

SUMMARY OF REGULATIONS

General Regulations

- **LAKE PATROL** officers are authorized to enforce all laws, ordinances and regulations in effect on the waters of Big Bear Lake.
- **BOAT PERMITS** must be properly displayed on all boats.
- **BOAT PERMITS** may be suspended or revoked when the permittee, owner or operator violates the terms and conditions of the permit, this Code or other requirements of the law.
- **BOAT SIZE REQUIREMENTS:** Maximum boat length is 26 feet. Manually propelled boats less than 12 feet in length and float-tubes are required to operate between the 5 MPH buoys and the shore.
- **PADDLE BOARDS** are considered a vessel and required to meet state and local regulations.
- **PUBLIC DOCKS** located at the boat launch facilities are for loading and unloading only; do not leave a boat unattended.
- **SANITATION:** No refuse shall be thrown into or left on the shoreline of the lake; no oil from a bilge pump shall be allowed to discharge into the lake; no person shall deposit any type of fish, amphibian or plant into the lake.
- **VEHICLES** are prohibited from driving on the lake bottom. Vehicles on District property must obey posted speed signs and operate in accordance with the Vehicle Code.
- **ANIMALS** must be on a leash no more than 7 feet long while on District property.

Age Limitations

- **PERSONS 12 THROUGH 15** years of age are prohibited from operating a vessel with more than 15 horsepower unless supervised on board by a person at least 18 years of age.

Operations

- **RECKLESS OPERATION:** No person shall operate a boat, waterski, or similar device in a reckless or negligent manner. The owner and/or operator are responsible for any damage caused by their boat, its wake or its tow.
- **BOATING ACCIDENTS** must be reported immediately to the Lake Patrol.
- **SPEED LIMIT:** 35 MPH maximum; 10 MPH from sunset to 7:00 a.m.; 5 MPH between buoys indicating same and the shoreline; 3 MPH in Papoose Bay, Canvasback Cove and Mallard Lagoon.
- **SAFETY EQUIPMENT:** All boats must be equipped according to California Boating Law safety requirements.
- **LAUNCHING:** Boats requiring trailers may be launched only from designated launch ramps. All other boats may be carried and launched at designated recreational or public access points after obtaining a Boat Permit.
- **MOORING** or tying to navigational markers is prohibited. Overnight mooring or beaching of boats along the shoreline is prohibited.
- **CHILDREN** under the age of 13 are required to wear a personal flotation device while on board a vessel that is underway.

Personal Watercraft

- **PERSONAL WATERCRAFT** hours of operation are between 7:00 a.m. and sunset.
- **PERSONAL WATERCRAFT** shall maintain a 100 foot distance from all other boats while operating above wakeless speeds.
- **PERSONAL WATERCRAFT** operators are prohibited from spraying down any person or vessel in the water.
- **PERSONAL WATERCRAFT** riders shall wear personal flotation devices.

Waterskiing

- **HOURS OF WATERSKIING** (wakeboarding, tubing, etc.) are between 7:00 a.m. and sunset.
- **AN OBSERVER** at least 12 years of age is required to be on board the boat to monitor the progress of the skier.
- **A RED FLAG** must be displayed whenever a skier or equipment is in the water.
- **ALL BOATS** engaged in waterskiing shall maintain a counter clockwise direction.
- **NO PERSON** shall operate waterskis or similar device so as to endanger the life of any person.
- **AERIAL DEVICES** are prohibited to be towed by a boat.
- **WATERSKIERS** shall wear personal flotation devices.

Fishing

- **FISHING** is prohibited from the Dam or from within posted No Fishing areas.
- **ANGLERS 16 YEARS OR OLDER** must have a current fishing license properly displayed.
- **ALL FISHING REGULATIONS** are strictly enforced.

Swimming

- **SWIMMING** is allowed within 50 feet of the shore, within a designated swimming area, within 20 feet of a private dock, or as incidental or necessary to waterskiing, jetskiing, sailboarding or in an emergency. Swim at your own risk, No Lifeguard On Duty.
- **SCUBA DIVING** is prohibited.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

- **OPERATORS** should maneuver boats slowly and carefully in unfamiliar waters since fluctuating lake levels can cause unmarked natural or manmade hazards to occur.
- **TROLLING ANGLERS** should display a white trolling flag to indicate to other boaters that they are trailing a line.
- **FISHING BOATS** should not impede safe access for waterskiers entering or exiting a designated ski beach.
- **ALL SAILING CRAFT** have the right of way over motorized boats, except in an overtaking situation.
- **SWIMMERS** - swim at your own risk, No Lifeguard On Duty, and always swim with a partner.
- **LIGHTNING STORMS** can develop quickly in the mountains and lightning frequently strikes the lake's surface. Boaters are advised to quickly seek shelter and safety.
- **BE A SOBER BOATER** - Alcohol and boating are a deadly mix.
- **ICE COVERING BIG BEAR LAKE** during the winter months is extremely dangerous, unstable and deceptive. **STAY OFF LAKE ICE!**