

Water Traffic Must Flow in the Same Direction

We have observed skiers/tubers going the wrong direction on the lake. The law, as defined by Washington State; reads, that when moving “toward or away” from shore, dock or float, the skier/tuber will travel at an angle of between 45 and 60 degrees from the shoreline on the “**right-hand**” side of the skier/tuber. Caution and safety is required upon entering and exiting the **No Wake Zone** (our swim area) and be in keeping with the line of traffic. Also, **all water skiing/tubing shall be in a counter-clockwise manner** on the lake at least 150 feet from docks, etc. Defined, this means that it is similar to entering and exiting the freeway; **traffic must flow in the same direction. When dropping a skier/tuber at your dock, you must circle back around continuing in a counter-clockwise manner to drop your skier/tuber to the shore on your right-hand side.** Similarly, when returning to pick up a fallen skier/tuber, you must circle around to your left-hand side to retrieve them in a counter clockwise motion. If you turn and take the “short-cut” back to your dock in the same direction that you came, you are then dropping your skier/tuber on your left-hand side rather than to your right-hand side. If you do not circle back around in a counter-clockwise manner to drop your skier back at your dock, you are creating a hazard by going the wrong way and piloting straight into the line of traffic. This would be the same as entering the freeway exit and driving into oncoming cars. **Do not go the wrong way on a one-way street!**

Small boats; such as pedal boats, row boats, canoes or anyone travelling at the no wake speed of 5 MPH or less, may travel in any direction.

Every year we observe boaters dropping off skiers by moving into oncoming traffic and not maintaining a counter-clockwise motion. We have observed these wrong way boaters having some near misses with other boaters that are towing their skiers/tubers going the correct direction and nearly running into one another. For this reason, it is of the utmost importance to share the direction rules with friends and family and to keep our activities safe.

By Larita Humble, Boating Safety Committee