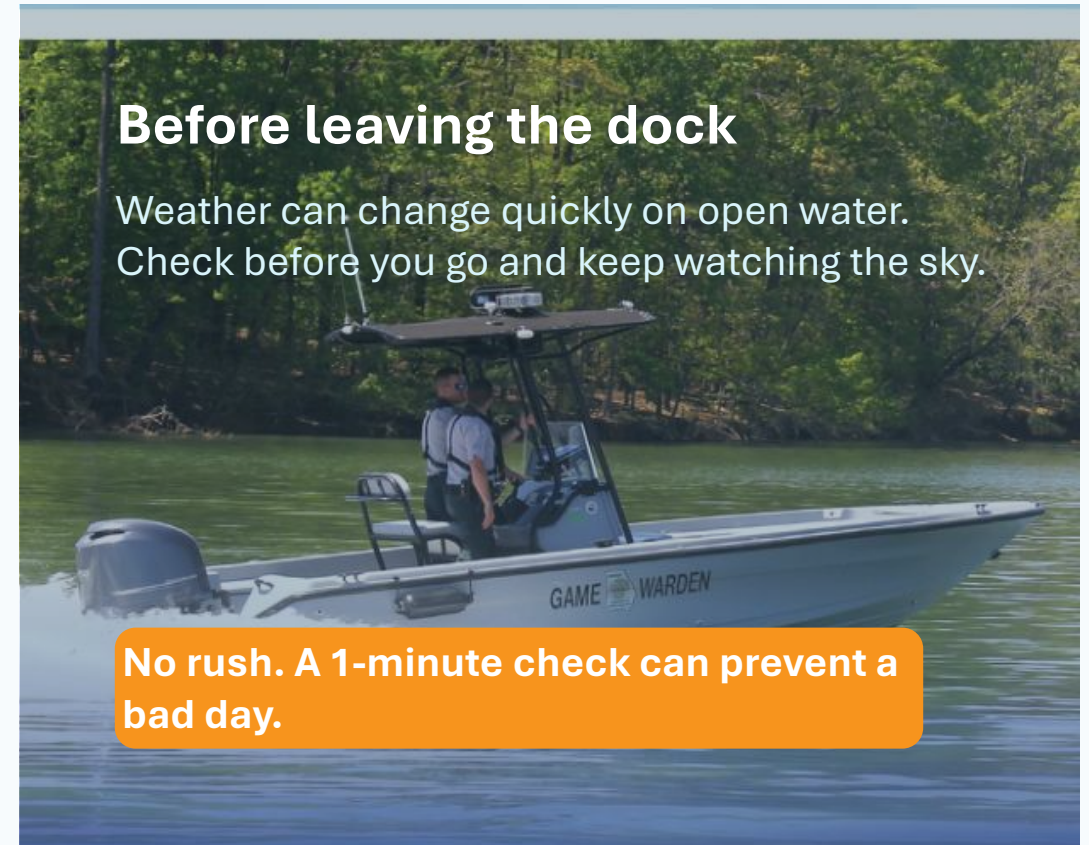
Current Georgia DNR confirms education requirement for operators born on/after Jan. 1, 1998 and ID requirement for operators 16+.

60-second pre-departure check

- ✓ **Weather** Check forecast + radar
- ✓ **People** Stay within capacity
- ✓ **Gear** Life jackets accessible
- ✓ **Boat** Steering/throttle/lights OK
- ✓ **Plan** Tell someone your route/return
- ✓ **Fuel** Enough for the trip + return

Simple float plan: where you are going + planned return time + who is on board.

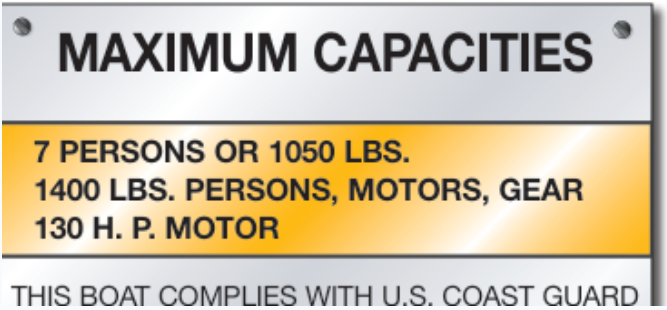
Handbook pages on pre-departure checklist and float plans emphasize weather, controls, safety equipment, and route sharing.





Capacity + life jackets are non-negotiable

Always check the capacity plate, which is usually found near the operator's position or on the vessel's transom. It indicates the maximum weight capacity and maximum number of people that the vessel can carry safely.



Capacity plate tells you:

- Maximum people
- Maximum total weight
- Maximum horsepower

Life jacket basics



USCG-approved life jacket for each person on board.



Children under 13 must wear it while the boat is moving.



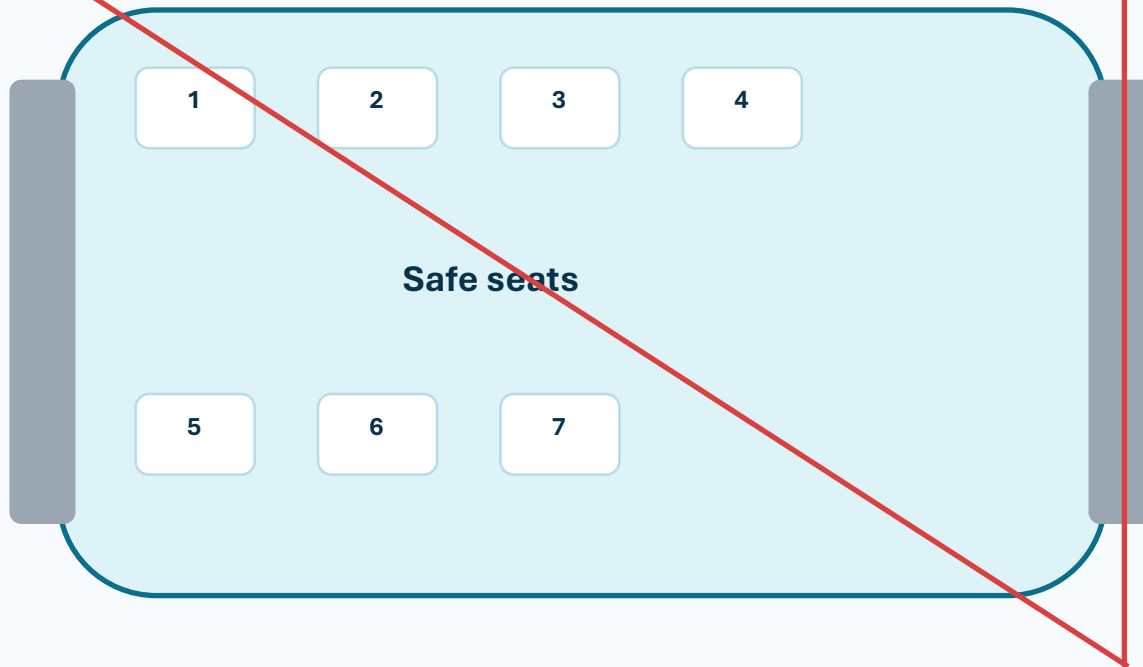
Fit matters: buckled, accessible, and in good condition.

Do not exceed the Go Dreamz pontoon capacity.

Handbook pages on vessel capacity and personal flotation devices; Georgia DNR confirms child PFD rule.

Passenger behavior on a pontoon

Keep weight balanced and bodies inside the railing.



NO bow / rail / swim platform riding while underway

Sit only in designed seating areas.
Do not stand or move around while underway.
Slow down before turns and wakes.
Keep kids seated and supervised.

Reason: sudden wakes, turns, or speed changes can throw people overboard.

Handbook warns against overloading, riding on the bow/gunwale, standing or moving around while underway, and unsafe turns.

Meeting other boats: 3 easy rules

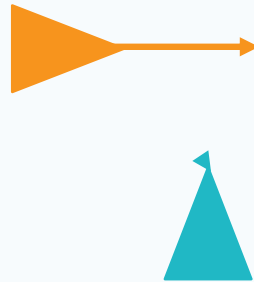
There is no “winner” on the water. Both operators must avoid collision.

1 Head-on



Both move right

2 Crossing



Boat on the right stands on

3 Overtaking



Passing boat gives way

Simple habit: slow down early, make your move obvious, and leave extra space.

Handbook navigation pages define stand-on/give-way vessels and meeting, crossing, and overtaking situations.

Markers and buoys are traffic signs

Cans are green cylindrical-shaped buoys marked with odd numbers.





Lighted Buoys use the lateral marker colors and numbers discussed above; in addition, they have a matching colored light.

Daymarks are permanently placed signs attached to structures, such as posts, in the water. Common daymarks are red triangles (equivalent to nuns) and green squares (equivalent to cans). They may be lighted also.




RED RIGHT RETURNING

When returning from open water or heading upstream, keep red markers on your right.

Handbook pages on U.S. Aids to Navigation System and regulatory markers.



Controlled
Circles indicate a controlled area such as speed limit, no fishing or anchoring, ski only or no skiing, or “slow, no wake.”



Exclusion
Crossed diamonds indicate areas off-limits to all vessels such as swimming areas, dams, and spillways.



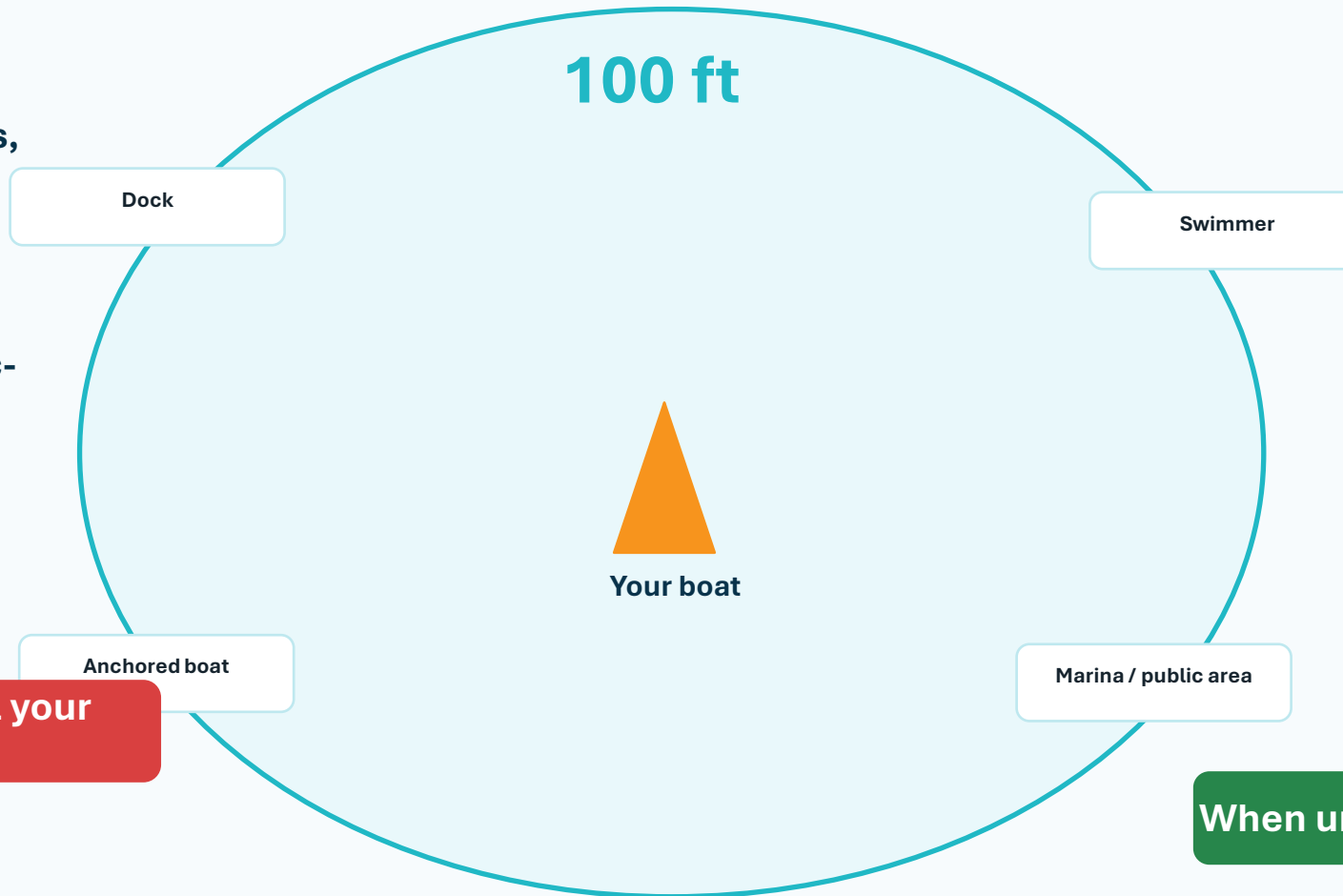
Danger
Diamonds warn of dangers such as rocks, shoals, construction, dams, or stumps. Always

-  Circle: Controlled area / slow no wake
-  Crossed diamond: Keep out
-  Diamond: Danger: rocks, stumps, shoals
-  Square: Information / directions



The 100-foot safety bubble

Operate at idle speed within 100 feet of docks, swimmers, anchored boats, shoreline residences, parks, beaches, marinas, restaurants, and public-use areas.



Idle speed = slowest speed that still gives steering control.

Wake damage is still your responsibility.

When unsure: slow down.

Georgia DNR motor restrictions confirm idle speed within 100 feet of specified objects and areas.



Alcohol, speed, and weather risks

BUI

Do not drink and operate.
Georgia uses 0.08% for 21+
and 0.02% for under 21.



SPEED

Operate for conditions: traffic,
weather, visibility, waves, and
shoreline wake.



STORMS

If weather turns: life jackets
on, slow down, stow gear,
lights on, and head to safe
shore if possible.



Handbook pages on BUI, reckless operation/failure to regulate speed, and severe weather procedures.

Emergency actions: keep it simple

1

Person overboard

Slow down • throw flotation • approach carefully • engine off before recovery

2

Capsize / swamp

Stay with the boat • climb out of water if possible • wait for help

3

Accident

Stop immediately • help the injured • share your information • report serious accidents

4

Need help

Use phone/VHF when available • wave arms if no distress signal

board your vessel in order to check that you are complying with state and federal laws.



Diver-Down Flags

- Scuba divers or snorkelers must display diver-down flags that mark the diving area.
- Vessels must remain at least 100 feet away from the person in the water.
- Two types of flags are used to indicate diving activity.



Give divers room

Stay at least 100 feet away from displayed diver-down flags.

In an emergency: protect people first, then protect property.

Handbook emergency pages cover overboard recovery, capsizing, distress signals, diver-down flags, and accident reporting.

Tubing / towing basics



Only tow when everyone understands the signals.

No towing between sunset and sunrise.

Person being towed must wear a proper PFD/ski jacket.

Stay idle speed within 100 feet of docks, swimmers, shorelines, marinas and public-use areas.

Use an observer or approved mirror as required.

Operator and rider must be sober.

Go Dreamz tip: start slow, keep wide turns, and stop if the rider gives a signal.

Handbook pages on towing skiers/tubes and skier hand signals.



Ready to boat safely?

Client promise before launch

- ✓ I will stay within capacity and keep passengers seated safely.
- ✓ I will keep life jackets accessible and make children wear them.
- ✓ I will slow down near docks, swimmers, shorelines and marinas.
- ✓ I will not operate under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- ✓ I will return early if weather becomes unsafe.

Questions before you launch?

Ask Go Dreamz Boat Rental before leaving the dock.