

## **Grand Valley Lakes**

February 1, 2018

Amended March 1, 2019

In an effort to create at Grand Valley Lakes a safe family-friendly environment, the Board of Directors have created rules for the lakes that we believe will provide maximum safety, pleasure and benefit for all. These rules and regulations are based on the State of Tennessee guidelines for water safety. Please remember the provisions of these documents will not exempt any person from compliance with applicable federal and / or state laws and regulations. Grand Valley Lakes does not assume responsibility or liability for the safety, loss of personal property, vandalism, damage to vehicles or watercraft, etc. of anyone using the lakes, beaches, recreational areas, docks, parking lots, or common grounds. Individuals assume full responsibility when using the water and ground areas of Grand Valley Lakes.

It is now necessary for property owners to come to the GVL office at the lodge to obtain stickers for all watercraft. It is necessary to bring with you:

- 1. Proof of ownership for motorized watercraft (if it is a renewal for an existing watercraft, it is on file already)**
- 2. Boating Safety Education Certificate for operators 12 years of age or older born after January 1, 1989. Those who do not have the certificate will not be allowed to operate motorized watercraft. A copy will be kept in the file at the POA office. There are no exceptions.**

Office personnel will keep on file a list of approved operators for your household. Failure to obey the rules set forth will result in fines established by the Board of Directors. The lake family is growing and the lake has increased traffic. We ask each of you to realize the dangers especially when we put our young people on the lake. Let's be responsible parents and give them the tools they need to know the water safety rules and possibly save their lives by expecting them to abide by them.

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**Lake Rules**

- **Tennessee state law requires the operator of all watercraft over 8.5 horsepower to be 12 years old or above. Those less than 12 years old must have a supervisor on board who is at least 18 years old and able to take immediate control of the vessel. The supervisor, if born after January 1, 1989 also must have a Boating Safety Education Certificate issued by the TWRA. Those 12 years or older operating alone must have a Boating Safety Education Certificate issued by the TWRA. For more information: <http://www.state.tn.us/twra/boated.html> or call 615-781-6682.**
- Children 12 years of age or younger are required to wear a coast guard approved life jacket when on the water whether in a boat, on a jet ski, a canoe, etc.
- All watercraft must display your boat stickers, attached on the left front and right front of your boat.
- Vessels less than 26 feet must carry at least one B-1 type U.S.C.G. approved fire extinguisher.
- Due to the size of the lake, limit the number of motorized watercraft to 3 per property owner at any time on the lake. (size surveyed 125 acres)
- A boat is allowed to pull not more than two tubes at one time behind the boat.
- When entering the lake, do so in a counter clockwise direction and drive accordingly. This means with traveling on the lake, the shoreline will be on your starboard side or right side.
- Non-motorized vessels (sailboats, canoes, kayaks, etc.) always have the right of way.
- Observe the **NO WAKE ZONES** (no waves, idle speed). All coves are no wake zones.
- Do not anchor to buoys. Flotation devices in the water must be removed after use or at least pulled onto your dock or as close as possible to your dock or shore.
- Parking boats and/or swimming is NOT allowed in the body of the lake. It is allowed only in NO WAKE zones/coves for safety reasons.

**\*\*Clarification 4/5/18: It is dangerous to park and swim in the main body of the lake when the lake is busy with watercraft because someone can get hit. The lake is primarily busy on weekends and holidays between the hours of 9am and 6pm. You are asked to use good judgement for the safety of others as well as yourself\*\***

- The boat ramp is for loading and unloading only. Do not leave a vehicle unattended on the ramp. Fishing and swimming from the boat ramp is not allowed.
- The beach area is roped for swimmers and is off limits to all water vessels for safety reasons. Fishing is not allowed and dogs are prohibited also.
- Fishing is allowed in both lakes but in the small lake, only trolling motors are allowed.
- Dumping of any waste, trash, or foreign matter overboard or on any shoreline is prohibited.
- No person shall operate any watercraft when impaired by the use of alcohol or drugs.

- It is the responsibility of the owner that family and friends while at Grand Valley Lakes observe all the GVL rules. The property owner is responsible for all activity of their guests, and possible fines, when using their watercraft at the lake.

### Operation of Ski-Boats

- Maximum length of ski boats allowed is 21 feet.
- No person shall use wake enhancing devices, including ballast tanks, wedges or hydrofoils or other mechanical devices, or uneven loading of persons or gear, to artificially operate bow-high. Boats with a bladder/ballast system or any other wave inducing equipment are not allowed for use on Grand Valley Lakes.
- Those ski boats registered as of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 are grandfathered.
- **Those boats that are grandfathered (with wave inducing equipment) can use this equipment on Monday and Thursday from 1pm until 4 pm. If a holiday falls on Monday or Thursday this rule does not apply. Usage of wave enhancing equipment is not allowed on holidays due to the increased number of people on the lake.**

**\*\*Clarification 4/5/18: The grandfathering of a boat pertains to the owner of the boat at the time it is grandfathered, therefore it does not benefit or pertain to future owners\*\***

- **When water skiing, observe the following:**
- Skiing is permitted during sunrise and sunset on the main lake only.
- Vessels towing skiers must be equipped with a 170-degree wide-angle rear view mirror or a person other than the operator on board who is 12 years or older to observe the skier.
- Inner tubing, knee boarding will not be allowed without a life jacket.
- Skiers 18 and under must wear an approved life jacket.
- Adults over 18 years can wear a ski-belt as long as there is an approved life jacket for them on the boat.
- **Observe all applicable lake rules listed above**

### Personal Watercraft-Jet Ski's

- Drivers must be 12 years of age or older and have completed the Tennessee Boater Education Course if born after January 1, 1989.  
<http://www.state.tn.us/twra/boated.html>
- Persons operating or riding on a jet-ski are required to wear an approved personal life saving device.
- No one may operate a Jet-Ski without attaching the CUTOFF Lanyard to his or her person, clothing or life saving device. It is illegal to remove or disable an engine cutoff device.
- Vessels when pulling a tube or skier must have a person other than the operator on board who is 12 years or older to observe the person being pulled.
- Knee boarding or inner tubing will not be allowed without an approved life jacket.
- Jet Ski's may be operated between sunrise and sunset on the main lake only.

- When entering the lake, do so in a counter clockwise direction and drive accordingly. This means while traveling on the lake, the shoreline will be on your starboard side or right side.
- A fully charged fire extinguisher must be on board.
- Observe **NO WAKE** zones.
- **Reckless operation of Personal Watercraft will not be tolerated.** This could include driving in the wrong direction on the lake, driving unnecessarily close to another vessel, jumping the wake or cutting in front of another vessel, swerving at the last minute possible to avoid a collision. This definition is not all inclusive. The safety and consideration of others is always required. It will be considered negligent to operate a vessel in disregard of careful and prudent operation.
- **Observe all applicable lake rules listed above.**