



Barron Lake Boating Safety

The following is a synopsis of some of the boating safety laws, more specifically relating to a smaller inland lake, like Barron Lake. We ask residents/homeowners to be aware of these laws and share this information with their guests prior to guest(s) operating watercraft.

BOATS

- Michigan law requires all children under the age of 6 to wear a USCG approved Type I or II life jacket at all times when riding on an open deck of any boat underway.
- Navigation lights must be turned on when sun goes down.
- Operators: Less than 12 years old-no more than 6 hp motor, or if operator has a boating certificate, motor cannot be more than 35 hp and operator must be accompanied by someone over the age of 16.
- Boats must travel in a counterclockwise direction.
- Boat cannot travel more than 55 mph.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC) includes wave runners and jet skis

- No person younger than 14 years of age may operate a PWC. If person is 14 or 15, to operate a PWC legally, person must have a boating safety certificate and be accompanied on PWC by parent or guardian who is at least 21 years of age.
- Persons who are at least 16 years old and born after Dec. 31, 1978, can operate a PWC with a boating safety certificate.
- For persons born before Dec. 31, 1978, there are no restrictions.
- No one under the age of 7 can ride on or be towed on a PWC unless with a parent or guardian.
- When operating a PWC with a small child, the adult should be in front and the child behind. If two adults are on the PWC, the small child should sit in between the adults.
- All persons riding on or being towed by a PWC are required to wear a life jacket.
- Only three-seat PWCs can be used to pull a tuber or a skier. And only one person can be pulled at a time. One seat is for driver, one seat is for spotter and one seat is available for tuber or skier in the event of an emergency.
- PWC must travel in a counterclockwise direction.
- The maximum speed allowed for a PWC is 55 mph.
- PWC cannot come within 150 feet of a boat—either when passing the boat or jumping a wake.
- Persons cannot operate a PWC in waters less than two feet deep unless operating at “slow, no wake” speed or are launching or docking.

Full details on all Michigan boating laws and responsibilities are available on the Barron Lake Association website: <http://www.barronlakeassociation.org/documents>.