

Ski Island Lake Rules

Our lake is our greatest asset; the centerpiece of our neighborhood. It sets us apart from other OKC residential areas, and it provides beauty and recreation for our lot-owners and their guests. It is a treasure, and it requires our attention, disciplined care, and cooperation to keep it so. Water sports involve certain risks, and to maintain standards of safety and cooperation the following guidelines and rules have been developed by the Watercraft and Lake Safety Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee). They are charged with updating these rules, communicating them to the residents, and enforcing them under the supervision of the Board of Directors. Residents take full responsibility for any activity they have on the lake even when that activity is within these rules. Any questions or suggestions are welcome.

Who can use the lake? (Swim, wade, fish, boat, etc.)

1. Residents and their guests; specifically, lot-owners and their children or guests of the owner when accompanied by the owner or an adult (18 yrs. or older) child of the owner.
2. No person who is not in full possession of his/her faculties may use the lake in any way. This prohibition includes impairment from the intake of alcohol, drugs, or controlled substances.

Who can operate watercraft/boats on the lake? (powered or non-powered)

3. Only lot-owners in good standing (not in violation status due to rule infractions or non-payment of dues) may operate boats on the lake.
4. Powerboats (having motors larger than trolling motors) require a driver at least 16 years of age, although children age 12-15 may operate boats when accompanied by the lot-owner or an adult member of the owner's family who accepts full responsibility for the operation of the boat. Drivers towing persons on any device (e.g.: skis, wakeboard, tube, etc.) must be at least 16 years old.
5. No person who is not reasonably capable or experienced in operating a boat is permitted to do so.
6. A boat owner in good standing may give permission to another resident in good standing to operate (borrow) his/her boat. Both parties share responsibility for that boat's operation, and both may lose their lake privileges for misuse of the boat (dangerous driving or breaking of rules).
7. A household may not operate more than one gas-powered powerboat on the lake at the same time during fast-boating hours.

When is the lake available for fast-boating, skiing, wakeboarding, tubing, etc?

The lake is normally available 24/7 for non-powered boats and powerboats operating at idle speed. Powerboats may only operate at speeds higher than idle speed (hereinafter referred to as fast-boating) according to the following schedule:

8. Fast-boating/ski days are Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays. When holidays fall on regular ski days, sometimes an extra ski day is designated by the Committee and communicated to the residents by email.
9. On fast-boating days, these activities are limited to the following hours: From Memorial weekend through Labor Day: 8am-8pm or official sunset, whichever comes first. The rest of

the year: 8am-7:30pm or official sunset, whichever comes first. Sunset on cloudy days is when visibility starts being limited by darkness.

Where is fast-boating allowed?

10. The main body of the lake is available, excluding the coves marked off by “No Wake” buoys. Also, the 20 ft perimeter of the lake and the 20 ft perimeter around each island is excluded from fast-boating activity. These are always idle-only zones. Riders of skis, tubes, etc. are also required to stay out of these areas when moving above idle speed.

11. When moving above idle speed, our lake has a defined traffic pattern which is displayed in our handbook. It is imperative that all boat operators follow this pattern due to the size and shape of our lake. In general, the pattern involves keeping to the right of each channel and turning around only at specified areas (with the exception for the need to turn around immediately to retrieve a fallen rider (skier, tube rider, etc.)

What kinds of boats are allowed on the lake?

12. Several kinds of powerboats are allowed on the lake, and others are disallowed to minimize risk. Allowed boats include:

Outboard boats up to 16 ft with up to 90 hp motor *

Sterndrive (IO) boats up to 18 ft with up to 6-cylinder motor *

Pontoon boats up to 20 ft with up to 90 hp outboard motor *

Inboard boats up to 20 ft with a maximum dry weight of 3,000 lbs. if certified by USA Waterski (AWSA) for directional stability and low wake *

* Measurements are rounded to the nearest foot. (e.g., a 16.49’ boat qualifies as 16’ and a 16.5’ boat is considered 17’) Measurements do not include items such as swim decks, ladders, outboard motors, brackets, or attachments. Generally, this length will be the same as that printed on the boat’s title, unless the manufacturer included attachments, brackets, or outboard motor in the stated length of the boat. A measured length of the boat may be used in place of that issued on the title.

These limits are based on our experience with maneuverability and the size of wakes produced by each type of boat. These rules change over time as the boating industry evolves. The Committee is available to help residents determine appropriate boat selections.

13. Currently, deck boats, impeller-driven boats, and personal watercraft (such as Waverunners or Jetskis) are not allowed on the lake. Exceptions to boats allowed may be made on a case-by-case basis by the Committee.

14. All boats (including canoes, kayaks, sailboats, rowboats, bicycle boats, paddleboats, paddleboards, inflatable rafts, etc.) must be registered to be used on the lake. The registration process requires an inspection by at least one member of the Committee. All boats must display a Ski Island decal and the name of the resident in minimum 3-inch lettering of contrasting color on both sides and near the middle of the boat, visible from the shore when the boat is in motion. Compliance with registration rules of the State of Oklahoma is also required by state law for boats on Ski Island. Registration helps prevent non-residents from trespassing on the lake and aids in rule enforcement. It also aids in returning boats to their owners if a boat is stolen or breaks free from its mooring in a storm.

15. All powered boats must be insured for liability for a minimum of \$300,000. Proof of this insurance coverage is required for registration and a yearly statement from the insurance company confirming continued coverage is also required to maintain lake privileges. These annual insurance verifications should be mailed to the Ski Island Treasurer:

What other rules must we follow?

16. A proper Coast Guard approved flotation device is required for every person on every watercraft. Through the age of 12 years, they must be worn. For those 13 and over, the device must be readily accessible.

17. The maximum speed limit is 35 mph.

18. Boats must keep to the right, especially when approaching a boat coming from the opposite direction.

19. All boats must be operated in a way such as to not produce a wake over 6 inches tall. (Note that a 6-inch wake appears to be 12 inches tall from trough to peak.) To operate a boat within this limit will likely require practice, proper weight distribution, limiting the number of passengers, proper motor trim, and avoiding motor speeds that put the boat on a steep angle ("plowing"). Most boats have a speed range from about 5-12 mph within which they will make a wake over the 6-inch limit. Also, in this speed range (before a hull gets "on plane") steering is difficult and visibility is compromised. Hydrofoil fins are useful for many outboard and sterndrive boats to help drivers stay in compliance with this rule.

20. When retrieving riders near the back of the boat, the motor should be turned off.

21. When towing a rider on any device, there must be a designated "spotter" (a person other than the driver) of at least 12 years of age whose role is to stay focused on the rider(s) and communicate about their status with the driver.

22. Ski dropping (as when one is learning to slalom ski) is not allowed due to the danger of the ski being an obstacle in the path of another driver.

23. No ski kites, parachutes, or ski ramps are allowed.

24. Ski ropes are limited to 50 ft. (the normal length sold is 75 ft)

25. Ropes for pulling tubes or other tethered devices are limited to 40 ft. (These limits are to protect riders from being flung into walls on the turns.)

26. Skiers must stay close to the wake at the tight end turns at Pelican and South Shore. (Also to protect riders from being flung into the walls)

27. Boats may not pull more than one skier or wakeboarder at the same time.

28. Pontoon boats may be used to pull tubes or other tethered devices, but not skiers or wakeboarders (due to their larger turning radius and difficulty in returning to a fallen rider).

29. Boats towing riders are to be given the right-of-way by non-towing boats.

30. Avoid following boats towing riders. Never follow within 150 ft.

31. Operators must maintain a safe distance from boats, riders, and equipment (such as skis) stopped in the water as towing activities are in process. For example, don't drive over someone's ski rope.

32. When the lake is being used for any fast-boating activity, all non-powered boats and swimmers must vacate the ski paths (they can navigate in the idle zones). Powered boats must stay out of the way of the towing boats.

33. Everyone in a powered boat moving above idle speed must sit in a seat, not on top of the boat or seatback.

34. All boats operating after sunset must display lights as required by state law, and as stated earlier, they must not exceed idle speed.

35. All boats must have a horn or whistle to alert other boaters or to signal distress.

36. All boaters must respect the rights and comfort of others, including limiting noise and the use of foul language.

37. The Committee may make exceptions and/or adjustments to these rules as they deem appropriate. Any significant changes shall require Board approval.

How are the rules enforced?

The Committee and the Board of Directors are aware of the importance of our rules and the need for compliance. Violations are to be addressed in what we intend to be a helpful and instructive as opposed to a punitive manner. Repeated violations, however, will lead to loss of lake privileges. If you know a person who breaks a rule and feel able to kindly address the infraction with them, then do so. An example might be a new resident or new boat owner who didn't realize that they were going over idle speed in a No Wake cove or in one of the main channels after fast-boating hours. Helping each other follow the rules makes this a safer and more cooperative community.

Enforcement procedures:

A. Any resident may call to the attention of another resident or their guests any violation of these Rules if done in a courteous manner.

B. Any resident may report a violation to a Committee member or to a Board member, who shall then inform the Committee.

C. The Committee member or Board member may contact the person who violated the rule and discuss the occurrence. If a clear understanding is reached, the contact is noted for possible future reference, but no further action may be required.

D. If the violator of the rule does not respond appropriately to the admonishment or continues to violate the rule, then he/she will be required to meet with two or more members of the Committee to determine what course of action might be required, including (but not limited to) short- or long-term suspension of lake privileges and reporting to local or state law enforcement authorities. Such courses of action such as suspensions will be verified in writing, and the release of such suspensions require written approval from the Board. If the Committee recommends a suspension, they will facilitate a hearing for the violator to meet with the Board if the violator requests such a hearing.

How do I learn more about Lake Safety?

The Oklahoma Highway patrol has booklets available on boating safety. Note that not all state boating laws apply exactly to our lake: Some of our laws are more restrictive than state laws, and some are less restrictive. The Committee has periodic classes on lake safety. Let us know if you would be interested in attending one of these.