



**Spring Valley Lake Association**  
13325 Spring Valley Parkway  
7001 SVL Box  
Spring Valley Lake, CA 92395-5107

## **For Vessel Operator Permits (V.O.P.):**

**The test is available online at [www.svla.com](http://www.svla.com)  
Click on the Department tab – Public Safety  
Once the online test is completed go to Public Safety  
*With a Valid Driver's License and Member Card***

**SVL Community Center  
12975 Rolling Ridge Drive  
Victorville, CA 92395**

**All guests must be accompanied by an SVL Member when picking up their V.O.P.**

**Non-powered V.O.P.s are required for all SVL members and guests who DO NOT have a powered V.O.P.**

Public Safety (760) 245-6400 // Association Office (760) 245-9756

## **Vessel Operator Permits Expiration Instructions**

Vessel Operator Permits (V.O.P.) expire along with the expiration of your driver's license. If you are unsure as to when your V.O.P. expires, it is listed on your permit.

Once you receive your New Driver's License from DMV you need to go to the Public Safety Department, located at the Community Building, 12975 Rolling Ridge Drive at either 9am or 7pm.

Please bring the following items:

- *New Driver's License*
- *Existing V.O.P.*
- *Association I.D. Card (will not accept a Guest Pass)*
- *Property Owners must accompany all Guest members wishing to renew their permit*

If you do not renew your V.O.P. within one month of the expiration date; you may have to retake the exam.

\*\*\*Once you receive your new V.O.P. and driver's license, you must provide a copy to the Association Office to avoid vessel sticker cancellation.

V.O.P.s for Tenant Members expire when their membership expires on October 31 of each year. To receive a new V.O.P., tenants must re-apply for membership.

Association Office – 760.245.9756  
Fax – 760.245.3076  
Website – [www.svla.com](http://www.svla.com)

# Spring Valley Lake Association

## Rules and Regulations

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### 5. BOATING

#### 5.1. General

5.1.1. For the purpose of these rules and regulations, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning, the following definitions apply:

5.1.1.1. "Alcohol" means any form or derivative of ethyl alcohol (ethanol).

5.1.1.2. "Alcohol concentration" means either grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood or grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath.

5.1.1.3. "Boat" means the same as vessel.

5.1.1.4. "Chemical test" means a test that analyzes an individual's breath, blood, or urine, for evidence of drug or alcohol use.

5.1.1.5. "Controlled substance" means controlled substance as defined in Section 11007 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California.

5.1.1.6. "Drug" means any substance or combination of substances other than alcohol that could so affect the nervous system, brain, or muscles of a person as to impair to an appreciable degree his or her ability to operate a vessel in the manner that an ordinary prudent person, in full possession of his or her faculties, using reasonable care, would use to operate a similar vessel under like conditions.

5.1.1.7. "Intoxicant" means any form of alcohol, drug, or combination thereof.

5.1.1.8. "Length" shall be determined by the manufacturer's specifications, where available. In the case of custom boats or where such specification cannot be ascertained, then the length of the boat shall be physically measured from the outside of the bow to the outside of the stern along the centerline of the vessel. In the case of pontoon boats, the bow shall be considered to be the extreme forward end of the pontoon or deck, whichever is greater. The stern shall be considered to be the extreme after end of the pontoon or deck, whichever is greater. Motors or other appurtenances that extend beyond the hull or pontoon of the vessel shall not be considered in determining length.

5.1.1.9. "Main lake body" means that area of the Spring Valley Lake that lies lakeward of the line of red/orange buoys in which speeds in excess of 5 mph are permitted.

5.1.1.10. "Motor boat" means any vessel propelled by machinery whether or not the machinery is the principal source of propulsion.

5.1.1.11. "Observer" means a person other than operator, at least 12 years of age or older who acts as a lookout and flag bearer when engaged in water towing activity.

5.1.1.12. "Operator" means the person on board who is steering the vessel while underway.

5.1.1.13. "Owner" means the person having all the incidents of ownership, including the legal title, of a vessel whether or not that person lends, rents, or pledges the vessel; the person entitled to the possession of a vessel as the purchaser under a conditional sale contract, the mortgagee of a vessel, or the renter or lessee of a vessel under a lease, lease-sale, or rental purchase agreement that grants possession of the vessel to the lessee for a period of 30 consecutive days or more. "Owner" means the same as "Legal Owner".

5.1.1.14. "Passenger" means any person aboard a vessel while underway other than the operator of the vessel.

5.1.1.15. "Personal watercraft (PWC)" is a vessel described by the manufacturer as a PWC, propelled by machinery, that is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel, rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

5.1.1.16. "Special-use area" means all or a portion of a waterway that is set aside for specified uses or activities to the exclusion of other incompatible uses or activities.

5.1.1.17. "Sunset or sunrise" is the time specified in the Farmer's Almanac or Daily Press weather section for this geographic location.

5.1.1.18. "Vessel" includes every description of watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water, except seaplanes.

5.1.1.19. "Water skis, an aquaplane, or similar device" includes all forms of water skiing, bare foot skiing, skiing on skim boards, skiing on wake boards, knee boards, inflatable tubes, or other contrivances or activity where a person is towed behind or alongside a boat. This definition does not include parasailing, ski kiting or any other similar activity that is specifically prohibited by these Rules.

5.1.2. The Association member/owner of a vessel is responsible at all times for the safe operation of their vessel and the conduct of the passengers thereon. Reckless operation and disregard for the safety of persons and property may result in the forfeiture of lake boating privileges in addition to other penalties.

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5.1.3. California Boating laws apply to boating operations on Spring Valley Lake. The Public Safety Department has the authority to enforce provisions of California Boating Law and Spring Valley Lake Association rules. A report of violation of these rules and/or the California Boating Laws will be submitted to the General Manager for any required action to include suspension of boating privileges on the lake.

5.1.4. A vessel operator's permit issued by the Public Safety Department must be in each vessel operator's possession when operating a vessel anywhere on the lake, including those areas deemed to be within the lake easement or marina. Operator's licenses are issued subject to the following conditions:

5.1.4.1. All operators of vessels must pass a written test administered by the Public Safety Department to obtain an operator's permit. The written test will be based on information contained in Section 5 of the Rules and Regulations. Operator's permit testing shall be conducted daily at 9:00 A.M.

5.1.5. Guests of Association Members must be accompanied by the sponsoring Member when applying for, or renewing an operator's permit.

5.1.6. All vessel operator's permits are subject to revocation by the Board of Directors for violation of these rules after due process.

5.1.7. Power vessel operators must be at least 16 years of age and must have a valid driver's license. Power vessels operator's permits shall expire on the same date as the operator's state driver's license; however, permits shall be automatically renewed without re-examination upon production of a current driver's license as long as the permit has not been expired for over one year. Non-powered vessels operator's permits shall not expire.

5.1.8. Marina slips are leased subject to the following:

5.1.8.1. Current SVL boat registration.

5.1.8.2. Payment of slip rental fees.

5.1.8.3. A signed agreement regarding compliance with terms of the rental.

5.1.9. Slips cannot be transferred or sub-leased, but must be promptly released back to the Association if no longer needed or eligibility is terminated.

5.1.10. Vessels kept in slips must be maintained in an attractive and operable condition.

5.1.11. Overnight sleeping aboard vessels afloat is prohibited.

5.1.12. SVLA registered vessels may be launched at the marina ramp. Sailboards, kayaks, canoes and other similar small and lightweight non-powered vessels may be launched from marina ramp, fishing areas or beach. Vessels registered to owners of lakefront lots or condominium units may be launched at their own launching ramp. Boat trailers may not be parked in the Marina parking area or in beach parking lots.

5.1.13. Subject to Public Safety Department determination of acceptable weather conditions, the lake is normally open for boating activities from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily. See Section 5.4.2.3 for early morning and evening speed regulations and Section 5.8.2 for special personal watercraft restrictions.

5.1.14. Vessels beached in designated ski beach areas must be securely moored to the shore in such a way that they will not drift away.

5.1.15. Vessels shall not be tied to buoys.

5.1.16. Illegally beached, docked, or drifting vessels may be towed to the marina and the owner assessed a service fee.

5.1.17. Use of a parachute or any other airborne device on the lake is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, parasailing, kite boarding, and similar activities.

5.1.18. Only mushroom-type anchors and/or sand bags may be used.

### **5.2. Boat and Vessel Lift Registration.**

5.2.1. All boats or vessels placed in or upon the waters of Spring Valley Lake must be registered with Spring Valley Lake Association. All newly installed vessel lifts must have a completed Architectural Improvement and License Agreement – Vessel Lift on file at the Association office.

5.2.2. All vessels must have current State and Spring Valley Lake registration decals before being placed on the lake. (Vessels propelled solely by oars or paddles and vessels eight feet or less, propelled solely by a sail, may be exempt from State registration, however, must be registered with SVLA).

5.2.3. All vessels are subject to inspection in conjunction with the annual registration and may be subject to further inspection at any time as requested by a Lake Patrol officer. Inspection may include verification of length and engine noise levels.

5.2.4. Members registering vessels must be properly identified and must show:

5.2.4.1. Proof of vessel ownership by Member or Associate Member registering the vessel.

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5.2.4.2. Valid state vessel registration (unless vessel is exempt from state registration) in name of Member or Associate Member that reflects mailing address that agrees with Association membership records.

5.2.4.3. Proof of insurance as evidenced by a Certificate of Insurance.

5.2.4.3.1. Showing an expiration date of the policy later than the expiration date of the SVLA registration.

5.2.4.3.2. \$300,000 minimum liability coverage.

5.2.4.3.3. Naming Spring Valley Lake Association, 13325 Spring Valley Parkway, 7001 SVL Box, Victorville, CA 92395 as additionally insured or additional interest.

5.2.4.3.4. Having a name and address for the insured party that corresponds to the name and address of the Member or Associate Member in the membership records of the Association.

5.2.4.3.5. Full and proper identification/state registration of the insured vessel.

5.2.4.3.6. A statement that at least ten (10) days written notice shall be given to SVLA prior to cancellation of the policy.

5.2.4.4. Payment of the annual Boat and Vessel Lift Registration Fee.

5.2.4.5. Signed conditions for issuance of boat registration / permit liability form by Member or Associate member.

5.2.4.6. The member or associate member will be issued a copy of the most current Section 5 - Boating, of the Spring Valley Lake Association Rules and Regulations and agrees to become familiar and comply with the information contained therein.

5.2.4.7. Driver's license or I.D. with an address which corresponds with the membership records of the Association.

5.2.5. Boat registrations are valid from January 1st to December 31st of each year. After all vessel registrations requirements have been completed, decals will be issued. One decal shall be placed on the port (left) side of the vessel near the bow (front) area, just to the right of the State decal if applicable. The other shall be placed on the starboard (right) side of the vessel near the bow (front) area, just to the left of the State decal if applicable.

State registration numbers, if applicable must be painted on or permanently attached to each side of the forward half of the vessel. Windsurfer decals shall be placed on the mast or boom. Paddleboard owners may carry the sticker or affix it to the top of the paddleboard. Decals for other vessels not otherwise listed must be placed on the forward half of the vessel, both sides, where best seen.

5.2.6. Vessel registrations may be transferred by a property owner to a newly purchased vessel subject in accordance with the rules of the Association and upon payment of applicable fees. Any change of ownership of vessels registered with SVLA must be reported in writing to the Association office within ten (10) days following such change of ownership. Registration fees are not refundable.

5.2.7. Size Limitations:

5.2.7.1. Power boats and sail boats may not exceed 22 feet maximum length.

5.2.7.2. Pontoon boats may not exceed 24 feet maximum length.

5.2.8. Prohibited vessels include:

5.2.8.1. Fixed keel sailboats with deeper than 24" draft.

5.2.8.2. Vessels with toilet facilities and/or capable of discharging waste water unless such facilities are disabled.

5.2.9. No person (for each lot owned) shall be allowed to register more than two vessels exceeding fifteen (15) horsepower. This also applies to associate members as defined in the Bylaws.

### 5.3. Vessel Operations

5.3.1. All Vessels will observe the Inland Navigation Rules at all times when operating on Spring Valley Lake.

5.3.2. No vessels shall be moored to any dock belonging to the Association except at the gas dock while purchasing gas, at the guest dock while loading and unloading passengers and materials, and in Marina slips in accordance with rental agreements.

5.3.3. Vessels are prohibited from being beached or run aground on any lakeshore lot except the ski beach and on approved launch ramps. This does not apply to smaller, non-powered vessels authorized pursuant to Section 5.1.6.

5.3.4. All vessels when operating outside the "No-Wake" areas will follow a counter-clockwise pattern around the lake keeping the nearest shoreline to the right. All non-powered vessels within the "No-Wake" area can travel in either direction.

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5.3.5. Vessels towing and the device being towed must each stay well clear of solid orange/red buoys. The vessel towing and the device being towed must each pass on the same side of the buoy.

5.3.6. Towing of persons behind a boat is limited to kneeboards, water skis, devices shaped like inner tubes, torpedoes, wake boards, etcetera, which have been commercially designed and sold for this purpose.

5.3.7. Vessels and all skiers must stay well clear of maintenance personnel and work on the lake. A dangerous condition exists in the event a skier should fall, miscalculate speed or direction, or collide with the maintenance vessels.

5.3.8. Paddle and row boats, kayaks and canoes shall remain within the "No Wake" areas.

### 5.4. Speed Regulations

5.4.1. The maximum speed for all vessels is thirty-five (35) miles per hour. Radar may be used to enforce speed regulations.

5.4.2. The maximum speed shall be five (5) miles per hour ("No-Wake") as follows:

5.4.2.1. During all periods of restricted visibility, including hours of darkness.

5.4.2.2. From sunset to 10:00 p.m. daily except during the period beginning at sunrise on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend and ending at midnight on Labor Day when the period shall be extended to midnight.

5.4.2.3. Daily from 6:00 a.m. til 7:00 a.m.

5.4.2.4. Within one hundred feet (100') of any boat being towed, any boat that is capsized, or the Association's harvester vessels.

5.4.2.5. At all times when landward of the red/orange buoys established at a fixed distance from the shoreline.

5.4.2.6. It is unlawful to use a vessel or permit a vessel to be used at a speed in excess of 5 mph within 100 feet of a beach frequented by bathers, a swimming float, diving platform, or lifeline, and a way or landing float to which boats are made fast or which is being used for embarkation or discharge of passengers. (San Bernardino County Code Section 52.032).

### 5.5. Safety

5.5.1. All boats operating on the lake shall meet the Coast Guard and State of California equipment requirements as stipulated in "ABC's of the California Boating Law," current edition, for safety equipment to include the following definitions:

5.5.1.1. At least one personal flotation device (PFD) of proper size (readily accessible) for each person on board while underway. The requirement applies to all vessels including windsurfing boards, sailboards and similar devices. Children under the age of thirteen (13) must wear a PFD at all times while on board a vessel. In addition, the vessel must carry an approved Type IV throwable device, which should be immediately available.

5.5.1.2. All power vessels must have a fire extinguisher.

5.5.1.3. Each vessel must be able to provide a means of making an efficient sound signal. A horn is recommended.

5.5.1.4. Navigation lights must be kept in serviceable condition and displayed in accordance with the "Rules of the Road" between sunset and sunrise and at other times of restricted visibility.

5.5.1.5. Recommended additional equipment: paddle or oar, red/orange flag, bailing device (pump, bucket, etcetera), first aid kit, towing line.

5.5.2. Vessels will not be loaded beyond manufacturer's recommended capacity and all occupants are to be seated inside (not on the gunwales (sides) or bow (front)) whenever the boat is underway (moving) except in the ordinary handling of sailing craft and persons properly seated in bow-rider boats.

5.5.3. Spring Valley Lake is a Special Use Area. Personal watercraft and similar devices must be operated according to manufacturer's specifications, however, may not tow a skier or other recreational device at any time.

5.5.4. No vessel may closely follow another vessel or skier. Vessels will keep at least two hundred feet (200') behind and/or to the side of skiers.

5.5.5. A red/orange flag will be raised when a skier is in the water preparing to ski, a downed skier, a ski line extended from the vessel, a ski in the water in the vicinity of the vessel, towing a disabled vessel, and when trolling.

5.5.6. No person shall operate any vessel or manipulate any water skis, or similar device in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person. Examples of such operation include, but are not limited to:

5.5.6.1. Maneuvering towed skiers, or devices, so as to pass towline over another vessel or its skier.

5.5.6.2. Navigating a vessel, skis or other devices between a towing vessel and its tow.



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5.5.6.3. Navigating a vessel, skis or other devices in such a manner as to cause a buoy to come between the vessel and the device being towed.

5.5.6.4. Operating under the influence of intoxicants or narcotics.

5.5.6.5. Other actions, such as speeding in confined or restricted areas, “buzzing” or “wetting down” others, or skiing at prohibited times or in restricted areas can also be construed to be reckless or negligent operation.

5.5.6.6. Wake jumping of any type of vessel by a personal watercraft (PWC).

5.5.7. Department of Boating and Waterways determined that alcohol is a high factor of all fatal motorboat accidents in California. Please do not drink and operate a vessel! State law specifies that:

5.5.7.1. No person shall operate any vessel, water skis or similar device while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.

5.5.7.2. No person shall operate any vessel, water skis or similar device who has .08 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in their blood.


5.5.7.3. If you are convicted of operating a vessel while intoxicated, the Department of Motor Vehicles may suspend or revoke your vehicle driver's license. Depending upon the number and type of vessel violations accumulated, this suspension or revocation could be for up to five (5) years, and could also result in fines of up to \$1,000.


5.5.8. All accidents must be reported immediately to the Sheriff and Spring Valley Lake Public Safety Department, in addition to necessary reports required by State Law. Accidents resulting in death or injury must be immediately reported via 9-1-1 to the Sheriff's Department.

5.5.9. In the event of emergencies, hazardous weather, special lake activities, or overcrowded conditions, all vessel activities may be limited or curtailed as required by the Spring Valley Lake Public Safety Department.

5.5.10. Overcrowded Lake Procedures: Anytime the lake is unsafe due to overcrowding the General Manager or the on duty supervisor of the Spring Valley Lake Public Safety Department may activate the Odd/Even flag system and direct the patrol boat to make an announcement over the loud speaker. Flag poles are located at the marina and the beach.

5.5.10. Overcrowded Lake Procedures: Anytime the lake is unsafe due to overcrowding the General Manager or the on duty supervisor of the Spring Valley Lake Public Safety Department may activate the Odd/Even flag system and direct the patrol boat to make an announcement over the loud speaker. Flag poles are located at the marina and the beach.

5.5.10.1. ODD - International Marine Signal Flag “O” -  Only vessels with a Spring Valley Lake decal ending with an odd number may use the lake.

5.5.10.2. EVEN - International Marine Signal Flag “E” -  Only vessels with a Spring Valley Lake decal ending with an even number may use the lake.

5.5.11. Lake Evacuation Siren: The siren will be activated by Spring Valley Lake Public Safety Department personnel during adverse weather conditions or any time the lake is considered unsafe to use.

5.5.11.1. Wailing sound: Clear the lake of all recreational activity.

5.5.11.2. Steady sound: All Clear - safe to resume normal activity.

### 5.6. Engine Noise

5.6.1. All vessels operated on Spring Valley Lake shall be muffled or otherwise prevented from exceeding noise levels of 82 decibels established by California boating laws.

5.6.2. Any person operating a vessel on the lake may be required by a Spring Valley Lake Public Safety officer to submit that vessel for an engine noise measurement by Spring Valley Lake Public Safety Department, the County Sheriff, or any other authorized person or agency having jurisdiction in this matter.

5.6.3. Over-the-transom exhaust systems, commonly referred to as wet and dry stacks are prohibited on Spring Valley Lake excepting those boats which have been continually registered to the same owner.

### 5.7. Water Skiing

5.7.1. Water skiing is permitted during hours of daylight from 7:00 a.m. to sunset.

5.7.2. Motor boats (other than PWC's) may tow skiers or other devices and shall observe the speed regulations listed under Section 5.4, Speed Regulations.

5.7.3. Water skiing is prohibited in all areas other than the main lake body defined as lakeward of the red/orange buoys.

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5.7.4. Motor boats towing skiers will follow a counter-clockwise pattern around the lake, keeping the nearest shoreline on the right. Cutting across the lake while towing skiers must be done with extreme caution while generally maintaining the same counter-clockwise course.

5.7.5. All skiers, persons being towed on any device, persons under the age of 13 and those who do not know how to swim or have trouble swimming unaided, must wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device at all times while in or on a vessel. All persons are encouraged to wear flotation devices for their own safety.

5.7.6. Tow lines for skiers and other towed devices shall not exceed seventy-five feet (75') in length as measured from the tow point aboard the vessel to the towing handle.

5.7.7. Ski boats engaged in water skiing must carry an observer at least 12 years of age in addition to the boat operator. The observer must be in a position to keep the skier in constant view and must signal, by raising a red/orange flag of twelve inches by twelve inches (12" x 12") minimum size, to indicate any of the following conditions.

5.7.7.1. A downed skier.

5.7.7.2. A skier in the water preparing to ski.

5.7.7.3. A ski line extended from the vessel.

5.7.7.4. A ski in the water in the vicinity of the vessel..

5.7.8. Ski Boats shall not tow more than one person at a time on skis. Other towed devices will be used in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.

5.7.9. A vessel operator must point toward a fallen skier and vessels approaching a fallen skier should use raised arm signal to acknowledge that skier's situation and to caution his own skier.

5.7.10. Boat operators returning to retrieve a fallen skier will:

5.7.10.1. Display red/orange flag.

5.7.10.2. Check traffic (all directions).

5.7.10.3. Slow down, make a cautious turn.

5.7.10.4. Expedite back to fallen skier.

5.7.11. Motor must be stopped and propeller disengaged (on propeller driven vessels) during fallen skier pick-up or during the transfer of any person between vessel and dock, beach, water, or other vessel.

Skiers should be approached from the driver's side.

5.7.12. Skiers are not to cut close to other boats, spray on others, or otherwise show disregard for people and property and must remain well clear of all buoys.

5.7.13. Kicking skis off and leaving in the water for later pickup is prohibited.

### 5.8. Personal Watercraft

5.8.1. Personal watercraft must not be loaded beyond manufacturer's specifications.

5.8.2. Spring Valley Lake is a Special Use Area. Personal watercraft are prohibited from operating on the main lake body between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays between and including Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend and between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. on all other days. PWC operation is permitted in the 5 mph operating areas ("No-Wake") during these hours.

5.8.3. Personal watercraft shall not be operated in any manner that utilizes the wake of any vessel, including any other PWC, water skier, or any allowable towed object, to turn, jump, or maneuver the PWC.

5.8.4. Personal watercraft may be turned 360 degrees if such maneuver can be accomplished within the length of the PWC and there is no boat traffic immediately behind the PWC. Circular turns larger than the length of the PWC are prohibited.

5.8.5. Personal watercraft must obey all "No Wake" restrictions.

5.8.6. Personal Watercraft operators must comply with the Rules of the Road at all times.

5.8.7. PWC shall stay outside the wake of any boat pulling a skier and shall maintain a distance of 200 feet from any skier. This will permit the PWC to take evasive action in the event the skier should fall or drop off. See Section 5.5.3 for other restrictions.

5.8.8. Personal watercraft must observe all applicable boating laws.

5.8.9. Personal watercraft shall not tow any device or skiers.

### 5.9. Windsurfing / Sailboarding

5.9.1. Windsurfing/Sailboarding is defined as "a form of sailing in which a flexible sail, free to move in any direction, is mounted on a surfboard and the craft guided by the standing rider. Also called Sailboarding."

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5.9.2. On weekends and holidays during the period through and including Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend windsurfers and sailboarders are not allowed on the main lake body.

5.9.3. Windsurfers, sailboarders and operators of other similar devices must wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD) of proper size while operating on the lake.

5.9.4. Sailboats at dock areas must have sails lowered.

5.9.5. Sailboats/sailboards must comply with the Rules of the Road at all times. Such vessels generally have the right-of-way over power vessels but should show courtesy when approaching any ski boat towing skiers or any other device.