

**CHAPTER SIX – Section 6.04
BOATING AND BOAT OPERATIONS**

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Amended:	April 24, 2008
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I. POLICY

The following Rules and Regulations shall be in force regarding boating activities and operations on the LMOA Lake facility:

A. Definitions

No Wake Speed: The slowest possible speed required to maintain steerage and headway.

Slow Speed: A precautionary speed of less than five miles per hour (formerly “No Wake Speed”).

Powerboat: Any motorized boat.

Towed Devices: Tubes, water-skis, aquaplanes, or any other device that is towed behind a powerboat.

Warning Flags:

When posted on the Main Dam, and all LMOA Beaches:

RED and WHITE: Lake is closed to all boats except emergency vessels.

BLUE and WHITE: Slow speed, all boats.

When displayed on a boat:

ORANGE: Indicates a person in the water nearby. Use caution.

RED or ORANGE with WHITE DIAGONAL STRIPE: Indicates a diver is in the water. Keep clear 75 feet.

B. Boat Operations

1. Boat Operators License

Everyone operating a powerboat is required to be licensed by LMOA. No person under the age of 16, whether licensed or unlicensed, may operate any powerboat on the Lake, including its coves. A valid boat operator’s license may be obtained by passing an LMOA boating test. This test shall require the operator to demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of Federal, State and LMOA boating rules and regulations. This test must be taken every 5 years.

2. Virginia State laws governing alcohol will be observed by boat operators using Lake Monticello. VA Code 29.1-738 B.

3. Boating Operations

- a. All powerboat traffic shall proceed in a counter-clockwise manner around the Lake. Exceptions to this rule may be made by the General Manager for lake maintenance operations and other operations that benefit LMOA.
- b. The maximum allowable speed on the Lake shall be 35 MPH during daylight hours. Between sunset and sunrise, the speed limit shall be less than 5 MPH (“Slow Speed”). “NO WAKE” speed shall be observed at all times in all coves and other areas marked with “NO WAKE” buoys. At less than 50 feet from shore, dock or swimming areas, “No Wake” speed applies per State law. “Slow” speed is to be observed between 75 to 50 feet of any shore, dock, or swimming area.
- c. Powerboats shall operate with caution in the vicinity of non-powered small craft, reducing speed as necessary to avoid the possibility of swamping or capsizing.
- d. “Slow” speed shall be observed when the water level is more than six inches above normal pool or more than one foot below normal pool. The General Manager may waive, at his discretion, the “Slow” speed for special, short term events during abnormal pool levels.
- e. Beaching of powerboats is not permitted on any beach. Powerboats shall be moored at docks or slips where provided. Sailboats and manually propelled boats may land temporarily at beaches outside the roped areas.
- f. Under no circumstances shall trash, garbage or litter of any kind be placed into the Lake at any time.
- g. Mooring
 - i. Boats shall be moored at the owner's property, at the marina, or at other assigned slips.
 - ii. Boats of Marina Point Condominium unit owners must be moored parallel to the bulkhead. Mooring of boats perpendicular to the Marina Point shoreline is not permitted.
 - iii. No boat shall be moored or anchored in a manner that it in any way impedes or interferes with normal navigation on the lake, or creates a safety hazard.
 - iv. Anchoring of unattended boats is not permitted except in emergency circumstances or with LMOA approval.
- h. Boating shall be permitted on the main lake and its coves only. Boats propelled by oars, paddles or electric motors are permitted on Tufton Lake (fishing pond). Boating is not permitted on any of the bodies of water within the golf course.
 - i. There shall be no racing of motor boats.
 - j. All boats using the Lake after sunset and before sunrise shall be equipped with and required to use proper navigational lights.
 - k. No person shall operate any vessel or manipulate any towed device in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person.

4. Buoys

- a. The buoys placed in the Lake and its coves are designed for the safety of boaters and swimmers and for the protection of property. The buoys are numbered counter-clockwise beginning at the dam.
- b. Boat owners and boat operators shall familiarize themselves with and adhere to the meaning and intent of the markings on the buoys.

- c. Tampering with or using buoys for any purpose other than in "a" above is prohibited. Specifically prohibited is tying up to any buoy.
- d. Neither boaters nor property owners shall change the positions of buoys. Out-of-place buoys shall be reported to LMOA.
- e. Traffic flow around the Lake is counter-clockwise. Designated turn-around buoys are located near the east and west ends of the Lake.

5. Towing and Towed Devices

- a. Every boat engaged to tow a device shall have a minimum of two persons aboard – the operator and an observer. It shall be the responsibility of the operator to choose a mature observer.
- b. When a towed person falls or is no longer being towed and is in the water, the boat shall display an orange flag to indicate that a person is down in the water. The orange flag shall be minimum 12” x 12”, mounted to a pole, and high enough to be clearly visible to other boaters. Caution shall be used by all boaters in the area when the flag is displayed.
- c. No person shall operate a vessel towing any device, nor shall any person engage in such activities at any time after sunset or before sunrise or under conditions of low visibility.
- d. Skiers shall not be permitted to take-off, land or beach on any beach or dock. Kite skiing shall not be allowed.
- e. Unequal length tow lines for multiple tows are not permitted. Tubing equipment is generally not made for speeds in excess of 20 mph.
- f. Skiing and aquaplaning are prohibited within 75 feet of shorelines, swimming areas, docks, coves or in areas marked with "NO WAKE" or "Slow Speed" buoys. Tubers may be pulled at slow speed in and from coves.
- g. A fallen skier shall prop a ski out of the water to signal other boats. When two or more skiers are being towed from the same boat and one falls, the other skier(s) shall drop their towlines immediately and signal properly. Any towed person who is down shall raise his/her arms or ski to signal other boats.
- h. All persons being towed shall wear a UGCG approved life jacket.
- i. The motor of any boat shall be turned off during the pick-up, loading or unloading of any person from the water, dock, shore or while engaged in any act of loading or transferring passengers.
- j. No person shall operate any vessel or manipulate any skis in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person. The following practices shall be considered reckless per se:
 - i. Any powerboat that shall follow a boat towing a person or device, at a distance of less than 50 yards.
 - ii. Any vessel that shall cut in front of any motorboat, sailboat or boat towing persons at a distance of less than 50 yards.
 - iii. Any person who shall operate a towboat causing persons using skis to negotiate a landing directly onto the shore, beach or dock without first coming to a gradual stop in water at least two feet deep.

- iv. Any boat or towed person that shall purposely maneuver toward any vessel or person and veer away at the last moment for whatever reason.
- v. Any person who shall ride on the gunwale of any powerboat in the process of towing a device.
- vi. Any person who shall operate or manipulate any vessel towing a skier, skiers or aqua planer into or out of any cove, access area or other restricted area marked by warning buoys. Tubers are allowed to be towed at slow speed in coves.
- vii. Power slides are considered reckless.
- k. The dropping and leaving of water skis or equipment in the Lake shall be prohibited.

6. Swimming from Boats

- a. Swimming from boats is restricted to the area west of the no-wake buoy and east of Beach 5 in the Van Buren Cove area, Jackson Cove, Adams Cove and Monroe Cove.
- b. Swimming is authorized from sunrise to sunset.
- c. The following conditions must be met to allow swimming from boats:
 - i. Boats shall fly an orange flag while any swimmer is in the water.
 - ii. The boat engine(s) shall be off while swimmers are in the water or boarding.
 - iii. The boat must be anchored and a safety observer must be on board who is qualified to operate the boat.
 - iv. Anchoring shall be away from the central channel of the cove or near buoys marking swimming areas, turn points, shallow water, etc. so as to not obstruct the view by other boaters.
 - v. No swimming shall be allowed under the boat or between boats that are tied together.
 - vi. There shall be no swimming to shore from a boat or from shore or a swimming area to a boat.
 - vii. Swimming is limited to within 50 feet of the boat.
 - viii. Boats shall carry a throw able flotation device and have it readily available to the safety observer.
 - ix. A means of boarding the boat unaided must be available and deployed.
 - x. Noise shall be controlled so as to not be a “nuisance” to nearby residences.
 - xi. There shall be no swimming from boats at LMOA docks.