

Barron Lake Boating Safety



Barron Lake residents are responsible for being aware of and educating their guests on the lake safety rules 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 and cannot travel more than 55 mph.
- It is legal to tow persons on water skis, surfboard or any device one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset if towed behind a boat. If behind a PWC, it is only allowed between 8 a.m. and sunset.
- All persons being towed must stay 100 feet away from a shoreline, any moored or anchored vessel, dock or raft or any marked swimming area or person(s) in the water.

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.
- 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. Maximum speed is 55 mph.
- PWC cannot come within 150 feet of a boat—either when passing 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.

