

# Summary of Joint Uniform Lake Law Ordinances For Geneva Lake, Wisconsin

The following Ordinances are IN ADDITION to Wisconsin State Laws

## **Speed Limits:**

- ◆ 45 mph on weekdays (Monday through noon on Fridays)
- ◆ 35 mph on weekends and holidays (noon Friday through Sunday)
- ◆ 35 mph on all Holidays
- ◆ 15 mph at night (sunset to sunrise)

## **Swimming From Boats:**

1. Swimming from boats is allowed only if the boat is anchored or manned by a competent observer.
2. Swimmers must remain within 50 feet of the boat at all times.
3. No swimming in the traffic lane unless the boat is manned by a competent observer.
4. No swimming in the traffic lane during nighttime hours.

## **Waterskiing/Wakeboarding/Tubing:**

1. Any person being towed on waterskis, wakeboards, tubes, etc. must WEAR a U.S. Coast Guard-Approved PFD (lifejacket).
2. Boats towing wateskiers, wakeboarders, tubers, etc. must have a competent observer on board the boat. Minimum of 3 people; Skier, driver, observer.

## **SCUBA Diving:**

1. SCUBA divers must register with the Water Safety Patrol prior to diving (one-time registration, free of charge).
2. SCUBA divers must dive from an anchored boat, and that boat must be manned by a competent person, and have a diver's flag (red/white) displayed from the boat.
3. Minimum of 2 divers down.
4. No SCUBA diving in Geneva Bay, Williams Bay, or Fontana Bay from May 20th through Sept. 15th.
5. No SCUBA diving at night (sunset to sunrise).

## **Shooting of Projectiles:**

Shooting of projectiles such as water balloons, fireworks, etc. in the direction of people, watercraft or property is prohibited.

## **Negligent Operation:**

No person may operate or use any boat, or manipulate any water skis, aquaplane or similar device upon the waters of Geneva Lake in a careless, negligent or reckless manner so as to endanger that person's life, property or person, or the life, property or person of another.

## **For Your Safety...Please Follow the Rules of the Water**

### **Most Common Boating Violations:**

- ◆ Failure to provide adequate number of PFD's. Most motorboats are required to have on board at least one wearable PFD for each occupant, plus one throwable PFD (All must be U.S. Coast Guard-approved, and must be readily accessible at all times.
- ◆ Operating a boat without valid registration, or expired registration decal.
- ◆ Excessive speed in Slow-No-Wake zone or other controlled area.
- ◆ Operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- ◆ Operating a boat at night without the required lights.
- ◆ Operating within 100 feet of a dock, raft, or pier in excess of SNW speed.
- ◆ Towing a skier, wakeboarder or tuber without an observer.
- ◆ Riding on gunwales (sides) or bow of boat (without adequate railings)
- ◆ Operating a boat in a marked Swim Area.

### **Wisconsin Personal Watercraft (PWC) Laws:**

- ◆ PWC's are not allowed to operate at night (sunset to sunrise).
- ◆ All occupants on a PWC must be WEARING a U.S. Coast Guard-approved PFD.
- ◆ May not operate a PWC without the lanyard device attached to the operator.
- ◆ No person under the age of 12 may operate a PWC. Persons at least 12 but born after Jan. 1, 1987 must be in possession of a valid Boat Safety Certificate.
- ◆ To tow a skier, tuber, etc., the PWC must be designed for at least 3 people.
- ◆ PWC may tow another boat only if travelling below SNW speed.
- ◆ PWC's may not operate within 100 feet of another vessel if:
  1. Going faster than SNW speed.
  2. Involved in waterskiing or wakeboarding/tubing, etc.
- ◆ PWC's may not operate within 100 feet of a boat towing a skier/tuber, etc., or within 100 feet of a skier/tuber, etc., or the tow rope of another boat.
- ◆ Boats or PWC's towing skiers, tubers, etc. may not operate within 100 feet of any anchored occupied boat, any PWC, marked Swim Area, or public boat landing.
- ◆ Skiers, tubers, etc. may not get within 100 feet of any PWC or allow the tow rope to get within 100 feet of any PWC.

**Please note: This is NOT a complete set of boating laws and local ordinances. For a complete listing, please contact the Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency, or the Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol.**