

Water Safety on Upper Long Lake

To promote safe and responsible boating on Upper Long Lake, the Safety Committee of Upper Long Lake has summarized key elements of the law and guidelines from the Department of Natural Resources & Environment's booklet, "**Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws & Responsibility**". The state of Michigan boater information and training is now available from a third party vendor - see: www.boat-ed.com/michigan.

Although an informal Upper Long Lake Patrol has been formed to encourage water safety and responsibility by advising offenders about the law, it is *everyone's* responsibility to know and abide by the state laws and common courtesy. **IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO REVIEW THESE LAWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WITH BEGINNING BOATERS AND YOUR GUESTS.**

Have a safe and fun water sports season on Upper Long Lake!!

Rights to Operate Boats:

1. **State Registration:** All power boats (including jet skis) and sailboats of 12 feet or longer, as well as rowboats of over 16 feet, must be registered with the State of Michigan, and must have MC #'s and Registration stickers properly displayed.

Usage of Boats

1. **Because this is a private lake, only land owners may have permanent watercraft on the lake.** These watercraft should only be used by the deeded property owner and their immediate family, domestic servants and *day* guests.
2. Upper Long Lake Property owners can allow access for guest's watercraft but these boats may only be operated on a day use basis from sunrise to sunset. Watercraft that are not owned by ULL property owners are not allowed to be moored or docked overnight.
3. We have also had problems with marinas and boat storage companies that have obtained keys to some of the launches on the lake and they are allowing non owner boats on the lake. Please do not hand over keys to these companies, but provide a personal escort whenever possible.

Invasive Species

Residents are asked to take great care to inspect all watercraft, docks, hoists, etc. for zebra mussels and other invasive species. This is especially important if these items are coming from another body of water. Please take all the necessary precautions to inspect and sanitize any of these items thoroughly. If you are moving your boat from another lake, thoroughly clean the boat hull, bilge area, propeller, motor, outdrive, anchor, lines, and other items that entered another lake. It is best to bleach the bilge area and let everything dry for 3-5 days.

Lake Boat Launch Access

There are only three launches on the lake, located in Upper Long Lake Woods, Upper Long Lake Shores and Upper Long Lake Estates. If you live on the lake, but don't live in one of these subdivisions, you can contact the individual subdivision association for access privileges. There is usually an fee for this service.

Swimming:

1. **Swimming Areas:** Swimming is allowed only in designated swimming areas – by subdivision rafts, within authorized swimming buoys; with 100 feet of shore; and within 100 feet of an anchored boat.
2. **Swimming Supervision:** Children under ten should be supervised by a competent adult or responsible older swimmer. It is unwise for **anyone** to swim alone.

Motor Boat Rules of Operation (Includes jet skis):

1. **Don't Overload Boats.** All boats have capacity plates which list capacities which should not be exceeded.
2. **Be In Control:** A person under the influence of alcohol, or a controlled substance, shall not operate a boat.
3. **Drive Safely:** Drive so as not to interfere with the lawful use of the lake by others. Be constantly aware of other boats around you and anticipate possible direction changes.

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4. Speed: Due to lake size and boating population, the maximum speed unit is 36 MPH during daylight hours. A maximum speed from dusk to dawn is 7 MPH.
5. Jet Skis: Since jet skis do not have lights, and must go faster than 7 MPH, it is unlawful to operate them from dusk to dawn. You must be over 14 years old and have a boating certificate to operate a jet ski. Under 14, you must be accompanied by an adult. See State of Michigan Boating Handbook for details.
6. Be Mature Enough: Boating education is required for anyone born after June 30, 1996 to operating a vessel in Michigan. All boat drivers regardless of age, should complete a boating safety course, Boating education is available from the Oakland County Sheriff, (see https://www.oakgov.com/sheriff/Pages/safety_tips/boating.aspx or call 248-858-7831), or on-line from www.boat-ed.com/michigan and sometimes from boat dealers such as Wilson Marine.
7. Drive Counter-Clockwise around the lake!!! Sometimes serious wake-boarders (riders) and skiers will follow a straight path down and back through their own wake, to avoid riding on and crossing wakes. This is acceptable only when there are no other boats moving on the lake.
8. 100 Foot Rule: Drive and ski to maintain a safe distance of 100 feet from all person and property (swimmers, rafts, fishing boats at anchor) except at “slow – no wake speed.” A standard full length ski rope is 75 feet long, so if your ski rope could reach close to another boat you are too close.
9. Right of Way:
 - a. Slower boat traffic should stay closer to shore
 - b. Overtaking – Pass to port (left) of slower boat.
 - c. Sailboats and Unpowered Boats – These have right of way over motorboats.
10. Accidents: In case of accident involving \$100 or more damage, report details to the owner of the damaged property immediately, and within five days, to the Oakland County Sheriff’s Department, Marine Division at 248-858-4951 or 248-858-7831. Additionally, if injury is involved, render reasonable assistance to the victim and dial 911.
11. Water Ski Rules (Tubing, Kneeboarding, Wakeboarding etc.):
 - a. Ski Safely - Ski in a manner that does not endanger any person or property. Be especially careful when picking up a downed skier to approach at a safe speed and distance, and to not entangle anyone in the rope. Be extra cautious when turning for a downed skier to return promptly while also ensuring that all other boats in the area are not impacted.
 - b. Hours Permitted - By law, you may ski one hour before sunrise through one hour after sunset. However, courtesy suggests that you start no earlier than 8:00 a.m., or when light conditions allow good visibility, and lakeside neighbors are probably awake.
 - c. Observer – At least one competent observer needs to accompany the driver. A few individuals on the lake hold Michigan DNR training permits to ski without an observer in the course for competition practice. All others must have an observer.
 - d. Mirror – All ski boats must have at least a 170-degree wide-angle mirror to assist driver in observing skier.
 - e. Overtaking Rule – Remember that slower boats should stay closer to shore, and the overtaking passes on the port (left) side of the slower boat.
 - f. Wakeboard boats often have larger wakes than runabouts, especially when using the optional ballasts and other wake enhancing options of these boats. Please be aware of your wake especially in close proximity to canoes, kayaks and other small watercraft. Shoreline erosion is an ongoing problem on our small lake. Additional, caution and courtesy is needed for proper operation of boats that produce large wakes, since making an equal distance turn around a stationary boat can cause it to experience an extra large "double-up" wake
12. Additional Ski Course Permit Provisions: (See separate brochure for ski club rules)

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- a. The ski course is open to the general public. If you use it often, consider joining the Upper Long Lake Association Ski Club, and help pay for its upkeep. Learning to drive the course can be difficult, especially with a boat not specifically designed for slalom skiing. Please contact a ski club member if you would like some guidance to become a better driver. The permit is held by Jim Whalen.
- b. The ski course is kept in place all weekend after discussions with Michigan Marine patrol agreed that it helped with traffic flow. Please follow the counterclockwise flow around the course and avoid cutting through the course unless necessary. Tubes and other "towables" should not be whipped through the course, to avoid damage to the riders or the course.
- c. The ski course should only be used when no other boats are on the lake, usually in the morning hours. It has been a common practice for over 30 years that skiers take turns using the course to assure calm water for all skiers. If someone comes out and wants to ski, wakeboard and/or jetski...courtesy would suggest that these people talk to each other and share the lake in an appropriate manner. If more than 2 boats are on the lake at the same time...it would not be advisable to use the ski course.
- d. It is unlawful to moor or fasten a boat to a lawfully-placed buoy, or to remove or damage such a buoy. If you accidentally damage a water ski buoy, make restitution to the Upper Long Lake Association Ski Club. If a buoy is dislodged, please leave it on the raft by the Middlebelt beach. If you damage a ski buoy, contact the Ski Club, Jim Whalen, 248-333-0414, or Steve George, 248-535-0444
- e. The course consists of a series of underwater cables, ropes, and pipes. Please do not anchor your boat or fish close to the buoys or center path of the course to avoid hooking the cable or ropes and loosing you lures.

Scuba Diving and Snorkeling:

1. Scuba diving and/or snorkeling are not recommended in such a small lake except within 100 feet of shore.
2. When scuba diving, place diver's flag (red rectangle with a diagonal white stripe) at center of dive on buoy. Divers must stay within 100 feet of flag. Boaters must stay at least 100 feet from the flag.

Liability:

Registered owner will be liable for all personal or property damage occasioned by the negligent operation of his/her watercraft (personal injury, shoreline damage, property damage) by anyone.

Required Safety Equipment: (See Michigan Boating Handbook for Complete Rules

1. All Boats: One accessible Type I, II or III personal flotation device (PFD) is required for every person on board. You are required to have one life jacket for each person on board your watercraft....and they must be of appropriate size to fit the passengers on board each specific watercraft.
2. All Boats 16 Feet or Longer:
 - a. One throw able Type IV PFD is required in addition to one PFD for each person.
 - b. One handheld mouth whistle or power horn, capable of being heard for ½ mile is required.
3. Motorboats Less Than 26 Feet:
 - a. One Type B-1 (2 lbs. of dry chemical) fire extinguisher is required.
 - b. One white light aft, and a combination red port and green for starboard light on the bow, visible when operating between sunset and sunrise, are required.
 - c. A muffler that assures noise emissions lower than 86 decibels (similar to the noise of a passenger car at the same speed) is required.
4. Non-Powered Boats (Canoes, Rowboats, and Sailboats): One white light lantern, when on lake between sunset and sunrise, is required.
5. Inboard Motorboats: Must have a backfire flame arrester.

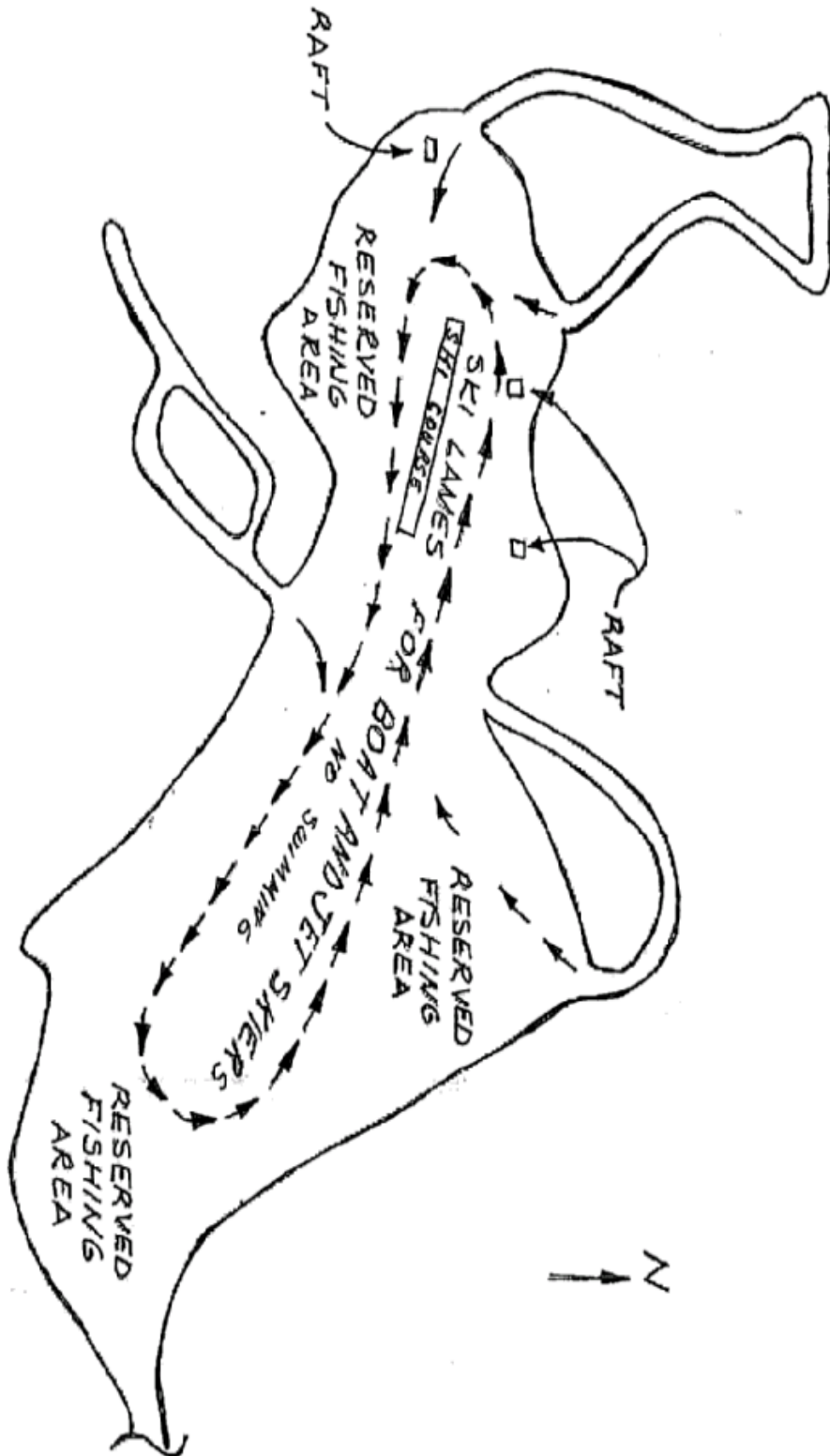
Fishing:

1. Respect fishing boats. Keep as much distance from them as possible, at least 100 ft.
2. Skiers are to stay out of reserved fishing areas when fisherman are present, and stay in the ski lanes.

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3. Fishing boats are to stay out of ski lanes on heavy traffic days. Reserved fishing areas are designated on the attached map.

1. No Swimming in Ski Lanes
2. Do Not Drive Boat Against Traffic
3. Stay 100' from Rafts and Skiers



UPPER LONG LAKE SAFETY MAP

Residents and Guests must be aware of and follow all rules