



Policy on Safe and Courteous Watercraft Operation

Developed July 01, 2020.



This policy is to communicate Common Courtesy and Consideration when operating Boats and PWC at Kipabiskau Regional Park. It is not intended to replace the Transportation Canada Guide.

Most complaints to law enforcement officials regarding the operation of Boats or Personal Watercrafts (PWCs) fall into the following categories. Avoid these breaches of common courtesy and consideration.

Large Wake Courtesy: With the popularity of wakesurfing, boats have been designed to produce the largest wake possible. Not only do these wakes cause damage to shorelines, they are dangerous and annoying for other boats on the water. Please refrain from surfing within 200 ft of the cabins, preferably operating on the far side (south side) of the lake while maintaining a safe distance from other boats to ensure you are not interfering with their activities and/or dangerously swamping their boat.

Personal Watercraft (PWC) Courtesy: Be aware that these machines are quite noisy and annoying to lake users. Please refrain from driving in circles in the same location all the time. Vary your operating area and avoid repeating the same maneuver consecutively. Excessive use in one area can be an irritant to people who are there to enjoy a quiet and relaxing time. Avoid maneuvers that cause the engine exhaust to lift out of the water because that increases noise levels. Do not attempt to spray others with the wake of your PWC. Not only is this discourteous, but it is also dangerous and reckless operation. **It is recommended that PWC's operate on south shore of lake or in areas with no cabins or fishers.**

General Courtesy: Share the waterways responsibly with other lake users including boaters, fishers, swimmers, paddlers, surfers, wakeboarders, or skiers. **Respect everyone's right to enjoy our waterways safely.**

Wake Jumping: This is not only irritating to boaters attempting to be watchful and maneuver in heavily congested areas, but it is extremely dangerous. In one case, a wake-jumper got tangled up in the props of a cabin cruiser and was killed. It is especially dangerous when the boat is being used for a towed water sport, i.e. skiing, wakesurfing, tubing, etc. The rider may fall without notice and is in danger of being injured by the trailing vessel. **Never jump the wake of a boat that is towing someone.**

Cutting in Front of Other Boats: It is extremely dangerous to cut in front of another boat that is traveling at high speeds with or without towing a skier or tube behind. The fish are still going to be there a few seconds later, slow down, wait for the boat to pass, and go behind them to get to your destination.

Buoys: The buoys at Kipabiskau denote a "No Boat Zone" to provide a relatively safe area for swimmers in front of cabins and for boats to safely leave or approach a dock. **There should be no trolling or other boating activity inside the buoys.**

No Wake Zones: Kipabiskau Park is considering making the area in front of the boat launch, store, and main beach a "no wake zone" as multiple boats are in the area trying maneuver safely. (No wake means the slowest possible speed your boat will go and still provide maneuverability.) Even though some vessels do not have large wakes, fast moving PWC's and boats can collide in these highly congested areas. **Everyone is required to slow down and move at a very slow rate of speed to reduce or eliminate the wave of their vessels.**

High Speeds Close to Shore or Other Boats: Transportation Canada requires 100-200 feet of separation between boats and the shoreline when moving at more than no-wake speeds. Please stay outside of the buoy's along shoreline and provide a respectful distance between yourself and other lake users whenever possible.

Policy based on Transport Canada (TC) "Safe Boat Operating Guide"

<https://www.tc.gc.ca/media/documents/marinesafety/TP-511e.pdf>



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Shoreline Speed Restrictions: Saskatchewan has an unposted speed limit of 10km/h (6 mph) within 30 meters (100 ft) from shore. This limit applies on all waters within the province except where other limits are posted.

Noise: Noise travels great distances over water and excessive noise near shore or near anchored boats is sure to draw negative attention. Be considerate of property owners and other boaters. **Noise includes music – please consider others – do not play it loud enough to interfere with others enjoying the Park.**

Wildlife Harassment: Operating a boat or PWC near shore can interrupt feeding and nesting wildlife, and cause animals to deviate from their normal behavior. And that, by law, is illegal. Mammals such as otters and waterfowl can be injured by direct contact with a boat. **Avoid areas of high animal populations.**

Boating and the Law. Complaints will be forwarded to local RCMP.

- Proof of competency - Pleasure Craft Operators Card (PCOC) is required for all Boat/PWC operators.
- Children under the age of 12 and not directly supervised by someone 16 years of age or older can operate a pleasure craft **with no more than 10 hp;**
- Youth between 12 and 16 years of age and not directly supervised by someone 16 years of age or older can operate a pleasure craft **with no more than 40 hp.**
- In addition, a PWC operator must also be 16 years of age regardless of supervision.
- PWC must have minimum of 3 seats to tow (one seat for the operator, spotter, and person being towed).
- A PWC cannot be operated after dark.
- Impaired driving, whether on land or water, is punishable under the *Criminal Code of Canada* and subject to Federal and Provincial Laws.
- Transport Canada lists a number of offenses that can result in fines. An example is “Operating a vessel in an unsafe manner” - \$500.

For more information, please refer to these online resources:

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/visitor-information?pedisable=true>

<https://kippark.ca/images/Safe Boating Practices for Kipabiskau Lake Users.pdf>

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