



## LET'S MAKE THIS A SAFE BOATING SEASON

Boat safely and protect our family, friends and visitors. Protect our Shorelines by following the “Slow, No Wake Speed” in no wake areas.

Please copy and share the information below with everyone, including renters, who will be boating on the Eagle River Chain of Lakes. Law enforcement will be patrolling the Eagle River Chain this boating season.

### BOAT SAFE and BE RESPONSIBLE

Follow Our Wisconsin State Laws and Requirements

#### General Boating Requirements

- All boats must have one wearable life jacket for each person. Children under the age of 13 must wear a life jacket at all times. Boats over 16' must have one throwable life saving device immediately available.
- It is illegal to operate a boat with a person riding on the bow, deck, transom, seat backs or gunwale of the boat.
- It is illegal to operate a vessel within any area marked off or set aside as a prohibited area or a swim area or to weave through congested waterway traffic.
- It is illegal to operate a vessel while under the influence of an intoxicant or controlled substance or have a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or greater.
- It is illegal to operate a vessel at greater than “slow, no wake speed” within 100' of shoreline, docks, rafts, piers, swimmers or restricted areas. See definition below of “Slow, No Wake Speed”. \*\*



**\*\* “Slow, No Wake Speed” means a speed at which a vessel moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steerage control.**

**Slow down gradually as you approach a no wake area and speed up gradually as you leave a no wake area. This makes it safer for other vessels in the area, helps keep the buoys from being damaged and protects our shorelines.**





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### Requirements Specific to Personal Watercrafts (PWC's)

- Operators must be at least 12 years old and have completed an approved boating safety course. Those born before January 1, 1989 are exempt from the required boating safety course.
- Every person must wear an approved life jacket.
- Sunrise to sunset only
- It is illegal to jump a wake with a PWC within 100' of another vessel.
- It is illegal to operate a PWC within 100' of a vessel towing a person on skis, inner tube, or wakeboard or other devices; or to operate within 100' of a tow rope or person being towed.
- It is illegal to operate a PWC at greater than "slow, no wake speed" within 100' of a dock, pier, raft or restricted area; and within 200' of any shore. See definition below of "slow, no wake speed". \*\*



### Requirements for Towing Skiers, Wakeboarders and/or other Devices

- Sunrise to Sunset only
- Do not come within 100' of other vessels or person in water, swimming area, or public boat landing. Must have a competent person on board to act as an observer or the vessel must be equipped with a wide-angle rearview mirror.

**Report violations to the Vilas County Sheriff's Department at 715-479-4441**

\*\*See the Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities for complete list of laws including all age restrictions to operate a motorboat or PWC and options to complete the boating safety course. The handbook is available at [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov)

Flyer produced as a courtesy by Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association, Inc. [www.ercla.org](http://www.ercla.org)

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