

Vermont Boating Regulations & Resources

All persons born after January 1, 1974, must successfully complete an approved boating safety education course to legally operate “any” motorized vessel including personal watercraft. The card must be carried when operating the motorized vessel. Online training & certification can be found at: <https://www.boat-ed.com/vermont/>

No one under 12 years of age may operate any vessel powered by a motor of more than 6 horsepower.

No one under 16 years of age may operate a Personal WaterCraft (PWC), even if they have successfully completed a boating safety education course.

“**All vessels**”, except sailboards, must carry one wearable US Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V Personal Floatation Device (PFD) for each person on board. That includes paddle boards, peddle boats & tow behinds. The PFD’s must be readily available, serviceable and of the proper fit for the intended wearer. A person under 16 years of age must wear a PFD at all times while on board a sailboard.

“**All vessels**” **16 feet or longer** must have a US Coast Guard approved Type IV throw able PFD on board and readily accessible.

Children **under 12 years of age must “wear” a US Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III PFD at all times** while underway on the open deck of any vessel. **Anyone being towed must wear a PFD.**

Please take note of this as it is a common issue on the lake: Every vessel towing a person(s) on water skis or any other device must have a person who is at least 12 years old on board in addition to the vessel operator, in a position to observe the towed person(s). If towing a person(s) with a Personal WaterCraft, the PWC should be rated for at least the number of persons involved, operator, observer (facing backward) and towed person(s). Maintain 100 feet of distance between the towed person(s) and a swimmer, canoe, rowboat, kayak or any other small vessel with a person on board.

Everyone on a Personal WaterCraft must wear a PFD.

A Personal WaterCraft must have passenger capacity for everyone involved in its activity.

Registration & Validation: Your motorized vessel must have a valid registration. Additionally, if your vessel is registered outside Vermont – you **MAY** need to have a Vermont Validation sticker if your boat is used in Vermont waters for more than 30 days in any calendar year. Check out all the requirements at: <https://dmv.vermont.gov/registrations/new/off-road-vehicles/registering-your-motorboat> & also <https://www.boat-ed.com/vermont/handbook/book.html>

Know your Speed & Wake requirements! Improper Speed or Distance is not maintaining a proper speed or distance while operating a vessel or while towing a person on water skis or any similar device.

Specifically, the following actions are ILLEGAL:

Operating a vessel (except sailboards) at greater than “no wake speed’s WITHIN 200 feet of:

- The shoreline
- A person in the water
- A canoe, rowboat, or other vessel
- An anchored or moored vessel with a person on board
- An anchorage or dock

SO.....Maintain 200 Feet (at least) to the above situations! 200 Feet is 3 times the length of your tow rope used for skiing and tubing.

Operating a vessel at speeds **of five miles per hour or greater within 200 feet of a marked Swimming or Diving Areas. Swimming Area is marked with buoys offshore of the Day Use Area of Maidstone State Park.**



Diver Down Flag

Operating a vessel at speeds that may cause danger, injury, or damage. Be aware of and obey all regulatory markers, including areas marked as “No Wake” **“No Wake Speed” means ...** operating your vessel at a speed at which the vessel does not produce a wake, not to exceed five miles per hour.

Vermont law prohibits anyone from boating while intoxicated (BWI) due to alcohol, drugs or any combination.

Navigation lights must be displayed between sunset and sunrise. Personal Watercraft may not be operated between sunset and sunrise.

Fire extinguisher (a Type B) is required on all motorized vessel, it should be easily accessible and in proper working condition.

Milfoil & Aquatic Nuisance: inspect your vessel, trailer and equipment and remove any plants prior to launching. Please report any issues found to the Launch Greeter or MLA and do not launch your vessel if you have identified Milfoil or other Aquatic Nuisance.

Safety & Compliance Patrols: You will see the waters being patrolled - on occasion - by either the Vermont State Police (VSP) or Local Game Warden. Please have your registration on the vessel and all required safety gear.

Northeast District Game Warden for Maidstone: Randy Hazard - 802-793-3321

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/contact/contact-a-warden>

Vermont State Police Derby Barracks

35 Crawford Rd
Derby, VT 05602
802-334-8881

<https://vsp.vermont.gov/stations/derby>