

What you need to know before you operate a boat.

Boating Laws

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

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| ✓ Valid Registration & Certificate | ✓ Oars or Paddle |
| ✓ Registration Decals
<i>(3" minimum, in contrasting color)</i> | ✓ Anchor |
| ✓ Personal Flotation Devices (PFD):
<i>Type I, II, III, or V, for each person</i>
<i>Type IV Throwable Device</i> | ✓ Bailing Device |
| | ✓ Fire Extinguisher |
| | ✓ Working Navigation Lights |
| | ✓ Horn, Whistle, or Bell |

Before You Launch...

- All PFD's must be in good condition, immediately available to all occupants and must be of the proper size for the intended wearer.
- Vessel must be operated by a person 16 years of age or older. A child 12 to 16 years of age may operate a boat or personal water craft (PWC) while carrying proof of completion of a boater safety education course.
- Operator must have a state issued ID in their possession.
- All children 12 years of age or younger **MUST** be wearing an approved PFD on vessels under 26 feet long.
- No Alcoholic Beverages are allowed on any vessel; Low Point Beverages (3.2% ALC OR LESS) are allowed.
- It is unlawful for a person to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Operators are prohibited from carrying more passengers than what the vessel is designed for by the manufacturer.
- It is unlawful for any person to ride or stand on any part of the vessel that is not designed for passengers (any risk they could fall overboard) including a covered bow or front, deck, gunwales or seat back while the vessel is moving greater than idle speed.
- Occupants are not allowed to extend any arm or leg over the edge of the boat above or below the railing while under operation.



Safe Operations of a Vessel

It is your responsibility to understand and adhere to these and other regulations while operating a vessel. Violations can result in citations and fines, or removal from the water until compliance is met!

- It is unlawful for any person to operate a boat or vessel in a manner that is not careful or prudent, or maintain a speed that is not reasonable or proper given the existing waterway traffic, persons in the water and weather conditions.
- Nighttime speed limit on GRDA lakes is 25 MPH.
- Vessel and PWC operators must maintain slow, no wake or idle speed (the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering & which does not produce a wake) in any posted NO WAKE zone, or within 150 feet of any boat ramp, dock, pier, bridge, structure or an anchored or moored vessel. PWC are prohibited from weaving through congested traffic.
- A vessel or PWC must not operate at a speed greater than 10 MPH while within 50 feet of another vessel.
- Diver-Down Flags must be used by scuba divers and snorkelers. Vessels must remain at least 150 feet away from the flag.
- All persons on PWC must be wearing PFD's approved for PWC use.
- It is unlawful to operate any PWC, tow a skier, tube, surfboard, wakeboard, parasail or similar device between the hours of sunset and sunrise.
- Inner tubes, floating chairs or similar devices must not be more than 50 feet away from shore when being used by a swimmer.

Bullets are summaries of regulations. Detailed regulations are posted on line at <http://www.grda.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Ch-35-Lake-Rules-EFF-8-27-151.pdf>. Additional regulations may apply.

GRDA Police offer boat inspections and boat operator safety courses at no cost.

**Call GRDA POLICE
918-256-0911
for Assistance.**

