

# A GUIDE TO SUMMER FUN & SAFETY ON WOLVERINE LAKE

Revised 4-1-19



## FOR ADDITIONAL BOATING LAWS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

visit [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr) search for “boating laws handbook”.

Handbooks also available at Village Hall, 425 Glengary, Wolverine Lake  
Boater Safety Certificates on line for ages 16+ also available on this site.

1. NO high speed boating between the hours of 7:30 p.m. and 11:00 a.m. the following day. “High Speed” means at a speed at or above which a boat reaches a planing condition. (Not “No Wake”)
2. NO WAKE areas are posted with orange and white buoys. “Slow, No Wake Speed” means the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and which does not create a wake.
3. All occupants and operator shall not sit, stand or walk upon any portion of the vessel not specifically designed for such purpose, while the vessel is underway.
4. Vessels shall be operated in a counterclockwise fashion.
5. Vessels must remain a distance of 100 feet from docks, rafts, swimmers, or anchored vessels, except when proceeding at slow-no wake or picking up skiers.
6. Maximum speed is 55 mph.
7. It is unlawful to anchor a vessel at a distance greater than 100 feet from shore, between 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., except in slow-no wake zones.
8. When pulling anything, in addition to the operator, you must have at least one competent person to “spot”. Operators who watch their skiers instead of looking ahead are guilty of reckless operation.
9. One Marine B1 fire extinguisher is required on all vessels (including PWCs) with enclosed spaces, less than 26 feet. Two B-1 extinguishers or one B-II on boats 26 feet or over.

## WHO MAY OPERATE A BOAT

### Those less than 12 years of age:

- May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 horsepower (hp) legally without restrictions.
- May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp but no more than 35 hp legally **only if** they are directly supervised on board by a person at least 16 years of age and have their boating safety certificate present.
- May not operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp legally under any conditions.

### Those 12 to 15 years of age:

- May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 hp legally without restrictions.
- May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp legally **only if** they are accompanied on board by a person at least 16 years of age and have their boating safety certificate present.

### Those 16 years of age or older:

- And born on or after July 1, 1996 may operate any boat legally only if they have their boating safety certificate present.
- Born before July 1, 1996 may operate a boat legally without restrictions.

## WHO MAY OPERATE A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)

Those less than 14 years of age may NOT legally operate a PWC.

Those 14 and 15 years of age may operate a PWC legally **only if**:

- He or she obtained a boating safety certificate **and...**
- The operator is accompanied on board by his or her parent, legal guardian or a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian **or...**
- The operator is operating or riding at a distance of not more than 100 feet from his or her parent, legal guardian or a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian.

### Those 16 years of age or older:

- **Anyone** born after December 31, 1978, **MUST HAVE** a boating safety certificate to operate a PWC **regardless of age**
- Anyone born on or before December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.


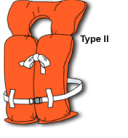


When preparing to go out on a vessel, the operator must check that the legally required equipment is on board.

### Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

All vessels must be equipped with a personal flotation device for each person on board or being towed.

- The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) requires that all vessels have at least one Type I, II, or III personal flotation device that is USCG—approved, wearable, and of the proper size for each person on board or being towed. Sizing for PFDs is based on body weight and chest size.
- Michigan's PFD law permits a vessel that is less than 16 feet long, or is a canoe or kayak, to choose to have either a wearable PFD (Type I, II, or III) or a throwable PFD (Type IV) for each person on board.
- In addition to the above requirements, one USCG—approved Type IV PFD must be on board vessels 16 feet or longer and be readily accessible.
- Michigan law requires all children under 6 years of age to **wear** a USCG—approved Type I or II PFD when riding on the open deck of any vessel.
- Each person riding on or towed behind a PWC must **wear** a USCG—approved Type I or Type II personal flotation device.
- Inflatable PFDs are not allowed on PWCs.
- All PFDs must be in good and serviceable condition and must be readily accessible.

### Types of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

PFD Descriptions	Illustrations
<p><b>TYPE I: Offshore Life Jackets</b></p> <p>These vests are geared for rough or remote waters where rescue may take awhile. They provide the most buoyancy, are excellent for flotation, and will turn most unconscious persons face up in the water.</p>	
<p><b>TYPE II: Near-Shore Vests</b></p> <p>These vests are good for calm waters when quick assistance or rescue is likely. Type II vests will turn some unconscious wearers face up in the water, but the turning is not as pronounced as with a Type I.</p>	
<p><b>TYPE III: Flotation Aids</b></p> <p>These vests or full-sleeved jackets are good for calm waters when quick assistance or rescue is likely. They are not recommended for rough waters since they will not turn most unconscious persons face up. Type III PFDs are used for water sports such as water-skiing. Some Type III PFDs are designed to inflate when you enter the water.</p>	
<p><b>TYPE IV: Throwable Devices/Not Wearable</b></p> <p>These cushions and ring buoys are designed to be thrown to someone in trouble. Since a Type IV PFD is not designed to be worn, it is neither for rough waters nor for persons who are unable to hold onto it.</p>	
<p><b>TYPE V: Special-Use Devices</b></p> <p>These vests, deck suits, hybrid PFDs, and others are designed for specific activities such as windsurfing, kayaking, or water-skiing. Some Type V PFDs are designed to inflate when you enter the water. <b>To be acceptable, Type V PFDs must be worn and used in accordance with their label.</b></p>	