

**LAKE OF THE PINES ASSOCIATION  
RULES & REGULATIONS**



**Lake (SR-01)**

**SECTION I. LAKE RULES ENFORCEMENT**

1. These rules will be enforced by LOP Public Safety Department using beach patrols, boat patrols, normal vehicular patrols, and any other means deemed appropriate. State and county peace officers will enforce state and county law. LOP Public Safety may forward citations to Nevada County authorities as appropriate.
2. As stated above, failure to comply with these rules and regulations may result in citations, fines, and forfeiture of LOP lake privileges.
3. For violations of the boating and/or fishing rules and regulations and for safety considerations or obnoxious behavior, boat patrol officers are authorized to direct the removal of a boat and people from the lake for the day, or longer.

**SECTION II. BOAT USAGE**

1. **General**
  - a. Contact Public Safety before purchasing a boat or an outboard engine.
  - b. California Boating Laws, unless otherwise regulated by Nevada County Ordinance or applicable Rules and Regulations lawfully adopted by Lake of the Pines Association, apply to all boats operating within Lake of the Pines (LOP).
  - c. United States Coast Guard (USCG) approved personal flotation devices (PFD) of the proper type and size is required for all personnel on board. Persons transported by watercraft that are in the water and persons being towed are considered to be persons on board.
  - d. No boat may be loaded beyond its rated capacity of people or weight.
  - e. All boats shall observe all Inland Navigation Rules, particularly those pertaining to rights-of-way of sailboats over powerboats.
  - f. When operating outside of the 5 mph (flat wake) areas, all powerboats shall proceed in a counterclockwise pattern around the main lake, keeping the nearest shoreline to the right (starboard) side of their boat.

- g. To minimize shoreline waves, powerboats exceeding the 5 mph (flat wake), shall stay as close to the center of the lake as safety permits.
- h. Boat owners are responsible for the operation of their boats and the wakes they create regardless of who may be operating the boat.
- i. No person shall operate any boat or manipulate any water skis, inflatable or towed device in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person.
- j. Operators of powerboats with more than 15 horsepower, within the waters of Lake of the Pines, must be at least 16 years of age, however, operators may be 12-15 years of age if they are accompanied and closely supervised by a person on board who is at least 18 years of age.
- k. No refuse or sewage may be dumped on the banks or in the lakes or ponds.
- l. No overnight mooring is permitted at any LOP Association property or docks. Boats moored at the launching ramp dock may not be left unattended or moored for more than 15 minutes. No boat may be moored at any other LOP dock in excess of two hours during any 24-hour period.
- m. Boats shall not be tied or moored to LOP buoys.
- n. Boats carried on trailers shall be launched only at the launch ramp in Southshore Park (4). Boats and/or boat trailers shall not be parked overnight in Southshore Park (4) without administrative approval.
- o. Boats are not permitted in the designated swimming areas. Power boats shall only be beached at the designated area at the main beach.
- p. The main lake is closed to all boating when the red flag is flying at Clubhouse Point and/or Southshore Park (4).
- q. All accidents shall be reported immediately to LOP Public Safety, in addition to any reports required by state law.
- r. From sunrise to sunset, inflatable, floating trampolines and other similar water toys may be anchored and used only within 50-feet of the shoreline on the main lake, Hazel Lake and Huck Finn Pond.

- s. From sunset to sunrise, all unoccupied boats and watercraft (including floating trampolines and other water toys) on the main lake, Hazel Lake and Huck Finn Pond must either be brought ashore or moored to the side of a dock so as not to extend into the lake.
- t. No music can be played from any boat, inflatable, or any other device which is on an LOP Lake or pond which is violation of CC&R's Article VIII Section 7, Prohibition of Noxious Activities.

2. **Boating Fine Schedule**

- a. Members are to refer to the current Schedule of Fines for the dollar amount of the boating fines. In these Lake of the Pines Association Rules & Regulations, the fine level is listed in parentheses after the definition of each rule/regulation. Violation of any of these Rules and Regulations will result in a citation and/or a fine.
- b. Along with citations and/or fines, all boating and/or fishing violations carry with it possible expulsion from, and prohibition of, the use of the lake for a temporary or specific time, even permanently. Repeat violations are subject to increased fines.

3. **Registration**

- a. All watercraft in any LOP lake, pond or on a boat lift and flotation devices used for fishing shall be member/tenant owned and registered annually unless special written permission is obtained from LOP Public Safety.
- b. Boats may be sold and transferred between LOP members or tenants. If the boat purchased bears a current LOP decal, the decal can be transferred to the buyer for the remainder of that decal season by paying a \$10.00 transfer fee. LOP Administration must be notified within five working days of such sale. At the beginning of the next decal season, the full registration fee is due. There will be no refunds or proration granted on boat decals transferred under this section.
- c. All boats to be registered by the new owner(s) of the boat must meet current LOP registration requirements.
- d. Registration is accomplished by presenting the following documents at the Association Office:
  - i) Proof of ownership. Current DMV vessel registration form in members name is required for boats requiring state CF numbers.
  - ii) Proof of current liability insurance.

- iii) LOP boat inspection form (see e below) signed by LOP Public Safety Officer. This form includes a statement signed by the boat owner agreeing to allow a Public Safety Officer to board their boat to investigate suspected infractions of LOP rules and regulations and California Boating Laws. This form remains on file as long as the boat is registered annually by the same owner.
  - iv) LOP boat registration form. This form is obtained at the Administration Office and contains an agreement signed by the boat owner to read, abide by, and comply with applicable state, county and Association rules and regulations relating to operation of boats on the lake.
- e. LOP Public Safety inspection will check the following:
- i) **Maximum** allowable length measurements. No boat may be modified in any way, or at any place where the sole purpose is to shorten the overall length.
 

(1) Sailboats; measured bow to stern	24'11"
(2) Pontoon Boats; overall length	24' 11"
(3) American/USA Water Ski Association style mid-engine boats; measured bow to stern (excluding detachable swim platforms).	20' 6"
(4) All other power boats; measured bow to stern. (excluding detachable swim platforms).	18' 6"
  - ii) Type of exhaust system. (See Section II, 5, a & b)
  - iii) Safety equipment check list. Items to be checked if applicable: PFD for each person; properly charged fire extinguisher; functional horn; fuel tank gas cap; and blower (if installed).
  - iv) All powerboats with a Cuddy cabin or passenger area below deck are prohibited. This does not apply to approved sailboats.
  - v) All wake enhancement devices, boat hulls designed for producing wake enhancement, and technology are prohibited, even if disabled, and cannot be on a boat at any time while on LOP water. (also see Sec IV #2)
  - vi) Only two-stroke, direct-fuel-injection (DFI) and four-stroke outboard engines may be registered new (first time) in LOP. New, first time registration in LOP of two-stroke, non-direct-fuel-injection (NDFI) or two-stroke, electronic-fuel-injection (EFI) outboard engines are prohibited.
- f. After completion of d) and e) above and payment of the registration fee, LOP annual decals will be issued. These decals must be permanently placed on the port and starboard side (left and right side) of the boat near the stern (back) before the boat is put in the water. The bow (front end) of the boat is reserved for state registration numbers where required. Wind surfer decals are placed on the port and starboard sides of the board near the stern. Fishing floats and fishing tubes decals shall be permanently attached by putting them directly on the boat surface.

(If a member has an issue attaching the sticker, contact the association for alternative secure attachment method.) LOP decals must be positioned above the water line so they can be easily seen by safety patrol when the boat is on the water. Expired LOP decals must be removed or covered, so only current LOP sticker is visible, so easy identification of current decals can be made.

- g. At registration, in addition to the decals, each boat owner/registrant will be provided a copy of the ABCs of the California Boating Law and a copy of the current LOP Lake Rules and Regulations and the County of Nevada Codes.
- h. Registration fees, established annually by the LOP Board of Directors, are due April 1 and expire March 31 of the following year. Prorating of fees will be granted only when the boat in question has been newly purchased by the member or the member has never previously registered the boat within LOP. Separate fees are established for each of the following classes:
  - i) All boats powered by an engine or motor 100 HP or greater.
  - ii) All boats powered by an engine or motor 26-99 HP.
  - iii) All boats powered by an engine or motor 25 HP or less.
  - iv) Sailboats with CF numbers.
  - v) The following watercraft not required to have CF numbers must pay an annual non transferable LOP registration fee:  
Fishing floats, fishing tubes, pedal boats, rigid kayaks, windsurfers, water bikes, sailboats, canoes, rowboats and sculling boats.
  - vi) All other water toys and towed inflatables do not require registration or decals.
- i. The only watercraft allowed on the lake, unless a variance is granted, are commercially manufactured watercraft intended for pleasure use only.

Examples of watercraft that are permitted include ski boats, fishing boats, pontoon boats, kayaks, canoes, sailboats, catamarans, windsurfers, windsurfer boards, water bikes, fishing float tubes, pedal boats, stand up paddle boards, and certain rafts (“life-rafts” and various inflatable or solid foam devices).

Examples of watercraft that are not permitted include barges (large, flat-bottomed boats for carrying heavy freight), and wooden raft-like platforms, and are not limited to these examples.

If a watercraft is brought before the Public Safety Department for registration on the lake, and it is unique in that no other watercraft of its kind is currently registered on the lake, the watercraft must undergo special review by the lake committee.

4. **Speed Regulations**

Clock time will take precedence over flags in determining speed limits on the lake. Flags are used only as a visual aid for lake speed regulations and are secondary to time clock **UNLESS A RED FLAG IS POSTED**. Boat speeds listed below are maximum speeds and apply only when safety conditions allow such performance. Reckless or negligent speeding near towed, slower or capsized boats, skiers or swimmers will NOT be tolerated and will result in a citation.

- a. From 7 a.m. to local area sunset when **QUIET TIME**, (defined in e below) is **NOT IN EFFECT**, the maximum speed on the lake outside the 5 mph (flat wake) buoys is 35 mph.
- b. From local area sunset to 7 a.m., the maximum speed anywhere on the lake is 5 mph (flat wake.)
- c. When the **YELLOW FLAG** is flying at Clubhouse Point and/or Southshore Park (4), the maximum speed anywhere on the lake is 5 mph (flat wake.)
- d. When the **RED FLAG** is flying at Clubhouse Point and/or Southshore Park (4), no boats are allowed on the lake.
- e. **QUIET TIME**, defined as 5 mph (flat wake) anywhere on the lake, is a set of hours in effect from May 1 through September 30. **Quiet time** is scheduled on Sundays and holidays (Mon.-Fri.) from noon to 2 p.m., and on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 5 p.m. until sunset. If a holiday falls on Wednesday, **quiet time** is from noon to 2 p.m. On occasion, **quiet time** will also be enforced on the western end of the lake (at the narrows) during special events, such as 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Music on the Lake, sailing regattas, etc.

5. **Engine Noise**

- a. All power boats operated in LOP shall be muffled or otherwise prevented from exceeding a noise level of 82 DB as measured by LOP Public Safety or their agent.
- b. Over-the-transom exhaust systems are prohibited.

### SECTION III. TOWING SPORTS

Towing sports include, but are not limited to: water-skiing, wake-boarding, knee-boarding, air-chairing, trick skiing, and towing of inflatable devices.

1. Towing sports faster than 5 mph are permitted only when the 35 mph speed limit specified above is in effect. All boats towing persons on devices must follow the prescribed counterclockwise pattern. Cutting across the lake while towing any person is prohibited.
2. Boats engaged in towing sports cannot come closer than ten feet from any buoy, except on the slalom course.
3. Boats engaged in towing sports must carry an observer of at least 12 years of age in addition to the boat operator. The observer must be in a position to keep the person being towed in constant view and must signal a fall or drop off by raising a red/orange flag of 12" by 12" minimum size and keeping it raised until a person is either back up on the device or back in the boat. The flag must be raised any time a person is down in the water and/or the tow rope is in the water.
4. Participants must be wearing a PFD while being towed. Under state law, it is an infraction, punishable by a fine of up to \$250, to operate a vessel that is 26 feet or less in length unless every child under 12 years of age on board is wearing a Type I, II, or IV U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD (life jacket). The law does not apply to a sailboat on which every child under age 12 is restrained by a harness tethered to the sailboat, OR the operation of a vessel on which every child under age 12 is in an enclosed cabin.
5. Boats may tow a maximum of two persons at a time when conditions are safe to do so. Tow lines for participants must not exceed 75 ft.
6. Kicking off skis and leaving in water for later pickup is prohibited.
7. When engaged in towing sports, the boat operator shall stay as close to the center of the lake as safe boat operating practices will permit.
8. Persons being towed are not to cut close to other boats, throw spray or otherwise create a nuisance to others on the main lake.
9. Towing of persons on any device behind pontoon boats is restricted to not greater than 5 MPH and must stay within the 5 MPH buoys except during quiet time.

10. Any boat engaged in a towing sport is expressly prohibited from erratic driving which includes, but is not limited to, weaving back and forth, S-turns, zigzagging, making unnecessary 180 and 360-degree turns and unnecessary rapid accelerating and decelerating. Towing anything or anyone in an unsafe or reckless manner will be subject to citation.

#### SECTION IV. RESTRICTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS

1. **Minimize Wake:** All boats being used on LOP waters must be operated in a manner to minimize the size of the wake produced by the boat. With the exception of pontoon boats and those boats traveling less than 5 mph, all power boat operators shall operate at planing speeds unless they are towing persons on devices that require a slower speed. Boats creating large wakes shall stay as close to the center of the lake as safety permits. When a person being towed falls, the boat operator shall slow before turning and then make the turn-around at a slow speed so as to minimize his wake. Obviously, safety is a concern, and the boat operator should return immediately to the fallen person(s) if they are injured or are in an unsafe position. But, anything a boat operator can do to minimize wake size is required. All boats that produce an excessive wake may be cited.
2. **Wake Enhancement:** The use of devices, equipment or placement of passengers on boats for the purpose of creating an enlarged wake is prohibited and will NOT be allowed on any boat in Lake of the Pines. All passengers in a boat must be sitting in a legal seat while underway. Such devices and equipment include, but are not limited to: exterior panels or wings deployed underwater; rubberized, plastic or metal tanks, chests or bags filled with any material; crowding of passengers to the rear; inside-the-hull water tanks; or boat hulls designed specifically to enhance the wake. **Boats with any type of manufacturer-installed and/or after-market wake enhancement device and/or capability will not be registered at LOP. Disabling such equipment is too difficult to monitor and inconsistent with the community's desire to minimize wake and wave action if known wake-enhancing models are allowed on the lake. Contact the Public Safety Manager before purchasing a boat.** Additionally, the operator of an outboard or I/O drive boat must keep the out-drive down to optimally trim the boat to minimize the size of the boat's wake at all times.
3. Wake surfing is prohibited and is defined as any activity behind a power boat where the participant may or may not be using a tow line and is using a surfboard or similar board to surf the waves or wake behind a boat.
4. Boaters may conduct towing practices/maneuvers that do not conform specifically with the boating rules and pose no hazard to themselves or to others (e.g. skiing both ways in the slalom course, air chair skidders). However, such boaters must resume a normal counterclockwise direction around the lake when other moving boats enter the lake beyond the 5-mph buoys. All turnarounds must be made in the center of the lake to minimize wakes/waves.

5. All jet driven boats, jet skis, , hovercraft, air boats, surf jets, or any similarly designed craft are prohibited on any lake or pond in LOP. Exception is made for those jet driven boats registered during or before 1993 until point of sale. The Patrol Boat or any other boat expressly approved by Public Safety or General Manager is exempt.
6. Parasails, kites, gliders, and all airborne devices towed by a boat are prohibited on any lake or pond in LOP.
7. Power boats are prohibited from operating on Hazel Lake and Huck Finn Pond.
8. The boat driver is responsible at all times to make sure that the person(s) or any device being towed does not strike, injure, or hinder any other boat, skier, tow, swimmer, or anyone else utilizing the lake.
9. The landing of passenger aircraft on the main lake is prohibited except in case of an emergency.
10. Cutting across the lake is permitted when no skier, towed device or fishing lines are behind the boat. Such action should not interfere with an approaching boat nor cause it to take evasive action.
11. Boats towing persons on devices shall not exceed 5 mph within the 5 mph (flat wake) zone.
12. Public Safety may, for safety concerns, redirect human powered craft away from the main body of the lake to the 5 mph (flat wake) areas.
13. Relocating or moving LOP lake buoys is prohibited.
14. Sunset to sunrise, all watercraft operating on the lake are required to reduce speed to 5 mph and display proper navigation lights for their boat type showing their underway or anchored condition as required by California law. Docking lights or 'headlights' are not navigation lights. Their use hinders the night vision of other boaters and are to be used only when docking and undocking.
15. Riding on the bow, gunwale, or transom of a boat under way, propelled by machinery, when such position is not protected by railing or other reasonable deterrent to falling overboard or riding in a position or manner which is obviously dangerous, is prohibited. These provisions shall not apply to a boats crew in the act of anchoring, mooring or making fast to a dock or another boat, or in the necessary management of a sail.

16. Sitting on or being dragged while holding onto a swim platform while the engine is running is prohibited for several safety reasons including the potential for carbon monoxide inhalation. This does not affect the act of mounting or dismounting during skiing activities.

## **SECTION V. SPORT FISHING**

1. A float-tube is defined as any fishing tube or other device from which a person is fishing, including but not limited to rafts, inner tubes, pontoon type portable boats, or any similar devices.
2. The planting / stocking of fish, other aquatic animals, or plants in LOP waters is prohibited unless approved in writing by the Board of Directors and General Manager.
3. All LOP waters (main lake, Hazel Lake, Huck Finn Pond, entrance pond) are open to sport fishing all year, day and night.
4. Youths under 16 must abide by minimum size and possession (bag) limits established for licensed anglers.
5. All fishing laws and regulations of the State of California apply to all LOP waters and anglers. State Fish and Game Wardens are authorized to enforce all such laws/rules in LOP waters.
6. When boats towing persons on devices are in the 35 mph area of the lake, fishing is restricted to the 5 mph (flat wake) areas.
7. Sunset to sunrise, fishing boats must display an anchor light or navigation lights as required by California law.
8. Minimum size limits and daily possession (bag) limits per angler are:
  - a. Bass (largemouth, smallmouth, redeye): 14 inches or longer; bag limit 2.
  - b. Catfish and bullheads: No size limit; bag limit 10.
  - c. Pan fish (redecor sunfish, bluegill, black crappie, green sunfish); no size limit; bag limit 10 in aggregate.
9. The following are prohibited:
  - a. Use of live fin-fish (minnows) for bait.
  - b. Spear fishing.
  - c. Fishing from Association beaches or swimming areas.
  - d. Fishing from private lakefront lots and docks without permission from the owner.

10. Anglers are encouraged to practice catch-and-release fishing all year for bass. Anglers are also urged to not catch large numbers of bass or redear sunfish on their spawning beds from April through June.
11. The main lake is closed to all fishing when the **RED FLAG** is flying from the pole on the Clubhouse Point and/or Southshore Park (4).
12. Non-member/guest anglers must be accompanied by their sponsoring LOP member. Unaccompanied violators will be asked to leave and the sponsoring member cited.

### **SECTION VI. SWIMMING**

1. Swimming areas at parks and the main beach, that are off limits to boats, are identified by a buoyed, float-line. Swimming, at the swimmers risk, is permitted outside of the swim float-lines, but inside the 5 mph (flat wake) zone. Foul language and, glassware are not permitted on any association beach.
2. The following are prohibited at all times on any Association platform or dock: Pushing, wrestling, horseplay, foul language, diving, jumping or swimming in the area.
3. Swimmers and those using flotation devices (inner tubes, air mattresses, etc.) are not permitted outside the 5 mph (flat wake) zone except during quiet time and authorized events. Swimmers, outside the 5 mph (flat wake) zone during quiet time must be accompanied by a visible flotation device which is at least 12” in height and no more than ten feet away.
4. Organized swimming events, including the swim event of a triathlon shall have sufficient boats involved to protect and aid swimmers.
5. Scuba diving is prohibited except as approved by the General Manager or a designated representative.
6. The lake is closed to swimming when the **RED FLAG** is flying from the pole on Clubhouse Point and/or Southshore Park (4).
7. Swimmers may not hang, lie or stand on swim float-lines at any beach.
8. Swimmers shall not climb upon or swim under the log-boom at the main beach.