

# SKAGIT COUNTY BOATING REGULATIONS

## REGISTRATION

1. Owners of all recreational boats must apply for a title and registration at a County Auditor's office.
2. **EXEMPT:** Vessels under 16' with 10 or less horsepower.
3. Registration numbers must be permanently attached on each side of the hull in 3" contrasting letters

## SAFETY EQUIPMENT

1. **PFD's:** Vessel must carry one US Coast Guard approved personal flotation device for each person aboard. PFD's must be worn by children 12 years of age or younger while vessel is underway.
2. **Sound Signals:** One whistle, horn, or other device capable of producing whistle blasts.
3. **Navigation Lights:** Required for night operation and must conform to USCG regulations or on manually propelled vessels, a white light of sufficient brightness must be available to display in time to avoid a collision.
4. **Fire Extinguisher:** Approved USCG extinguisher required if fuel tanks are permanently installed or in closed compartments.



## GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Lake Cavanaugh speed limit is 40 mph.
2. No vessel shall be operated in a negligent or reckless manner that would endanger persons or property.
3. All motorboats shall be operated **150' from the shoreline, dock, float, or other boat, except at its idle/ 5 MPH "no wake" speed.**
4. Swimming activities beyond 150' of the shoreline shall be accompanied by an attendant in a boat.
5. Operation of a motorboat while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drug is **illegal.**
6. Minimum age to operate a motor boat powered by a motor of 15 HP or more is 12 years of age and must be carrying a boater's education card. Persons under the age of 12 years old may not operate a vessel with an engine greater than 15 HP.
7. The operator of every boat involved in an accident is required by law to file a report in writing whenever a boating accident results in a loss of life, injury which required medical treatment beyond first aid, property damage over \$200.00, or a disappearance of a person.
8. It is **illegal** to throw any litter overboard into any waterway. Recreational boats must carry a litter bag.
9. **Teak surfing** is illegal and constitutes a \$100 fine.
10. **Vessel Capacity:** Check maximum weight and number of persons plate on boat for safe loading.
11. **Boater Education Card:** Operators must carry card while operating a vessel 15 HP or more (age applicable per mandatory education and calendar year).



## WATER SKIING/TUBING RULES

1. Recreational boats which are towing a person or persons shall be occupied by an operator with a boater's education card and a competent observer.
2. The observer shall continuously **observe** the persons being towed and **shall display a 12" by 12" bright red flag attached to a 24" handle whenever the persons are in the water.**
3. All water skiers/tubers must wear a USCG approved personal flotation device.
4. Water skiing/tubing is **prohibited ½ hour after sunset until ½ hour after sunrise and no towing is permitted and is illegal 1/2 hour after sunset even with the use of running lights.**
5. When moving toward or away from the shore, dock, or float, the water skier/tuber will travel at an angle between 45 and 60 degrees from the shoreline on the right-hand side of the skier.
6. All water skiing/tubing shall be in a **counter-clockwise** manner on the lake at least 150' from docks, etc.



## PADDLEBOARDS

1. Must have a life jacket for each person on board.
2. Must wear a sound producing device, such as a whistle.

## PERSONAL WATERCRAFT RULES

1. No person shall operate or ride on a personal watercraft without wearing a USCG approved flotation device.
2. A person operating a personal watercraft equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard type engine cutoff switch must attach the lanyard to his or her person, clothing, or personal flotation device.
3. No person shall operate a personal watercraft on the waters of Washington during the period from **½ hour after sunset until ½ hour after sunrise.**
4. Operators of personal watercraft in Washington State must be at least **14 years of age** and carry a boater's education card.
5. It is illegal to jump the wake of another vessel unreasonably close to that vessel.

