

Sun Valley Iowa Lake Association

Boating Regulations

Revised and Approved: **May 2022**

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for all surface water in the state. The DNR has regulatory authority of this water. However, because the land adjacent to Sun Valley Lake (SVL) and the land under the lake is privately owned, and as there is no public right of access to the lake, the waterways flowing into SVL are not navigable, the State of Iowa considers SVL a private lake.

As a private lake, platted Lot owners of Sun Valley Iowa Lake Association (SVILA) own the lake, common lots, roads, and amenities of SVL. SVILA Board of Directors manages this property on behalf of the SVILA Members. The SVILA Board, in accordance with its By Laws, has the authority to develop rules and regulations to manage these properties on behalf of SVILA Members. The SVILA Board has adopted the following rules and regulations to promote safe boating on and around SVILA owned lake property.

1) **Permitted Boats**

a) No motorized vessel, boat, or personal watercraft (PWC) shall be permitted on Sun Valley Iowa Lake that:

- i) Has not been inspected, is not properly registered with the SVILA office, and does not have current year stickers and lot numbers affixed to such vessel, boat, or PWC.
- ii) Possesses a toilet or sanitary system capable of discharging waste into lake.
- iii) Can be used as a dwelling
- iv) Except for PWC, and/or jet boats, is equipped with any type of open exhaust. Open exhaust shall be defined as any vessel(s) that does not exhaust directly into the water when under power. Any such vessel that has exposed ports when operated under power is included.
- v) Is used with or for the purpose of parasailing.
- vi) Is a motorized surfboard or wakeboard with propeller also known as Lift Efoil
- vii) Exceeds in the case of ski, deck, or fishing boats, 22'-0" as noted in the Manufacturers Statement of Origin or Statement of Manufactured Specification – or if defined by the Manufacturer as LOA (Length Overall).
- vii) Or in the case of pontoon or tri-toon vessels 25'-0" as defined by Manufacturers Statement of Origin or Manufacturers Statement of LOA.
- viii) In any case, has a motor that exceeds the specific manufacturer's maximum allowable horsepower.
- ix) Has the ability to take on ballast or additional weight for any purpose, including but not limited to, creation of a larger wake. Either as a factory installed option or as a supplemental device.

- x) Is not in compliance with sections 1 (a)(iv), (vi), (vii), (viii) or (ix) & (ix-a). PROVIDED THAT such boats were first registered with the SVILA office prior to October 14th, 2006. Replacement vessels for any such grandfathered boats in the future shall be in full compliance with these rules. In addition, any open exhaust vessel that is grandfathered by this section that has a selectable open exhaust must always operate the vessel in the silent mode. Any open exhaust vessel that is grandfathered by this section that does not have selectable, open exhaust must install, if available, an approved sound deadening muffler.
- xi) Has been used on any lake or river other than Sun Valley Iowa Lake until the owner and/or operator has inspected and removed any visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from the boat and trailer; drained any water from the boat, motor, bilge, live wells, and bait containers; sprayed, rinsed, and dried the boat and trailer with high pressure hot water (above 104 degrees F or 40 degrees C) or let the boat and trailer dry for 5 days.
- xii) Has any type of “upper” level configuration on any style of vessel.

- b) All registered boats, PWC, both motorized and non-motorized shall comply with applicable Iowa DNR, and US Coast Guard (USCG) rules as they relate to the following:
 - i) The number of passengers (including those in tubes or skiers being towed) shall not exceed the USCG or manufacturers’ passenger limit for that vessel & that number is to be displayed on both sides of the rear of the vessel.
 - ii) USCG approved life preservers on board for each passenger
 - iii) Anyone using non-motorized watercraft {including but not limited to sailboats, canoes, kayaks, pedal boats, paddleboards, and ellipticals} – must wear a USCG approved PFD while on the main lake on weekends and holidays.
 - iv) Each motorized vessel or boat must be equipped with a proper class fire extinguisher, working horn, functional bow and stern light(s), a paddle, and one (1) USCG approved life preserver throw cushion. (PWC require a fire extinguisher only)
 - v) All vessels operating from sunset until sunrise shall have the bow and stern lights turned on.

c) All Sun Valley Iowa Lake property owners must have a completed and signed boat sticker application, current copy of liability insurance certificate, and proof of ownership (title or state registration) on file in the office at all times (all boats and PWC must be listed on both forms). Ownership of the boat or PWC shall indicate the same owner as the Sun Valley Iowa Lake lot regardless of the number of persons who may have ownership interest in the lot or the manner in which title is held by them. Lot numbers, no less than 3 inches in height, along with current year Sun Valley Iowa Lake stickers must be clearly visible on both sides of all watercraft when in the water. Have the capacity of your vessel shown with the number located on the rear of your boat on each side. **(See sketch with boat sticker application for recommended placement location).**

d) A 911 street address of the same type and size (3”) shall be placed on each dock, and/or boat lift that is present in, or on the lake at any time. Their location should be placed so as to be as clearly visible from the lake as possible. Street abbreviations will be determined by the Lake Manager, so they are consistent throughout the association. (i.e.: Indian Point may become Ind. Pt.)

e) Sun Valley Iowa Lake property owners, even if lot (s) are co-owned, will be issued stickers for no more than 3 motorized boats and 2 non-motorized boats. If 3 motorized boats are registered, only 1 of the 3 motorized boats may be a PWC, except that any lot owner who has registered more than 1 PWC of a total of 3 registered on or before March 31, 2002, may continue to register such PWC if there is no change in the ownership of the PWC or the lot. All current stickers (and lot numbers) for the year must be on all vessels before being launched onto the lake. The Board will annually set the fees for boat registrations.

2) Boat Operation

a) All operators of motorized boats and PWC will be at least 16 years of age. In addition, all operators age 16 through 18 must first complete the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) course on safe boating instruction. This course is available online. All such operators shall have in their possession the certificate showing successful completion of the course while operating any such boat or PWC.

b) The speed limit shall be a safe speed for the conditions of the lake at the time, with a maximum of 35mph on the main body of the lake. **From 30 minutes after sunset until sunrise the maximum speed shall be 10 mph. There shall be a strict observation of all NO WAKE areas and specifically marked buoys. If you are operating your motorized vessel within 50 feet of shore and/or docks, NO WAKE provisions apply.**

c) **The traffic pattern for all motorized boats and PWC on Sun Valley Iowa Lake shall be in a counterclockwise direction of travel with all turns to the left.** Vessel traffic shall be governed by the following rules:

- i) Passing from rear- pass to the other vessel's port side (left) with a minimum distance of 25 feet.
 - ii) Passing/ meeting head on- pass port (left) to port (left) with both drivers veering to their right.
 - iii) Passing at right angles- vessel at right has right-of-way.
 - iv) Manually propelled vessels have right-of-way over all other vessels. Sailboats and non-motorized vessels should always consider the amount of traffic on the lake when in use.
 - v) Sailboats have right-of-way over **all** motorized vessels. Motorized vessels when meeting or overtaking sailboats shall always pass on the leeward (downwind) side (when sufficient room is available).
 - vi) Any vessel backing from a landing has the right-of-way over incoming vessels.
- d) All boats shall comply with the following skiing/tubing regulations:
- i) Boats, skiers, tubes, PWC, etc. must not get closer than 50 feet of any dock or buoys. This does not apply to fishing boats while fishing.
 - ii) All tow ropes must be a minimum of 50ft.
 - iii) Skiing from docks or dropping a ski is strictly prohibited.
 - iv) There must be a permitted driver and an observer in all vessels pulling skiers, tubes, etc.

- iv) Absolutely NO skiing, tubing or PWC use after sunset. ALL boats must turn on both bow and stern lights at sunset. Any vessel not equipped with lights must be off the lake at sunset.
- v) When a skier, tuber, or anyone is down in the water, one person in the boat will raise a red or orange flag. The person in the water should also raise their hand to alert other vessels that such person is down and okay.
- vi) All motorized watercraft shall yield the right-of-way to all down skier/tubers, paddle boats, sailboats, as well as all other non-powered vessels and shall not pass or follow within 50 feet of such skier or tuber.
- vii) No boat or PWC shall pull more than 2 tubes at one time, and the tow ropes of both tubes must be the same length. On Memorial Day weekend, June 28th – July 7th, and Labor Day weekend no more than 4 people may be towed behind any one vessel at any time. Towing vessels shall also not perform unsafe maneuvers at any time. The number of passengers on any towable shall not exceed the manufacturers rated capacity. (i.e. Number of hand grip pairs equal capacity). Persons being towed count toward the capacity of the vessel.
- viii) **Wake Boarding is allowed subject to tow rope length of 50' or longer. Wake surfing is not allowed on Saturday, Sunday and Holidays after 12:00 pm (noon). For non-holiday Sundays, Wake surfing is allowed 5pm until sunset.**
- ix) The operation of PWC shall be limited to the time between 9:00 am until sunset.
- v) Unsafe zigzagging and/or radical turns for the purpose of chasing wakes or waves or jumping wakes or waves with any powered vessel is prohibited on the lake.
- vi) Any watercraft maneuvers (i.e., donuts, cookies, etc.) which do not allow a forward progression are prohibited on the lake from **noon on Friday, until sunset Sunday evening and on Memorial Day (May 24th-27th), 4th of July weekend (June 28th- July 7th), and on Labor Day.** Such maneuvers, when conducted safely, shall be permitted at all other times. Ski, fish, and pontoon type boats will at all times maintain a forward progression (no donuts, cookies, or radical turns at any time unless in retrieval of a downed skier(s), or passenger(s) from any towable. Use caution when turning to retrieve these passengers.
- e) Operating any vessel while intoxicated will not be tolerated. The vessel operator and/or lot owner may also be subject to other fines or penalties imposed by civil or criminal courts or the SVILA.
- f) **Property owners are fully responsible to see that their guest(s) follow ALL Boating & Safety Regulations and respect ALL Sun Valley Iowa Lake property. Property owners will be ticketed for their guest(s) violation(s).**
- g) In addition to the above rules of boat operation, the association, through any authorized lake patrol personnel, may issue a ticket to any boat or PWC operator or owner where, in the opinion of the authorized lake patrol personnel, such vessel is being operated or has the ability to be operated in a manner that causes a safety concern to any other person, the lake, or to the property of the association, or the property to any of its members or guests.
- h) Anchored boats and boat “tie ups” must maintain a minimum distance of 100 feet from the lakeshore and will be monitored at the discretion of the lake patrol.

3) Swim Platforms and Buoys

- a) Swim platform usage is limited to NO WAKE zones and must have a removable anchor system adequate to hold the platform stationary.
- b) No buoyed anchor systems will be permitted.
- c) Platforms extending beyond line of docks must be pulled back to the shore or secured to the dock, so they do not extend beyond the line of docks from sunset until sunrise.
- d) **Platforms must be inspected and approved by the Environmental Committee before being put in to the water and lot numbers must be on the platform.**
- e) No privately owned buoys are permitted on the lake. If a member has a specific safety concern, they may bring it to the Lake Manager, or to the Lake and Grounds Assistant to determine if hazard buoy placement is needed. If so, SVILA will set the buoy and remove it each fall. The member may appeal a refusal to the Board but may not place any buoy into the water without this approval. Placement or movement of buoys shall be done only by the SVILA staff or those authorized by the Lake Manager.

4) Fines /Penalties

- a) Equipment Violations
 - i) Failure to have a boat new to the lake inspected will result in a \$500 fine.
 - ii) Use of ballast or other means to create large wake \$500 fine, immediate permanent removal of boat from lake and loss of boating privileges for one year. Failure to do so will result in additional daily fine of \$100.00 day.
- b) Sticker Violations

Failure to obtain and display boat stickers and lot numbers shall result in a fine of \$50 per boat or PWC. In addition, except for sticker violations, in any calendar year, violators will be fined \$50 for the 1st offense, \$150 for the 2nd offense, and \$300 and relinquishment of all boating privileges for 1 year for the 3rd offense.

c) Moving/Safety Violations

- i) The fines for the following violations are \$100 for the 1st offense, \$300 for the 2nd offense, and \$600 and relinquishment of all boating privileges for 1 year for the 3rd offense.

-Reckless or unsafe boating includes (but is not limited to):

- Underage drinking on boats
 - Underage operation of jet skis (PWC) or powered boats
 - Wrong direction of travel on lake
 - Speeding
 - Operation of boat without required front and rear lights
 - Failure to wear a USCG approved PFD when required
 - No wake violations
 - Failure to comply with lake patrol instructions or directions
- ii) In all cases, failure to stop for a Lake patrol boat will be an automatic 30-day suspension of boating privileges for all vessels registered by each lot regardless of the number of persons who may have ownership interest in the lot or the way the lot title is held by them.
- iii) The lake patrol or their designee will issue tickets for violations/infractions. These association authorized employees and/or SVILA employees may board and inspect any vessel, to verify compliance with boating or fishing regulations. Local or State Law Enforcement will also be summoned, if necessary.

Glossary:

Main Lake- defined as water inside the no wake buoys on the main body of water at Sun Valley Lake

No Wake Speed- defined as the minimum speed that allows you to maintain steering and headway

Reckless or Unsafe Boating- operating a boat or PWC in a manner which may cause harm to the operator, passengers or other boaters.

Speeding- defined as greater than 10mph after sunset, until sunrise OR greater than 35 mph during remainder of day

Weekend - defined as Friday noon until Sunday sunset.

Suspension Period: Is 1 year and is defined as the period that begins from the date of the final disposition or hearing.

Sunset and Sunrise: Is defined by the time as established by the National Weather Service for that date for Ellston, Iowa