



# Lake Lure Boater Safety Course

Lake Lure Parks and Recreation Department



# Lake Lure License Requirements



- **This course of instruction is required to be completed by all Lake Lure motorized boat operators** independent of age, residency, experience, or other certifications. Additional North Carolina State boat safety training requirements may apply.
- **Only Lake Lure licensed operators may operate a motorized boat on Lake Lure.** Proof of licensing is required to purchase a short-term or annual motorized boating permit.
- Lake Lure is a private lake **owned by the citizens of Lake Lure. Lake users must comply with North Carolina Fish and Wildlife Regulations and Lake Lure Use Regulations.** Both sets of regulations work together to provide a safe boating environment specific to the features of Lake Lure. **Failure to comply** with these regulations may result in **finest or forfeiture of your boating license.**
- The **Lake Lure Marine Commission** is chartered by the State to oversee operations and establish regulations. **Daily lake management is conducted by the Lake Lure Parks and Recreation Department** under the supervision of the Town Manager.



# Safety is Your Responsibility

- It is the **boat operator's personal responsibility** to ensure the safety of their riders, the safety of other lake users, and to protect the personal property of lakeside property owners.
  
- **Lake Lure is a small 734 acre lake.** It is incumbent on boat operators to strictly adhere to lake use regulations. These regulations are designed to:
  - ✓ **Provide safe recreational areas for swimmers and boaters**
  - ✓ **Promote boat operation in a safe manner**
  - ✓ **Reduce the unsafe or destructive impact of boat wakes**
  - ✓ **Minimize the nuisance of excessive boat noise**
  - ✓ **Manage boating congestion during peak usage times**



**Learn how to safely  
conduct watersports**



**Always have situational  
awareness of the impact  
of your wake**



# General Boating Rules

- **Ensure your boat is equipped with USCG approved safety equipment** - Fire Extinguisher, Horn or Whistle signal device, Throw Cushion, Operational Navigation Lights, and Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) for each person.
- **Do not place, throw, deposit, or discharge any litter, raw sewage, bottles, cans, papers, or other liquid or solid materials in Lake Lure.**
- **Do not tether to any marker buoy, manhole, or other utility infrastructure on the lake or shoreline. Do not moor to any Town owned day slip for longer than two and a half hours.**
- **Personal motorized watercraft** such as jet skis and motorized boards **are not allowed** on Lake Lure.



**Keep Lake Lure Clean**



**Free Day slips are available on South Side of Marina**



# General Boating Safety

- **Never operate a boat on the waters of Lake Lure while under the influence of an impairing substance** including an blood-alcohol level of 0.08 or more.
- **Never operate a boat at a speed greater than is reasonable and prudent** under the existing conditions. The **max speed limit on Lake Lure is 45 mph** for any condition or situation.
- It is **unlawful to operate a boat in a reckless or negligent manner (i.e., no racing)** so as to endanger life, limb, or property.
- **Head ashore during severe weather or lightning.**
- **Children under 13 yrs. old and all participants in towed watersports must wear a personal flotation device (PFD).**



**Know your boat speed characteristics - check rpm against smartphone GPS speed**







# Understand and Obey Lake Restrictions

- Observe No Wake Zones and other Restricted Areas that are **marked by buoys or booms**. These areas provide a sanctuary for swimmers, non-motorized watercraft, and protect lake structures. **Stay well clear of the dam** especially the power plant intake penstock and flood gates.
  
- **No wake buffer zones have been established:**
  - Within **75 feet from shore** around the perimeter of the entire lake and at the entrance to **all coves**.
  - Within **75 feet of another operating vessel or 100 feet from an emergency vessel displaying lights**.
  - Within **entire lake during darkness** 7pm-7am (October-April) and 9pm-7am (May-September).
  
- **No wake** is characterized by **no whitewater emanating at the bow** and **boat engine rpm at 1000 rpm or less**.



No wake is very slow  
(1000 rpm or less)



# Towed Watersports Safety

- **No towed watersports are allowed from rented vessels -** including Vacation Rental (VR) and Livery (L) watercraft.
- **No towed watersports are allowed in any cove or no-wake zone.**
- Towed watersport participants must **wear a USCG approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD).**
- **Boats must have a dedicated spotter or rear view mirror.**
  - Boat Drivers **must focus their attention forward at all times** to prevent dangerous boating situations.
- **Maximum two towed riders at a time** to ensure stability and prevent a dangerous broad dispersal of several dislodged swimmers in the narrow Lake Lure channels with nearby boating traffic.



Maximum of two towed riders



# Wake Surfing Safety

- Wake Surfing **produces significant wave action** that requires special consideration.
- Wake surfers on Lake Lure must **comply with NC Wildlife Resource Commission Guidelines**.
  - ✓ **Stay at least 150 feet away** from other boats, the shoreline, docks or other structures.
  - ✓ **Minimize repetitive passes** causing excessive wakes.
- **Provide surfers a wide berth** and all boaters should suspend activity if unable to maintain safe separation. Recommence when separation criteria is met.
- **To prevent the introduction of invasive species** from wake boat ballast tanks; these boats shall be limited to property owners in Lake Lure. Ballast boats owned by non-residents are not allowed.



**Keep 150 feet of separation**



**Be cautious of Large Wakes**





# Non-Motorized Watersports Safety

- **Non-motorized boaters (except sailboats and rowing sculls) must stay within the 75 foot lake perimeter no-wake zone** except when crossing a channel at a **90 degree angle** to access the opposite shoreline.
- Non-motorized canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, and other similar vessels may be **difficult to see** and are **prone to capsize** from wakes. Stay well clear of these watercraft.
- **Motorized watercraft must yield to sailboats.** In accordance with inland rules of the road, **sailboats have the right of way as the stand-on vessel** when meeting a motorized watercraft.

Motorboats give-way  
to sailboats



Avoid the middle of the  
lake or navigation channel



Stay within 75 feet of shore  
unless directly crossing channel



# Swimmer Safety

- It is the **boat operator's personal responsibility** to protect swimmers and floaters and ensure their safety.
- **Stay clear of swimmers and floaters.** Swimmers must swim, dive, swing from a rope, float with a buoyancy device or waterslide into waters **no further than 50 feet from the shoreline of Lake Lure.**
- **Swimming or floating off-shore from a boat is permissible** if accompanied by an observer located inside the boat. All waterborne activities must **remain within 25 feet of the boat.** **Avoid boat-swim operations in heavy boat traffic areas and navigation channels.**
- **Stay clear of floating swim platforms.** These platforms must be tethered less than 30 feet from shore.



Swim no further than 50 feet of shore unless swimming with a boat and dedicated spotter



# Boater Courtesy

- **Sound is amplified and travels far across the lake.** Keep music to a reasonable level and be respectful of neighbors enjoying the serenity of the lake.
- **Boathouses, docks, and swim platforms are private property.** Be considerate when approaching or fishing near lake structures. **Boarding or mooring to private structures without permission is prohibited.**
- **Wakes can damage property and exacerbate shoreline erosion.** Avoid large wakes and circling passes near structures and in narrow channels.
- **Docking lights must only be used for docking.** The bright forward lights impair the vision of oncoming boaters at night.
- **Do not feed wildlife.** Wild animals have specialized diets and **they can become malnourished or die if fed the wrong foods.**



**Avoid loud music**



**Minimize wakes**



**Do not feed wildlife**





# Commercial Vessels

- **All boats that generate revenue** for profit or non-profit entities **require a commercial license**. These include Tour Boats (T), Vacation Rentals (VR) and Livery Boats (L), Service Boats including Fishing Guides (S), and Towed Watersports Activity Boats (TW).
- **Watersports are not allowed** from commercial vessels except those designated and specially permitted as “Towed Water Activity Boats.”
- **Commercial boats may be restricted in their ability to maneuver** especially when conducting service operations. **Dredging operations are frequent around the Town Marina inlet.** Give these boats and dredges as wide a berth as possible.



Give Commercial Vessels a Wide Berth



Watch out for Dredging Pipes near Marina Inlet



# Emergency Situations



- **For any emergency situation on the lake, dial 911.** Signal nearby boats for assistance if out of communications range. Assist boats in need if you see or hear a signal for help.
- **Police boats** regularly conduct lake patrols especially during peak usage times or officers will be dispatched to a boat as necessary.
- **Lake Lure Fire and Rescue** maintains a fire boat and other craft to respond to fires and conduct search and rescue with emergency medical services and diver certified personnel.
- **North Carolina Fish and Wildlife** conducts occasional patrols and will investigate boating incidents and accidents.







## Conclusion

- **Your Personal Responsibility** is the first line of defense for safe boat operations on Lake Lure. Please adhere to State and Town Lake Use Regulations.
- **Be Mindful and Respectful** of how your boating affects others or impacts personal property.
- **Enjoy the Beauty and Serenity of Lake Lure** and please leave it better than when you arrived.