



Tennenah Lake Taxpayers Association

“Serving Tennenah since 1952”

GUIDELINES FOR SAFE LAKE USE

Section 1: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Common sense and good judgment while operating any watercraft helps avoid accidents and ensures that Tennenah Lake stays open to a variety of activities
- 1.2 Your enjoyment of Tennenah Lake includes a responsibility to treat the lake, other people, and property with respect and courtesy
- 1.3 Make sure guests know these rules and are familiar with your equipment and our lake. You are responsible for your guest’s actions.
- 1.4 The following guidelines highlight some of the important NYS boating laws as well as some norms of behavior that the TLTA membership supports; the guidelines cover general watercraft use as well as guidelines specific to personal watercraft (PWC) and vessels involved in skiing and towing

Section 2: GENERAL RULES

WATERCRAFT EQUIPMENT

- 2.1 Protect lake against Invasive species. If you or a guest has a boat or trailer that has been in any other body of water, be certain it has been sterilized to keep invasive species out of the lake (See tennanahlake.org for cleaning instructions)
- 2.2 Wear life jackets. All watercraft carry Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) for all passengers. Children < 7 wear a PFD at all times, children <4 must wear a PFD with specific safety features to keep their head above water
- 2.3 Register & insure your watercraft. All motorized watercraft must be registered and insured
- 2.4 Use navigation lights. All motorized watercraft (excluding PWCs) need navigation lights

DOCKS

- 2.5 Make your dock safe and visible. Docks, floats and all other projections should be limited to a reasonable distance from shore (<40 feet) and should be marked with reflectors/illuminated
- 2.6 No marinas. Commercial marinas, launch sites, fueling sites or rental facilities are limited by Law

SWIMMING

- 2.7 Make yourself visible. If you swim more than 50 feet from shore, have a boat accompany you and/or use a dive/swimming flag.

WATERCRAFT USAGE

- 2.8 Travel counter-clockwise. Travel on Tennenah Lake is limited to one-way navigation in a counter-clockwise direction; overtake only on the left side
- 2.9 Take a boating safety course. A certificate of boating safety is required for all PWC operators and for those born after May 1, 1996 for all other motorized watercraft operators.
- 2.10 Limit your speed. Travel speed should be determined by equipment, ability, lake conditions, and the amount of traffic on the lake. Speed limits are no-wake speed within one-hundred (150) feet of shore, docks, persons

Tennenah Lake Guidelines For Safe Watercraft Use are **NO SUBSTITUTE** for New York State Boating Laws which are paramount and must be followed at all times. A copy of “the New York State Boater’s Guide” is included with these guidelines and available at anytime from the TLTA or by visiting <http://nysparks.state.ny.us>; Tennenah Lake Guidelines for Safe Watercraft Use updated June 2016.

in the water, and other vessels, and when the lake is crowded. No-wake speed = a speed in which no “white” water is created in the track or in waves (~5 MPH or less)

- 2.11 **Don't get too close.** No watercraft shall travel within one-hundred (150) feet of shore, docks, other watercrafts, or persons in the water, nor travel directly behind another watercraft towing a skier, tuber, etc
- 2.12 **Operate safely.** Don't be reckless and careless; No operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs, no excessive speeds, no navigating between rafts and shore, no cutting in front of others
- 2.13 **Turning.** Look before you turn to ensure the way is clear
- 2.14 **No commercial use.** Motorized watercraft for rent are prohibited on Tennanah Lake

Section 3: PWC REGULATIONS

PWC EQUIPMENT

- 3.1 **Everyone wears a life jacket.** All operators and riders wear a PFD regardless of age
- 3.2 **Use a cutoff switch.** All PWCs have a lanyard cutoff switch attached to the operator

PWC USAGE

- 3.3 **Follow age requirements.** Minimum 14 years of age to operate a PWC (requires boater safety certificate)
- 3.4 **Smaller passengers go in back of the operator.** Do not put small passengers in front of you (in an accident they will become the airbag) and do not allow passengers unless their feet reach the deck
- 3.5 **Towing skiers or tubes is prohibited.** PWC operators cannot look forward & backwards if towing skiers/tubes.
- 3.6 **Everyone takes a boating safety course.** All PWC operators need a certificate of boating safety
- 3.7 **Observe quiet periods.** PWCs may not be operated after 6PM and before 12PM
- 3.8 **No horseplay.** PWCs shall not be operated in the following negligent ways:
 - Jumping or attempting to jump the wake of another vessel
 - Carrying more passengers than recommended by the manufacturer
 - Weaving/recklessly operating in congested areas, buzzing docks or other watercraft
 - Prolonged circling or other types of continuous and repeated activities
- 3.9 **Slow Speeds.** NYS law limits speed to 5 MPH within 100 feet of shore, dock, anchored boats and prohibits operation within 500 feet of designated swimming areas

Section 4: WATER SKI AND TOWING RULES

SKI AND TOW USAGE

- 4.1 **Everyone wears a lifejacket.** Anyone being towed or skiing must wear a PFD, regardless of age
- 4.2 **No skiing during periods of low visibility.** Water skiing is not allowed after dark or before sunrise
- 4.3 **Use an observer and an operator.** Towing boats must have at least two persons aboard, an observer (at least 10 years old) and an operator, both of whom must be at least 13 years of age
- 4.4 **No long towlines.** Towlines must not be greater than seventy-five (75) feet long
- 4.5 **Don't get too close.** Except when taking off from shore, the towing boat must stay at least one-hundred (150) feet from the shore, docks, people in the water and other passing watercraft
- 4.6 **Turn with care near shorelines.** When circling, be mindful that those in tow will tend to swing out towards shore

Tennanah Lake Guidelines For Safe Watercraft Use are **NO SUBSTITUTE** for New York State Boating Laws which are paramount and must be followed at all times. A copy of “the New York State Boater’s Guide” is included with these guidelines and available at anytime from the TLTA or by visiting <http://nysparks.state.ny.us>; Tennanah Lake Guidelines for Safe Watercraft Use updated June 2016.