

7. --BOATING RULES AND REGULATIONS

LAKE BUCKHORN BOATERS ARE SUBJECT TO ALL RULES OF THE STATE OF OHIO, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF WATERCRAFT

The following "State of Ohio, Division of Watercraft" rules are not meant to be taken as the complete rules. The following are meant only as highlights of the existing Ohio rules at the time of the production of this document. A copy of the current "Ohio Boat Operator's Guide" is available from ODNR, Division of Watercraft by calling **1-877-4BOATER** or online at **www.dnr.state.oh.us/watercraft**.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT –

-DISTRESS SIGNALS (ORC 1547.251, pg.12 & 13 OBOG)- Every watercraft must carry a distress flag, international orange in color and not less than two (2) feet square. Canoes and rowboats are exempt.

-ANCHOR AND SUFFICIENT LINE (ORC1547.26 & OAC 1501:47-1-11, pg. 10 OBOG) – All watercraft except board sailboats and canoes must carry an anchor of sufficient weight and line of sufficient length to anchor the watercraft securely.

-FIRE EXTINGUISHERS (ORC 1547.27, pg. 11 OBOG) – NO person shall operate or permit to be operated any power craft that does not meet the fire extinguisher requirement, except those

propelled by an electric motor and power craft less than twenty-six (26) feet in length, of "open construction," which are not carrying passengers for hire. Power boats under twenty-six (26) feet long must carry at least one (1) B-1 fire extinguishers.

-NAVIGATION LIGHTS (OAC1501:47-2-21 through 1501:47-2-31, pg. 16

OBOG) –All watercraft must display prescribed lights when under way from sunset to sunrise, and at any other time when there is insufficient natural light for other watercraft to be visible at a distance of three hundred (300) feet. All power boats must carry: A white light aft, higher than the bow light to show all around the horizon (360 or 32 points). A combined light in the forepart of the vessel, lower than the white light aft. This light must show green to starboard and red to port.

-WHISTLE AND/OR BELL (ORC 1547.251, pg. 12 OBOG)– On power craft less the sixteen (16) feet in length, a whistle or bell is not required. Power craft sixteen (16) feet or more in length must carry one (1) mouth, hand, or power operated whistle/horn audible at least ½ mile.

-PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFD's) (ORC 1547.25, pg. 7 through 9 OBOG) --Boats, kayaks, canoes, rowboats, sailboats, and pontoon boats must have one (1) Type I, II or III (wearable) PFD on board for each person and one (1) Type IV (throw-able) device for the boat. All PFD's including water skiing devices, must be Coast Guard approved, in serviceable condition, and easily accessible.

BOAT OPERATOR

-Boating Education Requirement

(ORC 1547.05, pg. 36 OBOG) – **NO** person born on or after January 1, 1982, shall operate a power craft powered by more than ten (10) horsepower unless the operator has received a certificate for successful completion of either **(ORC 1547.06 and ORC 1547.41, pg. 36 and 37 OBOG of the following:)**

-- A boating course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) or

--A proficiency examination approved by the Ohio Division of Watercraft.

(ORC 1547.051, pg. 36 OBOG) – A person required to have the certificate as indicated above and is stopped by a law enforcement officer while operating a power-craft more than ten (10) horsepower, shall present to the law enforcement officer the certificate of proof of holding the certificate within seventy-two (72) hours of being stopped.

(ORC 1547.06 and ORC 1547.41, pg. 36 and 37 OBPG)—**NO** child under twelve (12) years of age shall operate any vessel unless under the direct visual and audible supervision of a person who is eighteen (18) years age or older. This section does not apply to personal watercraft (see previous paragraph) or other power craft powered by more than ten (10) horsepower.

(ORC 1547.06 and ORC 1547.41, pg. 37 OBOG)- **NO** person under twelve (12) years of age shall operate power craft powered by more than ten (10) horsepower unless under the direct visual and audible supervision of a person over the age of eighteen (18) years of age or older who is aboard the power craft. In the case of a supervising person born on or after January 1st, 1982, the supervising person must hold a certificate meeting the requirements of ORC 1547.05 and in the case of a rented power craft, must meet the requirement at ORC 1547.052.

(ORC 1547.06 and ORC 1547.41, pg. 36 and 37 OBOG)- When watercraft are operated by children under twelve (12) years of age, the supervising adult is responsible for the child's actions.

(ORC 1547.12, pg. 41 OBOG)- **No** person shall operate any vessel if they are unable physically or mentally to operate in a safe and competent manner. **No** supervising person shall allow any person they are supervising to violate any watercraft law.

CAPACITY PLATE (ORC 1547.39 & 1547.410, pg. 43 OBOG)

--**NO** person shall operate or permit operation of a watercraft in excess of any of the stated limits on the capacity plate. When **NO** capacity plate exists, **NO** person shall operate or permit operation of a watercraft if a reasonably prudent person would believe the total load aboard or the total horsepower of any motor or engine presents a risk of physical harm to persons or property. **NO**

person shall alter, remove or deface any information on the capacity plate. The plate must be clearly legible from the place where the operator is located, must show the maximum weight, the total number of occupants that may be carried, and the maximum horsepower that may be used on the watercraft under normal operating condition.

--These recommendations are for fair weather and do not relieve the operator of responsibility for good judgment.

--If weather and water conditions are adverse, the load should be reduced accordingly.

SPEED AND CONTROL

--(OAC 1501:47-2-06, pg. 29 OBOG)- **ALL** watercraft must be operated at reasonable speeds for given conditions and circumstances and must be under the complete control of the operator at all times.

--(ORC 1547.11 & ORC 1547.111, pg. 40 OBOG)- **NO** person who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs may operate a watercraft or engage in water-skiing on the lake.

--(ORC 1501:47-2-06, pg. 29 OBOG) – **EVERY** vessel shall proceed at a safe speed so that it can take proper and effective action to avoid collision and be stopped within a distance appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions.

--(ORC 1547.07, pg. 38 OBOG) – **NO** person shall operate a vessel, water ski or similar device:

-carelessly or heedlessly;

-without due caution;

-in disregard of the rights or safety of any person, vessel, or property;

-at a rate of speed or in a manner so as to endanger any person, vessel, or property

--**NO** person shall operate or permit operation of a vessel in an unsafe manner. Unsafe operation includes:

-becoming airborne while crossing the wake of another vessel within one-hundred (100) feet or unsafe distance:

-operating at a speed or proximity to a vessel or person being towed so as to require either vessel to swerve to avoid collision; operating less than two-hundred (200) feet behind a water skier;

-weaving through congested traffic.

--A vessel shall be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner at all times.

--(ORC 1547.08, pg. 39 OBOG)- **NO** person shall permit operation of a vessel within three-hundred (300) feet of an official diver's flag unless tendering the dive operation.

SPEED LIMITS (OAC 1501:41-11-02, pg.46 OBOG)

--(ORC 1547.07, pg. 38 OBOG)-The general speed limitation is that which is implied in safe watercraft operation under existing circumstances.

--(ORC 1547.07, pg. 38 OBOG)- Speed which is excessive for given circumstances, and which endangers persons and property, is one form of reckless operation which is prohibited.

--Watercraft should slow down when operating in areas of restricted visibility.

--Weather, wind, or heavy traffic conditions may warrant speed reduction.

Watercraft passing close to swimming areas, moored watercraft, a watercraft engaged in fishing or buoys or markers should reduce their speed to prevent their wash or wake from causing damage or inconvenience to occupants of the area or to other craft.

--Operators are responsible for damage caused by their wakes.

RIGHT-OF-WAY BETWEEN BOATS (OAC Rules, pg.27-through 35 OBOG)

--A sailboat has the right-of-way over motor boats unless it is overtaking (passing) a motorboat or initiates such action that will impede safe passage of a motorboat in a narrow channel, or if a motorboat is fishing with nets or lines.

--The right-of-way between motorboats is similar to the right-of-way for automobiles at an intersection. The one on the right (starboard) has the right-of-way.

WATER SKIING

--(ORC 1547.14, pg. 42 OBOG) – Skiing shall be confined to designated ski zones.

--(ORC 1547.15, pg. 42 OBOG)– A person ten (10) years of age or older, other than the operator, **must** be present in the watercraft to observe the progress of the skier at all times whenever a skier is being towed. The vessel operator shall observe the traffic pattern.

--(ORC 1547.16, pg. 42 OBOG) – **NO** person shall water-ski or be towed on any device, or operate a vessel towing a person between sunset and sunrise except upon special permit. Consult an official sunrise-sunset table of the local area for exact times.

To make water-skiing fun, safe, sensible, and successful, practice these safe operating tips:

--Check steering and throttle controls for operation before towing a skier.

--On take-offs, *never* accelerate until a signal is given by the skier.

(ORC 1547.15, pg. 42 OBOG) -- When under way, the operator should direct his attention ahead. The observer is there to watch the skier(s).

--Never closely follow other boats. Always look before turning. Avoid shallow water.

--Promote safety by staying away from other boats, swimmers, fishermen or solid objects.

--Return to fallen skier immediately. Slow to idle as you approach the skier(s). Approach skier on driver's side.

--Shut off engine while skier(s) climbs into or out of boat.

--High speed landings cause injuries. In landing a skier(s), reduce speed and parallel landing area at a safe distance.

*****RULES ADOPTED BY STATE OF OHIO *specifically for Lake Buckhorn******
(OAC 1501:47-7-18) These rules are effective as of August 29th, 2004.

OPERATING REGULATIONS

--**NO** person shall operate a power-craft at a speed greater than idle speed or at a speed that creates a wake from sunset to sunrise.

--Power craft operating in the designated speed and ski zones shall travel in a counter-clockwise direction with the shoreline on the starboard (right) side of the power craft.

--**ALL** power craft operating at a speed greater than idle speed shall maintain a distance of forty (40) feet from the shore or any designated no-wake zones.

--Swimming from watercraft shall be permitted only in designated no-wake zones.

--A "wake" as used in this rule shall be defined as a track left by a watercraft in the water causing waves or swells.

RESTRICTIONS

--**NO** power craft shall tow more than two (2) skiers, ski tubes, or other approved towable devices.

--**NO** person shall anchor, moor, dock or tie up any watercraft to any private dock facility without express permission of the owner or other authorized agent.

--While being towed by a watercraft, **NO** person shall have any type of air-foil or other device in hand or affixed to the person for the purpose of becoming airborne over the waters of Lake Buckhorn.

--It shall be unlawful for any watercraft to tow a parasail, kite, or any other airborne device on the waters of Lake Buckhorn.

--Air propelled power craft; wing-in-ground craft, hovercraft, and submersible watercraft are prohibited.