

## Things to Know

### Water Skiing

- Water skiing must be performed in a counter clockwise direction. Water skiing is prohibited from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise.
- The towing vessel must have a wide angle rear view mirror or an observer.
- The water skier must wear a U.S.C.G. approved Type I, II, or III personal floatation device.
- **The towing vessel and water skier must stay at least 100 feet from shore, docks, or any other vessel.** Except when picking up or dropping off the water skier.

### Courtesy & Patience

- Be courteous to lakefront property owners and those who share the lake with you.
- Do not litter. Trash is unsightly and can cause environmental hazards.
- **Avoid making large wakes. Excessive wakes can cause erosion of the shoreline and degrade water quality.**
- Do not ride too closely behind another vessel. If it turns sharply or stalls, you could collide with it.
- Personal Watercraft may not be operated from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise.

### Gunwale/Bow riding is prohibited

- No persons are permitted to ride on the bow, sides, or transom of any vessel.

## Rules of the "Road"

### Speed Limits

#### Normal Speed

- Speed limits on the Butler Chain are:  
**40 mph** (Daytime)  
**20 mph** (Between dusk & dawn)

#### No Wake Zones

- The slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain control and direction. The vessel should produce no wake at this speed.
- **A vessel may not exceed idle speed within 100' (one hundred feet) of shore, docks, and other vessels.**

#### Right of Way

- A vessel must stay at least 300' (three hundred feet) from an active water skier.
- When two vessels are approaching at right angles to each other, the vessel on the right has the right of way.
- When two vessels are approaching each other head to head, neither vessel has the right of way. Both vessels must yield by changing course to the right.
- When two vessels are traveling in the same direction, the vessel that is overtaking from the rear must stay clear and yield to the vessel it is overtaking. The vessel that is being overtaken must maintain course and speed.
- At no time should a vessel make a sudden change of course unless it is to avoid a collision.
- If it is unsafe to pass, the vessel that is being overtaken shall give the danger signal (five or more short blasts on the horn).

### ORANGE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

800 Mercy Drive, Suite 4  
Orlando, Florida 32808

## Butler Chain of Lakes Advisory Board Windermere Water and Navigation Control District

### Boating Safety Regulations



To report an unsafe boating operation, please contact the Orange County Sheriff's Office Marine Patrol Unit at:

(407) 836-HELP

# Boating Safety



The **Butler Chain of Lakes Advisory Board** and the **Butler Patrol** would like to encourage all residents to operate watercraft in a safe and courteous manner. For your convenience, included in this brochure are a few safety tips that you should be aware of each time you head out on the water.

The **Butler Chain of Lakes Advisory Board** meets the **third Monday of each month at 6:00 P.M. at the Windermere Community Room** (118 W 5th Ave. Windermere FL 34786) and is open to all members of the public.

The **Butler Patrol** has been in service since 1988, and consist of a dozen state police officers from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Park Police. The **Butler Patrol** is being funded by the Windermere Water and Navigation Control Taxing District, that was created in 1963 by the Florida Legislator to protect the Butler Chain of Lakes. The **Butler Patrol** works with the **Orange County Sheriff's Office** to provide boating safety and law enforcement at the Butler Chain.

For more information regarding safe boating in the state of Florida you can visit [www.Myfwc.com](http://www.Myfwc.com) or the National Association of State Boating Law

# Boating Laws

## Boater Education

- **Persons born on or after 1988 are required to complete a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) approved boater education course prior to operating a vessel powered by a motor of 10 horsepower or more. Those affected by this law must carry a boater safety ID card and a photo ID with date of birth while operating a vessel.**

## Personal Watercraft Restrictions

- **No one under the age of 14 may operate a Personal Watercraft on Florida waters at any time.**
- **No Personal Watercraft shall be operated at night**

## Registration

- All powered vessels, including electrical, operated in the state of Florida must be registered. The registration must be on board at all times while the vessel is being operated.
- The vessel registration numbers must be displayed on both sides of the forward hull in bold block letters at least three inches tall.

## Boating/Skiing Under the Influence

- It is prohibited to operate a vessel, water ski or wakeboard with a blood alcohol content of 0.08% or higher or while under the influence of drugs.

*This brochure is just a sample of safety equipment and operation regulations. You should contact your local authorities for complete requirements.*

## MINIMUM REQUIRED SAFETY EQUIPMENT

For class I motor boats (16' to less than 26')

### Personal Floatation Devices (PDF's)

- One Type I, II, or III for every person on board. Also one Type IV must be on board and readily accessible.
- Must be properly sized for the passengers of the vessel.
- Must be in operational condition.
- Must be readily accessible (not in packaging).
- Children under 6 years of age must wear a US Coast Guard (U.S.C.G.) approved Type I, II or III PFD at all times while underway on a vessel less than 26 feet in length.

### Sound Producing Devices

- Must have a horn, bell, or whistle.

### Fire Extinguisher

- Must have a B-I fire extinguisher if the vessel has an enclosed fuel tank.
- Must be U.S.C.G. approved for marine use.
- Must be in operational condition.

### Back-Fire/Flame Arrestor

- Required on all inboard engine vessels.
- Must be U.S.C.G. approved.

### Ventilation

- Must have power operated exhaust blowers in all closed engine compartments.
- Must be controlled from the instrument panel.

### Anchor and Line

- You must have one (1) anchor line of appropriate size and length.

### Lighting Requirements

- Between sunset and sunrise the following lights shall be required, one (1) white aft light that is visible in all directions and not obstructed by any part of the vessel.
- One (1) combination red and green light on the foreward part of the boat showing green to the starboard (right) and red to the port (left), so fixed as to show the light from dead ahead and 10 points off the beam to their respective sides.