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Powerboat Operation – New Requirements under Brianna’s Law: Persons born on or after January 1, 1993 must have successfully completed a New York State approved / NASBLA, Power Squadron, or Coast Guard Safe Boating Course in order to operate a mechanically propelled vessel. Please refer to the NYS Boaters Guide. Certificates or a NYS driver’s license with the “anchor” symbol must be in the operator’s possession (on the boat).

Personal Watercraft: Operators must be at least 14 years old. Operators of all ages are required to have passed one of the NYS approved safe boating courses. Certificates must be in the operator’s possession.

Maximum Speed and noise Limits

- 45 mph during daylight hours, 25 mph after sunset until sunrise *and times of reduced visibility*
- Maximum 90 decibels stationary, 75 decibels underway (mufflers must remain in place)
- 5 mph within 200 ft of shore, docks, floats or anchored boats (except when pulling up or dropping off a water skier)
- In times of high or low water, be alert to additional restrictions announced by the Sheriffs
- organized events that desire exceptions to NYS laws must apply for a Marine Regatta permit, see <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/documents/RegattaPermitApplication.pdf>

Bow Riding is not permitted; passengers must be seated within the vessel, not on the gunwale, motor hatch or stern while underway.

Children under 12 on board a vessel under 26 feet must wear an appropriately sized Type I, II or III USCG Approved life jacket while boat is underway. (Type III & V inflatable Life Jackets not approved under 16)
Water Skiing

- Tow boat must have an observer at least ten years of age, in addition to the operator
- Skier must wear an approved Life Jacket designed for water sports – not an inflatable life jacket
- Water Skiing is prohibited between sunset and sunrise *and times of reduced visibility*.

All boats must stay 100 feet from “diver down” flags, these are the Alpha Flag (blue pennant with white stripe at base) and the Diver Flag (red rectangle with white diagonal stripe).

Boating Equipment	Motor Boat	PWC	Sailboats under 23 ft & Manually powered vessels
Life Jackets	One per person	One per person	One per person (incl. paddle craft ¹)
Throw able Device	Type IV ²	NR	Type IV ²
Fire Extinguisher(s) – B1	All	Federal Rules Require	NR
Visual Distress Signals	<i>(see Boaters Guide, page 23)</i>		
Nighttime – 3 Red Flares*	16 ft & up (under 16’ – night only)	NR ³	Sailboats from Sunset to Sunrise (not req’d on manually powered vessels)
*The Sirius Signal SOS distress light is approved by the US Coast Guard and NYS in place of flares.			
Daytime - Distress Flag	Day Only	Required	NR
Anchor	All	NR	NR
Horn/Bell/Whistle-Mechanical	39 ft & Over	NR	NR
Whistle or Horn - Mouth	Under 39 ft	All	NR (whistle req. on paddle craft)
Navigation Lights	Bow & Stern	NR ³	White lantern ⁴

NOTES (“NR” = Not Required)

- 1 Paddle Craft include canoes, kayaks, stand up paddle boards and pedal boats.
- 2 All boats 16 ft & longer (except canoes and kayaks) require a buoyancy cushion or other throw able device.
- 3 PWC operation is not permitted from sunset to sunrise and during times of reduced visibility.
- 4 Sailboats under power must exhibit navigation lights required of a motor boat.

THE COLD WATER LAW requires all occupants of a vessel 21’ or less to wear a Life Jacket from Nov. 1 to May 1 while underway – if the vessel is not tied to the dock, it is “underway”.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF EXPIRATION DATES ON FLARES AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Additional Suggested Equipment: First Aid Kit, Bailer, Boat Hook, Paddle, Compass, Marine Radio