



Title 300 - Grand River Dam Authority

Chapter 35 - Lake Rules

Subchapter 5 - Boating Safety Rules:

Section 300:35-5-1 - Careful operation of a vessel

No person shall operate or give permission to operate a vessel in a wake zone at a speed which is other than reasonable and prudent and which shows due regard for the existence of actual or potential hazards and obstacles, or in such a manner as to endanger the life, limb or property of any other person, or in such manner as to create a wake. For the purpose of this rule, "no wake zone" means any area posted with buoys or within one hundred fifty (150) feet of any boat ramp, dock, pier, or anchored or moored vessel.

Section 300:35-5-2 - Towing activities

- (a)** No person shall operate or give permission to operate a vessel on any waters of this state towing a person or persons using parasails or on water skis, a surfboard, a sailboard or similar device, nor shall any person engage in parasailing, water skiing, surfboarding, sailboarding or similar activity at any time between the hours from sunset to sunrise or at such time visibility due to other existing conditions is obscured so as to endanger life or property. (63 O.S. Supp.2004, § 4212(B).
- (b)** Pursuant to 63 O.S.Supp.2004, § 4212, the following applies to water skiing, wakeboarding, or similar towing activities:
- (c)** No person shall operate or give permission to operate a vessel on any GRDA waters for towing a person or persons using parasails or on water skis, a surfboard, or similar device unless there is in such vessel:
 - (1)** a person who is at least eight (8) years old, and who, in addition to the operator, is in a position to observe the progress of the person or persons being towed, or
 - (2)** if the vessel is not a personal watercraft, an efficient wide angle convex rear view mirror installed on such vessel in such manner as to permit the person operating said vessel to face the direction of travel and be in a position to observe the progress of the person or persons being towed, or
 - (3)** if the vessel is a personal watercraft, two (2) efficient wide angle convex rear view mirrors installed on such vessel in such manner as to permit the person operating such watercraft to face the direction of travel and be in a position to observe the progress of the person or person being towed.
- (d)** Water skiing shall be allowed with any watercraft which is designed to accommodate two or more persons.



Section 300:35-5-3 - Flotation device required

All vessels shall carry a U.S. Coast Guard approved flotation device (life preserver) for each person on board. The operator of a vessel less than twenty-six (26) feet in length, while under way, shall require each passenger twelve (12) years of age or younger to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved flotation device. Any person operating or manipulating, or who is a passenger on a personal watercraft, water skis, a sailboard, surfboard, wakeboard, parasail, paddleboard, kayak, or a similar device shall wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved flotation device.

Section 300:35-5-4 - Sitting and standing in vessel

No person shall sit or ride on the sides of a vessel, the back of a vessel, a covered bow or the top of any back seat of a vessel, or stand in a vessel while under way at any speed greater than idle or trolling speed; unless, the vessel is specifically designed for such use.

Section 300:35-5-5 - Required equipment

- (a) Each vessel which is less than twenty-six (26) feet in length, other than a personal watercraft, shall be equipped with a paddle or set of oars, anchor, bailing device and fire extinguisher. All other vessels shall be equipped in accordance with Oklahoma state law.
- (b) All vessels must be equipped with proper and working navigations and anchoring lights as provided by law.

Section 300:35-5-6 - Prohibited areas

All vessels are prohibited from entering any area within 200 feet below or above Pensacola, Kerr and Chimney Rock Dams. Vessels are prohibited within 500 feet below said dams during periods of hydrogeneration or the spilling of water through floodgates.

Section 300:35-5-7 - Night speed limit

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any vessel upon the waters of GRDA, between the hours of one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise at any speed in excess of twenty-five (25) miles per hour.

Section 300:35-5-8 - Skiing prohibited

- (a) No skiing is allowed upstream of the Strang Bridge on Lake Hudson, upstream of Twin Bridges on Grand Lake, in Elm Creek east of Grove water intake tower, upstream of the Harbors View Marina (a/k/a the turn) on Duck Creek or upstream of the Lakemont Shores Ramp on Drowning Creek.
- (b) Wake jumping is prohibited in Cowskin and Elk River and in any arm of Grand Lake that, in its name, ends in Creek, Cove or Hollow. Wake Jumping is defined as the act of repetitively crossing another vessel's wake in such a fashion that the crossing vessel's hull leaves the water.



Section 300:35-5-9 - Persons on personal watercraft

The number of persons riding on a personal watercraft shall be limited to that number as recommended by the manufacturer. Any person being towed behind a personal watercraft shall count as one (1) person riding on a personal watercraft.

Section 300:35-5-10 - Persons using Water Jet Pack Units

The following rules shall apply to persons using Water Jet Pack Units:

- (1) A distance of 100 feet shall be maintained from any other person, watercraft, PWC or other fixed object at all times.
- (2) Six feet of water is required to operate the Water Jet Pack Unit.
- (3) The operator of the Water Jet Pack Unit shall wear a life vest at all times. Additionally, if there is an operator of the watercraft/PWC used as part of the Water Jet Pack Unit, such operator shall also wear a life vest at all times.
- (4) The person being propelled into the air shall wear a helmet at all times.
- (5) Any PWC or unit used as part of a Water Jet Pack Unit shall have an orange warning flag when in operation.
- (6) Only one person may be propelled into the air at one time and there shall not be any passengers on a PWC or unit used as part of a Water Jet Pack Unit.
- (7) No person under the age of 18 shall operate a Water Jet Pack Unit without the supervision of a person over the age of 25 years.
- (8) A Water Jet Pack Unit may only be operated during the hours between one-half hour after sunrise and one-half hour before sunset.

Section 300:35-5-11 - Persons using Paddleboards, canoes and kayaks

Persons using Paddleboards, canoes or kayaks on the waters of GRDA must wear a life jacket at all times. Paddleboards, canoes, and kayaks shall not be used between the hours of one-half hour before sunset and one-half hour after sunrise. Canoes and kayaks under 17 feet long, and all Paddleboards shall stay within one-hundred fifty (150) feet of the shoreline unless in a no wake cove, hollow or creek.

Subchapter 7 – Vessels:

Section 300:35-7-1 - Inspection, registration and certificate of safety

- (a) All vessels and equipment used for transportation of people shall be subject to inspection during each permit year by GRDA.
- (b) All vessels must be licensed under the Oklahoma Vessel and Motor Registration Act.



Section 300:35-7-2 - Loose and derelict vessels

Any loose, derelict or apparently abandoned vessel found on the lakes, or shores of the lakes, may be impounded by GRDA in the manner provided for by state law.

Section 300:35-7-3 - Anchorages

Vessel anchorages shall not be allowed off the shore of the waters of GRDA in any one location for a continuous period in excess of forty-eight (48) hours. At the end of a forty-eight (48) hour period, a new anchorage may not be taken up within a distance of one (1) mile of the anchorage previously used. No buoy may be used as an anchorage without the permission of its owner.

Section 300:35-7-4 - Vessel operating distance

No person shall operate any vessel, including personal watercraft, within fifty (50) feet of another vessel when running at speeds of over ten (10) miles per hour. Vessels shall stop when directed, or operate at idle speed within five hundred (500) feet from emergency vessels while their emergency lights are activated.

Section 300:35-7-5 - Water muffling

Except for a sanctioned event, no person shall operate a vessel or motor which is not equipped with a muffler or muffler system in good working order. The use of cutouts, removal of mufflers or muffler baffles, cutting or punching of holes in mufflers or otherwise modifying the original muffler or muffling system installed by the manufacturer or any subsequent muffler or muffling system so as to increase or modify the noise level is prohibited.

Section 300:35-7-6 - Noise abatement

No person shall unlawfully disturb the peace through operation of a vessel or by a person's actions within fifty (50) feet of any public or private dock or at any location between the hours of 9:00 p.m. through 9:00 a.m. C.S.T.

Section 300:35-7-7 - Wake damage

All vessel operators shall be held responsible for any damage that their wake might cause to property. No person shall operate or give permission to operate a vessel in a wake zone at a speed which is other than reasonable and prudent and which shows due regard for the existence of actual or potential hazards and obstacles, or in such a manner as to endanger the life, limb or property of any other person, or in such a manner as to create a wake. "No wake zone" means any area posted with buoys or within one hundred fifty (150) feet of any boat ramp, dock, pier or anchored or moored vessel.



Section 300:35-7-8 - Minimum age

- (a) A person under sixteen (16) years of age shall not operate any vessel powered by a motor or combination of motors in excess of ten (10) horsepower or any sail-powered vessel sixteen (16) feet or greater in length on the waters of this state unless the person has:
- (1) Successfully completed a boating safety education course or has passed a proctored equivalency examination which tests the knowledge of information included in the curriculum of such a course and received a Boating Safety Education Certificate as evidence of successful completion of a boating safety education course or an equivalency examination; and
 - (2) Is accompanied by a competent adult, eighteen (18) years of age or older, who is in a position on or in the vessel to take immediate control of the vessel being operated.
- (b) A person under sixteen (16) years of age shall not operate a personal watercraft unless the person has:
- (1) Successfully completed a boating safety education course or has passed a proctored equivalency examination which tests the knowledge of information included in the curriculum of such a course and received a Boating Safety Education Certificate as evidence of successful completion of a boating safety education course or an equivalency examination; and
 - (2) Is under the visual supervision by a competent adult, eighteen (18) years of age or older within a distance of five hundred (500) yards.

Section 300:35-7-9 - Hazardous acts

- (a) In addition to the rules of travel for operation of vessels upon the lakes, all vessels shall be operated in such a manner as will best safeguard the lives and property of others upon the lakes.
- (b) Any person conducting himself/herself in such a manner as to endanger the health and safety of others upon the lakes or lands of GRDA, or violate any of the statutes of the State of Oklahoma, may be removed from the lakes or lands of GRDA and subject to the fee, penalty or fine as authorized by any applicable law.

Section 300:35-7-10 - W.R. Holway reservoir

With the exception of the GRDA Police, vessels powered by internal combustion engines are not permitted on W.R. Holway Reservoir. Swimming is prohibited in the W.R. Holway Reservoir.

Section 300:35-7-11 – Penalties



- (a) GRDA Police officers may verbally order any person, firm, partnership, corporation, or any other entity that is violating any provision found in Title 63 or Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes or in any GRDA rules to immediately exit the waters and/or lands of GRDA. Failure to obey the verbal order may result in the GRDA Police enforcing the provisions of 63 O.S.2001, § 4221 which provides that such failure to comply will constitute a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).
- (b) Additionally, any such person or entity, after notice and an opportunity to be heard as provided in Subchapter 21 herein, may be banned from the waters and/or lands of GRDA for a period of time up to, and including, ninety (90) days.

Section 300:35-7-12 - Duck Creek, Woodard Hollow, and Courthouse Hollow boating rules

Due to the unique nature of Duck Creek, Woodard Hollow, and Courthouse Hollow on the Grand Lake O' the Cherokees, GRDA implements, from time to time, special boating rules for the area. Please contact the GRDA Police, located at the GRDA Ecosystems & Education Center in Langley, Oklahoma, or visit the website, www.grda.com for the current applicable Duck Creek, Woodard Hollow, and Courthouse Hollow Boating Rules.

I have read and understand this document.

Renter's Signature

Date