

## **2024 BOAT REGULATIONS** (with DCFs 333 updated 11-21-23)

1. Following are the boat registration requirements effective January 1, 2001 designated as the “Primary Boat Rule.”

a. Each Regular member can designate up to two primary motor-powered vessels and as many secondary vessels as desired.

b.1 All vessels must have a color sticker per the current policy. The primary color will be different from the secondary vessels.

b.2 Vessels conducting Wake Surfing activity will be primary vessels and must have a sticker of a designated color which is different than the primary and secondary-colored stickers to designate this vessel as being approved for the activity.

c.1 Primary Vessel Sticker Fees are \$50 for each vessel. Primary Vessel Sticker Fees for Wake Surfing Vessels are \$100.

c.2 Primary stickers for wake surfing will be limited up to 35 vessels based on actual number of wake surfing vessels identified on valid 2018 Beaver Lake surf boat registrations and those vessels that were registered on Beaver Lake for the activity during 2019. These stickers may be renewed each year by the Association member assigned a wake surfing sticker, but no more stickers will be allowed until a member does not renew their assigned sticker. Stickers must be renewed by 1 May to conduct wake surfing activity on Beaver Lake. If a wake surfing sticker is not renewed by 1 June it will be released by the assigned Association member and made available to the next member on a wait list. Wake surfing sticker holders with circumstances not allowing timely renewal by the 1 June deadline must contact the Board of Directors before the May Board of Directors meeting documenting the circumstances. The Board has the discretion to extend the deadline if circumstances warrant an extension. If a wake surfing sticker is released by the assigned Association member it may then be available to the next member on a wait list. Members waiting for a wake surfing sticker can provide their name, lot number, and contact information to the Beaver Lake Security Office for addition to the wait list.

c.3 Primary vessels are allowed on the lake at any time.

d. Secondary Vessel Sticker Fees are \$50 for each vessel. Secondary vessels are allowed on the lake at any time except on holiday weekends, or holidays or when Security Personnel designates the lake is too crowded and safety is at risk.

e. Effective 1 January 2018, all vessels powered by gas, diesel, or electric trolling motors are subject to the Primary Boat Rule and are required to be registered with the State of NE or possess a state honored registration that NE state regulations specifically provide exceptions for (e.g., U.S. Coast Guard registration) as well as have a Beaver Lake sticker and lot numbers affixed to both sides of the vessel. A vessel exempt from NE state registration is required to have an Aquatic Invasive Species stamp from the State of Nebraska. All vessels not powered by gas, diesel, or electric trolling motors such as but not limited to: sail boats (without a motor), canoes, paddle boards, rowboats, kayaks etc. are not subject to the Primary Boat Rule or required to have a Beaver Lake sticker but must have lot numbers affixed to both sides of the boat and must meet all State boating regulations.

f.1. The Board of Directors reserves the right to implement the Primary Boat Rule if they determine that the lake is too crowded and requires restriction for safety reasons.

f.2. Wake surfing activities will cease during time of secondary vessel restrictions.

g. Secondary vessels used on the holiday weekends or when the “Primary Boat Rule” is in effect will be subject to fines or penalties.

h. Swim Platforms, inflatable trampolines, and other similar type floating devices are allowed on the lake without stickers but must meet coast guard safety regulations and be placed within 50’ of the shoreline. Such devices require Board approval. Swim platforms can be no larger than 8’ by 10’.

i. Private buoys are allowed on the main part of the lake but must be within 75’ of the shoreline.

Private buoys are not allowed in no-wake zones, i.e. in coves etc. Private buoys used for marking your property 75 foot from shore must meet the following requirements:

i1. Buoy must be removable.

i2. Buoy must be round and a minimum of 18 inches in diameter.

i3. Buoy must display your lot numbers.

i4. Buoy must be in compliance starting April 1, 2024.

i5. It is recommended that the Buoys be removed every season, so ice doesn’t relocate them. Smaller buoys are temporarily allowed if used to hold Maui mats or similar swimming platforms but must be removed at least every 72 hours. BLA will entertain buoy requests that vary from the above shape and size “if” they meet visibility and aesthetic requirements.

j. No boat stickers will be sold until all currently due bills are paid in full. Bills are normally due upon receipt by the payer.

k. No boat sticker will be sold until a zebra mussel certification is obtained by the person attempting to sticker the boat.

l. Vessels launched on Beaver Lake may be subject to an invasive species inspection by Beaver Lake Association employees.

m. All motorized watercraft will be required to obtain an Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp each year that they boat in Nebraska and display this sticker on their boat. For Nebraska registered vessels this is included with the state registration and does not need to be purchased separately. Out of state registered watercraft or NE registration exempt watercraft (i.e. Coast Guard documented) will be required to purchase this through the Game and Parks at <https://outdoornebraska.gov/boatingregulations/>.

## 2. Boat Registration

a. All vessels will carry a current state registration or other state honored registration that state regulations specifically provide exceptions for (e.g., U.S. Coast Guard registration) and current Beaver Lake stickers with lot numbers clearly visible. A vessel exempt from NE state registration is required to have an Aquatic Invasive Species stamp from the State of Nebraska. The Beaver Lake stickers and lot numbers (as large as the state registration numbers) will be placed on both sides of the vessel to the rear. Boat stickers are due May 1st of each new year.

b. Obtaining a Beaver Lake Sticker while vessel is "In-Transit"  
Regular members who have purchased a new or used vessel can obtain a Beaver Lake Sticker while their vessel is "In Transit" if the following guidelines are followed:

b.1. Regular member must submit valid proof of purchase from the dealership or private bill of sale. Beaver lake Board of Directors will determine what is a valid bill of sale.

b.2. In-Transit period is valid for 30 days from date of purchase in accordance with Nebraska law.

b.3. Regular member is required to give a \$250 deposit that will become non-refundable should the boat owner fail to register the vessel within 30 days per State of Nebraska boating regulations.

b.4. Regular member becomes "not in good standing" should they fail to register the vessel through the state within 30 days and continues to use or maintain the vessel on Beaver Lake waters and will continue to incur fines.

3. Vessel traffic on Beaver Lake will proceed in a counterclockwise direction around the lake. Vessels will stay at least 90 feet from shore when speeds exceed 5 mph (wake speed).

4. The maximum speed limit on Beaver Lake is 45 mph. The speed is limited to no wake and not to exceed 5mph when the yellow light at the east end of the clubhouse beach is illuminated. The light will begin flashing at a designated time after sunset and run for 10-20 minutes. The flashing yellow light will be the only indicator for no wake time. In the event of a power failure, state rules will apply for no wake, see Neb. Administrative Code Title 163, chapter 3-015.02.

5. Buoys mean "No Wake Zones" and vessels, except Law Enforcement on official business, must proceed at the lowest throttle speed.

6. When passing another boat, pass to deep water (to the left).

7. All boats must be equipped with all safety equipment required by state law. One fire extinguisher is required on each vessel along with a life vest for each person on the vessel. State and lake rule violations are subject to arrests and/or fines.

8. Standing or sitting with legs extended beyond the edge of a moving craft is prohibited. Only the operator is allowed to stand while the vessel is in motion for visibility reasons. No child under 13 is allowed aboard any vessel when not wearing a U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver. The operator shall be held responsible for compliance.

9. No one under fourteen (14) years of age shall operate motorized vessels of any class at any time. No one under the age of 16 is allowed to tow an individual with a vessel. The owners(s) shall be held responsible.

10. Air-propelled craft and hydroplane racing boats are not permitted on Beaver Lake.

## 11. Wake Restriction / Lake Closure

a. BLA may, from time to time, restrict wake or close the lake to boat traffic.

- b. No wake boarding or producing large wakes (boat not planing) when lake level is four or more inches above full pool, as determined by BLA.
- c. No water skiing or wake when lake level is six or more inches above full pool, or otherwise, as determined by BLA.
- d. During wake restrictions, a yellow flag will be flown on the flagpoles at the boat ramp and CL 14. A yellow strobe light will be operating at the east end of the clubhouse beach.
- e. When the lake is closed to boating, a red flag will be flown on the flagpoles at the boat ramp and CL 14. A red strobe light will be operating at the east end of the clubhouse beach.

12. This section (#12 a-f) pertains to jet powered vessels and is written to govern the behavior of such jet powered vessels. Behaviors outlined in 12c. (donuts, cookies, etc.) are never permitted for any prop driven vessel or any jet powered vessel towing a tube, skier.

Jet skis, boats and all like powered vessels must follow all boat regulations. Jet skis, boats and all like powered vessels shall not operate in a careless manner and be subject to the following special regulations:

a. Any operator born after December 31, 1985 must have successfully completed the Nebraska boating safety course and be in possession of a valid certificate. Nonresidents may present certification from their state or another source approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators.

b.1 Zigzagging (radical turns) for the purpose of chasing wakes/waves or jumping such wakes or waves with a jet ski, boat and all like powered vessels is prohibited on the lake if the vessel you are following is towing a skier tuber, wake boarder, wake surfer, etc.

b.2 Jumping a wake with a motorized vessel within 150 feet (50 yards) of another vessel is illegal and prohibited.

b.3 All jet skis, boats and all like powered vessels that are being operated in excess of 5mph (wake speed) shall be operated a distance of no less than ninety (90) feet from other vessels, skiers, or shoreline.

c. Jet ski, boat and all like powered vessel maneuvers (i.e., donuts, cookies, etc.) which do not allow a forward progression are prohibited on the Lake on weekends and holidays. Jet ski, boat and all like powered vessel maneuvers shall be permitted on weekdays; however, such maneuvers are restricted to the larger coves between the mouth of the cove and the no-wake buoys. A map of the Lake outlining such areas is officially registered with the State and governs boating on Beaver Lake. If other vessels or water skiers are using such areas, then jet skiers, boats and all like powered vessels must bypass such cove and proceed on in a counterclockwise progression to the next available cove. The duration of continued jet ski, boat and all like powered vessel maneuvers in designated areas shall be limited to ten (10) minutes at which time the jet ski, boat and all like powered vessels shall move to another designated area.

d. Jet skis, boats and all like powered vessels are permitted to pull skiers and tubes as long as the Lakes Rules are observed. The same requirements as boats (i.e. rear view mirror and orange flag signaling a down skier) will be required for jet skis and like powered vessels.

e. Jet skis, boats and all like powered vessels are prohibited from using no-wake buoys and swimming buoys as targets or obstacle courses.

f. The Regular member shall be responsible for all activities and operation of his or her jet ski, boat and like powered vessels. Common sense should prevail in the safe operation of all jet skis, boats and all like powered vessels. All jet skis, boats and all like powered vessels shall follow the State of Nebraska safety regulations.

g. Wet Bikes are prohibited on Beaver Lake.

h. Watercraft not required to have an annual Beaver Lake sticker must stay within 75 feet of the shoreline or in a no-wake zone on weekends and holidays between the hours of eleven a.m. and seven p.m. This rule is in effect May 15 to September 15. **This excludes large sailboats and catamarans which are easily visible.**

13. Absolutely no guest vessels will be allowed on the lake. In addition, property owners registering guest vessels in their name will not be permitted. Vessels must be registered and titled under one Regular member and/or duly designated Associate Member (company name may appear on a title with owner). If a non-member's name is titled with a Regular member and/or duly designated Associate Member, the vessel will not be registered until the title and registration has been corrected. Vessel owner must be present when the vessel is stickered unless otherwise granted an exception. The Board of Directors can review and grant exceptions to the lake rules and regulations on a case-by-case situation. A Member's current spouse, who is eligible for sharing Association privileges for a given lot, may have their name on the lot affiliated boat's registration, and the Member's spouse may sticker that boat at the discretion of Association staff.

14. Owners or immediate family shall be with the watercraft while in operation. Violation of this rule is subject to the trespassing laws of this state.

15. All vessels parked on access areas along the shore will be left at least one boat length from other boats. Overnight boat parking on Association boat docks is prohibited. No watercraft shall be parked on any lake access longer than a 24-hour period. No permanent parking of watercraft is allowed on any access area.

16. No boats will be allowed to park in front of the Clubhouse or in front of the sand beach. No property owner can park his/her boat on a privately owned lakefront lot unless he/she has permission from that owner.

17. The exhaust of every internal combustion engine used on any motorboat shall be effectively muffled in a reasonable manner. The use of cut outs or any similar noise-making devices or unrestricted above water exhaust is prohibited.

18. All Nebraska and Coast Guard boating regulations shall be enforced.

19. All Required Equipment as stated in the Nebraska Boating Guide, shall be enforced by Beaver Lake/County Sheriff Law Enforcement.

20. Size limits effective December 1, 2017, excluding swim platforms at the rear of the boat, will include a maximum weight of under 8800 lbs. Boats previously registered that correctly meet the length limits but exceed the weight limits prior to December 2017 will be grandfathered under the current ownership.

- a. Pontoon Boats - 28'
- b. Power Boats - 22'
- c. Sailboats - 24'
- d. Swim Platforms – 8' by 10'

21. Boat weight is based on manufacturer specifications for hull dry weight plus maximum water ballast weight plus person/gear maximum weight. Only inboard drive and forward drive vessels manufactured to support wake surfing activity will be allowed to be issued a wake surfing sticker to conduct the activity. Outboard or stern drive vessels or vessels that have been modified to add weight that would cause the boat to exceed the boats manufacturer's maximum capacity, designed to increase a boats ability to create a larger wave are prohibited. All vessels will be subject to inspection. Boat lengths will be determined by manufacturer specifications. If manufacturer specifications can't be obtained, then the boat length will be determined by measuring from bow tip to the transom at the point farthest from the bow. Boat length does not include the swim platform whether it is separately attached or molded into the boat. For boats with molded platforms, the boat length will be determined by manufacturer specifications or if not available as follows:

- a. Measure the underneath side of the swim platform at the center of the boat from the stern edge of the swim platform to the transom.
- b. Subtract this measurement from the overall boat length, as determined by measuring the distance from the bow tip, excluding superstructure, to the same point on the stern edge of the swim platform used in step 1.
- c. The result is the boat length from the bow to transom.

22. Houseboats, defined as any pontoon or flat-bottomed boat with sides enclosed for the purpose of providing sleeping quarters, are not allowed on Beaver Lake.

23. Speeds exceeding 5 mph/ wake speed are illegal at all times in or within 90 Feet (30 yards) of any vessel, harbor, marina, landing pier, fishing pier, anchorage or bathing beach.

24. The Beaver Lake Security Chief has the authority to allow members to launch and test un-owned watercraft for 30 minutes providing the boat is in compliance with State and Local watercraft regulations, passes an invasive species inspection, and the member follows all Beaver Lake safety rules. The requestor should contact the Managing Director or Beaver Lake Security, in advance, to set up a time for the test.

25. Flying water sport products that are advertised to fly or leave the water for an extended period of time or gain excessive height above the water, whether pulled or not pulled by a boat, such as kite tubes, flying rafts, parasails, etc., are prohibited.

26. Only Beaver Lake Association staff has the authority to allow contractors to launch vessels on the lake. All vessels must be in compliance with state and local watercraft regulations, follow Beaver Lake safety rules, and must pass an invasive species inspection each time they enter the lake.

## LAKE LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. Law Enforcement personnel boat patrol has the authority to stop unsafe acts and take necessary actions with violators.
2. Any person or persons driving a boat in a reckless manner that may endanger life, limb, or property, will be cited for careless driving by Lake Law Enforcement.
3. Operating a vessel with a blood alcohol content of .08% or greater constitutes Boating Under the Influence (BUI) and carries a penalty of up to \$1,000 fine, up to six (6) months in jail, and the loss of boating privileges for six (6) months. Refusal to submit to a chemical blood alcohol test will result in the same penalties as BUI.
4. Personal watercraft cannot, under any circumstances, be operated between sunset and sunrise.
5. Operation of vessels is prohibited within any area marked off or set aside as a prohibited area.

## WATER TOWING OR RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. All persons being towed for water related activities shall wear a life jacket at all times.
2. Water skiing is not permitted between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise. See section V.C.4 for further clarification. Speed is limited to 5 mph / no wake when the yellow strobe light at the east end of the beach at the clubhouse is illuminated.
  - a. With the exception of Wake Surfing, water towing or related activities are not permitted between ½ hour after sunset and ½ hour before sunrise.
  - b. Wake Surfing is only permitted from 9:30 AM to ½ hour after sunset.
3. All skiing, wake surfing, and other towed water related activities will stop when lightning is close.
4. When skiing with two skis and one is dropped, the ski should be dropped away from the wind. This precaution helps other boaters and skiers from falling over skis or running over them with their boats.
5. Skiers or other persons being towed for related activities must remain a safe distance of at least twice the length of the tow rope from the shoreline, docks, hazards, and people in the water.
6. Wake Surfing activity must occur to the right of center of the lake while leaving room on the vessel's left for faster vessels to pass. Wake Surfing shall occur a minimum of 200 feet from shore. Wake Surfing turns must occur a minimum of 90 feet prior to the West Cove (R) buoys and 90 feet prior to the Spill Way/Dam buoys to allow other vessels safe navigation out from those no wake areas. Wake Surfing is prohibited in all coves. Directions for wake surfing are East/West only.
7. All vessels, when pulling a person on skis, surfboards, or similar devices and not equipped with a wide-angle rearview mirror must have a responsible person, 12 years or older, as an observer in the vessel with the operator.
8. Every vessel including any buoyant device capable of being used as a means of transportation on water shall carry one U.S. Coast Guard-approved, Type I, II, III or V Life Preserver for each person on board. All such devices shall be in good condition and be so placed as to be readily accessible.
9. Orange Flag: Whenever a water skier, surfboarder, or any person engaged in a similar activity or associated equipment is down in the water, the operator or observer of the tow boat must display a hunter orange flag of a size not less than 12 inches square or at least 144 square inches. This flag must be visible 360 degrees.
10. All Nebraska and Coast Guard boating regulations shall be strictly enforced.

## FISHING

1. Fishing in Beaver Lake is restricted to property owners in good standing and their guests. Guests, who are fishing, shall be accompanied at all times by a property owner in good standing.
2. All fishermen at Beaver Lake must have a state fishing license if they are 16 years of age or older.
3. Fishing on Beaver Lake is governed by all state laws.
4. Seining of fish is not permitted on Beaver Lake.
5. Nebraska law governs the catch size and quantity legally allowed for each fish species. In addition, Beaver Lake specific rules may further restrict legal limits and will be posted on signage at the clubhouse, boat ramp, and several access lots. All fish smaller/larger than the legal sizes set forth shall be returned to the water immediately with as little injury as possible. Beaver Lake sanctioned "Catch and Release" tournaments will follow current statewide fishing regulations. Please note these restrictions may change year to year, so always check to make sure you know the rules.
6. Fishermen shall not leave dead fish remains in the lake or on the shore nor shall anyone dispose of unused bait in Beaver Lake.
7. There shall be no fishing from the swim beach in front of the Clubhouse.
8. Ice Shacks used for fishing and must be: 1) approved by the Office Manager for periods longer than 24 hours; 2) marked with the owner's lot number using 2" letters placed so they are visible from the shore; and 3) removed from the ice prior to the Spring thaw.
9. Beaver Lake Association employees have the authority to inspect all fish in members and guest's possession to ensure compliance with association guidelines (see Section V, F. 5). Possession of fish that violate the rules may result in a fine. See liquidated damage schedule #206.
10. Fishing rods and reels used in Beaver Lake must be personally attended to at all times. Unattended fishing rods and reels from docks or land any time of day or night are prohibited. This is a safety issue for all that use Beaver Lake.

## DISCLAIMER

Any activity on the ice is not recommended by the Beaver Lake Association due to danger caused by bubblers, underground springs, and other associated unknowns. All such activity will be at the individuals' own risk.

## Required Equipment for Your Vessel

### Boat

1. One(1) life jacket for every person on board.
2. One oar.
3. One fire extinguisher.
4. Mechanical sounding device.
5. Boat registration.

### Jet Ski

1. Boat registration.
2. Life jacket must be on while the vessel is in motion.
3. Whistle must be accessible to operator.