

**Title 5 Chapter 2**  
**Town of Lake Mills Regulations of Rock Lake**

5

REGULATION OF WATER TRAFFIC, BOATING, AND WATER  
SPORTS UPON THE WATERS OF ROCK LAKE

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**5-2-0: Short Title**

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as “**Regulations of Rock Lake**”

**5-2-1: Intent**

The intent of this ordinance is to provide safe and healthful conditions for the enjoyment of aquatic recreation consistent with public rights and interest and the capability of the water resource.

**5-2-2: Applicability and Enforcement**

The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to the waters of Rock Lake. The provisions of this ordinance shall be enforced by the officers of the Town of Lake Mills.

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**5-2-3: State Boating and Water Safety Laws Adopted**

Chapter 30 and NR 5 of Wisconsin State Statutes, as amended, is adopted in its entirety by reference where applicable.

**5-2-4: Definitions**

- 1) "Motorboat" means any boat equipped with propulsion machinery, whether or not the machinery is the principal source of propulsion.
- 2) "Water ski" means a motorboat towing a person using water skis, an aquaplane, or similar device.
- 3) "Slow-No Wake" means that speed at which a motorboat moves as slowly as possible while still maintaining steering control.
- 4) "Operate" or "Use" when used with reference to a motorboat, boat, or vessel means to navigate or otherwise employ.
- 5) "Operation of a motorboat" means controlling the speed or direction of a motorboat, except a sailboat operating under said alone.
- 6) "Personal Water Craft (PWC) means a motorboat that uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump or a caged propeller as its primary source of motive power and that is designed to be operated by a person standing on, kneeling on, or sitting astride the watercraft.
- 7) "Power loading" means to throttle or rev up the engine of a watercraft or vessel so as to provide an increase in thrust to aid in the loading of the watercraft or vessel onto a trailer. To noticeably churn up the lake bottom while loading a watercraft or vessel onto a trailer.
- 8) "Seaplane" any aircraft capable of landing on water.

**5-2-5 Speed Restrictions**

- 1) No person shall operate a motorboat in excess of slow-no-wake at any time from sunset until sunrise.
- 2) No person shall operate a motorboat above slow-no-wake while operating on the following portions of Rock Lake:
  - a) That portion of Rock Lake lying south of the Department of Natural Resources Glacial Drumlin Trail.
  - b) That portion of Rock Lake, west, known as Korth Bay.
  - c) That portion of Rock Lake, north, known as Schultz Bay.
  - d) That portion of Rock Lake, east, known as the Mill Pond.
- 3) These areas of Rock Lake shall be delineated by the placement of regulatory buoys, which shall be removed from Rock Lake by November 1 and may not be placed in Rock Lake before April 1 annually.
- 4) The Town of Lake Mills may authorize the placing and removal of regulatory buoys by an association, political subdivision, individual citizens, or a combination thereof. No regulatory buoys may be placed, other than those authorized by the Town of Lake Mills, in compliance with the official map approved by the Town of Lake Mills, the City of Lake Mills, and the Department of Natural Resources.

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**5-2-6: Swimming and Diving Regulations**

- 1) No person shall swim or dive from an unoccupied boat.
- 2) No person shall swim more than 150 feet from the shore unless he or she is within a designated swimming area or he or she is accompanied by a boat manned by a competent person.
- 3) No person shall swim more than 150 feet from the shore between sunset and sunrise.
- 4) This section of the ordinance does not supersede Section 30.70 of the Wisconsin Statutes controlling skin diving. Section 30.70 of the Wisconsin Statutes shall apply to skin diving in Rock Lake.

**5-2-7: Water Skiing Regulations**

- 1) No person shall operate a motorboat towing a person or persons on water skis, aquaplane or similar device, nor shall any person engage in water skiing, aquaplaning, or similar activity between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.
- 2) No person shall engage in water skiing, aquaplaning, or similar activity without wearing a U.S. Coast Guard approved type I, II, or III flotation device. No operator shall allow any person to water ski, aquaplane, or similar activity who is not wearing personal flotation gear equipment of the aforementioned type.

**5-2-8: Races, Regattas, Sporting Events, Fishing Tournaments, and Exhibitions**

- 1) Permit Required  
No person shall direct or participate in any boat race, regatta, fishing tournament, water sporting event, or exhibition unless such event has been authorized by the Lake Mills Town Board.
- 2) Permit  
A permit issued under this section shall specify the course or area of water to be used by participants in such event and the applicant shall be required to place markers, flags, or buoys designating the specified area. Permits shall be issued only if in the opinion of the Lake Mills Town Board the proposed use of the water can be carried out safely and without danger to or substantial obstruction of other water craft or persons using the lake. Permits shall be valid only for the hours and areas specified thereon.
- 3) Right of Way to Participants  
Boats and participants in any such permitted event have the right of way on the marked area and no other person shall obstruct such area during the race or event or interfere therewith.
- 4) Fishing Tournaments
  - a) All parties conducting a fishing tournament are subject to WDNR application and permit requirements.
  - b) Parking, event registration, weigh-in, or any activity associated with the tournament shall at no time interfere or restrict the public's use of launch site, associated piers or the parking area.

**5-2-9: Prohibited Activities**

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1) Operation of Seaplanes

(Pursuant to authority granted under s. 30.78(1) (b) Wis. Stats.) No person shall operate a seaplane on or from the surface of Rock Lake except in case of emergency, or except by special permission of the Town Board of Lake Mills. Such permission shall not be given for commercial purposes, such as where a charge is made to take passengers up for rides.

2) Operation of Planes on icebound inland waters

(Pursuant to authority granted under s. 30.81(1) Wis. Stats.) No person shall operate a motorized air craft (plane) on or from the icebound surface of Rock Lake except in case of emergency, or except by special permission of the Town Board of Lake Mills. Such permission shall not be given for commercial purposes, such as where a charge is made to take passengers up for rides.

3) Power loading of water craft onto trailers

“Power loading” means to throttle or rev up the engine of a watercraft or vessel so as to provide an increase in thrust to aid in the loading of the watercraft or vessel onto a trailer. To noticeably churn up the lake bottom while loading a watercraft or vessel onto a trailer.

**5-2-10: Penalties**

The most current State of Wisconsin Uniform Deposit and Bail Schedule for Boating Violations is hereby incorporated by reference. Any person violating any provisions of this ordinance not covered under the most current Uniform Deposit and Bail Schedule for boating violations shall forfeit not more than \$50.00 for the first offense and shall forfeit not more than \$100.00 upon the conviction of the same offense a second or subsequent time within one year. In addition, said persons shall also be responsible for any costs of prosecution.

**5-2-11: Each Day a Separate Violation**

Each day in which a violation of any of the sections or requirements of this ordinance exists shall constitute a separate offense.

**5-2-12: Repeal of Conflicting Ordinance**

All ordinances regulating water traffic, boating, and water sports upon the waters of Rock Lake and buoys in the Town of Lake Mills, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, heretofore enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Lake Mills are hereby repealed.

**5-2-13: Severability**

The provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed severable, and it is expressly declared that the Town Board of the Town of Lake Mills would have passed the other provisions of this ordinance irrespective of whether or not one or more provisions may be declared invalid. If any provisions of this ordinance or the application to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance and the application of such provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

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**5-2-14 Adoption and Amendments:**

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from its date of adoption and publication as provided by law.

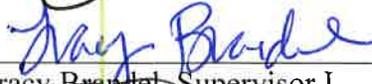
- A. Adopted        this 9th day of November, 2010
- B. Amended      this 14th day of January, 2014
- C. Amended      this 8 day of July, 2025



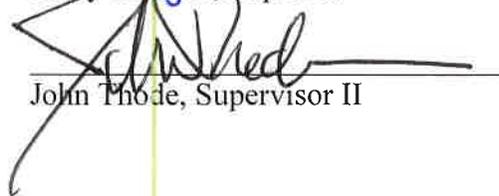
Attest: Robin Untz, Town Clerk



Kyle Kulow, Chairperson



Tracy Brandel, Supervisor I



John Thode, Supervisor II

