

2009 ~ COPAKE LAKE BOATING RULES AND REGULATIONS

BOATING HOURS: Watercraft must not exceed 6 mph between 8 PM and 9 AM (Town Ordinance).

NOISE: All watercraft must have effective mufflers (Town Ordinance).
Watercraft noise must not exceed 75 decibels (NYS Law).

SPEED: All Watercraft must slow down to 5 mph when less than 100 ft. from shore, dock or other vessel, or in "no wake" zones (NYS Law).

RIGHT OF WAY: Motorized watercraft must yield to swimmers and non-motorized watercraft (NYS Law).

AGE: Motorized boat operators must be 18 or over. Or, between the ages of 10 and 18 must have completed certified boating safety (NYS Law).

AGE: As of 1/1/04 **ALL** PWC operators must complete the NYS Safe Boating Course. Go to www.nyparks.com/boats/yb for more information and to find a course closest to you.

SAFETY:

- Personal Flotation Devices: Children under the age of 12 must wear approved PFD while in a watercraft. Approved flotation devices are required for each person on board (NYS Law).
- Water Skiing: Water skiers must have a "look-out" over the age of 9 (NYS Law).
- BWI: Boating while impaired or intoxicated subject to fines or imprisonment (NYS Law).
- Fire Extinguisher, distress signal and anchor are required on **ALL** motorized watercraft.

PERSONAL WATER CRAFT (NYS Law):

- Operators must wear an approved PFD.
- Operator must be attached with a cut-off device.
- Can only be operated between sunrise and sundown and the town ordinance speed limit on the lake is less than 6 mph between 8:00 PM and 9:00 AM for any motorized vessel.
- May not be operated within 500 ft of a designated swimming area.
- Reckless operation prohibited (wake jumping, weaving through traffic, or other maneuvers that jeopardize safety).

REGISTRATION: All motorized watercraft must be registered and display the registration numbers (NYS Law).

ENVIRONMENT:

- Help keep unwanted aquatic plants and zebra mussels out of the lake. Thoroughly wash your boat and flush the cooling system at a location away from the shoreline.
- Avoid spilling gasoline or oil. Repair leaks immediately.
- Dispose of litter properly in bins on shore.
- Do not use soaps or cleansers in or near the lake.

Common sense and respect for others are the way to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone using the lake. The CLCS is not a law-enforcement agency and leaves such duties to the Columbia County Sheriff's Department. The CLCS has posted rules and regulations and distributes these excerpts to encourage lake users to know the rules and observe them.

Concerns about speed, noise, or safe handling of any motorized watercraft on the lake should be directed to:

COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT 518-828-3344

