

LAKE BOON BYLAWS & RULES

The Lake Boon Commission, acting under the authority of Chapter 712 of the Special Acts of the Legislature of Massachusetts of the year 1941, adopted the following rules on June 26, 1968, and has amended the same from time to time in accordance with applicable state laws.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

RULE NO. 1 – No person shall annoy another person, or utter any profane, threatening, or abusive language, or loud outcry except for emergency; or have possession of any intoxicating liquor or marijuana; or do any obscene or indecent act on the waters of Lake Boon.

RULE NO. 2 – No person shall throw any stone or other missile, or have possession of any firecracker, torpedo or other fireworks; or, except with the written authority from said Lake Boon Commission, engage in business, sell or give away any goods, wares or circulars; or post, paint, affix or display any sign, notice, placard or advertising device; or have possession of or discharge any firearm on or over the waters of Lake Boon.

RULE NO. 3 – No person shall bathe in the waters of Lake Boon except in a costume proper for bathing purposes and either at a place designated therefor or with the consent of the owner or person in possession of the land immediately adjoining such place.

RULE NO. 4 – No person shall throw, drop, or place in the waters of Lake Boon or its tributaries, any waste paper, rubbish, brush, leaves, grass clippings, pine needles, or refuse; or chemically treat the waters of Lake Boon or its tributaries, without the approval of the appropriate agencies.

RULE NO. 5 – Whoever shall at any time make an opening in the ice of Lake Boon exceeding twelve (12) inches in diameter shall properly guard such opening by lights, ropes or brush so as to prevent accident. And no person shall utilize any device that prevents ice from forming around boat docks, piers, boat lifts or similar structures without the permission of the Lake Boon Commission.

RULE NO. 6 – No person shall use the waters of Lake Boon for the taking off or landing of aircraft, except in case of emergency to save the lives of the pilot or passengers.

RULE NO. 7 – No person shall row or paddle a boat or canoe unless able to control or handle the same with safety to himself and others; or in such a manner as to annoy or endanger the occupants or other boats or canoes, or neglect or refuse to stop the same or to place the same when stopped as directed by a police officer in uniform or who displays his badge; or abandon a hired boat or canoe or leave the same unattended by some person or fail or neglect to return the same to the place from which it was hired except with the written consent of the owner and no boats or canoes of any description shall be rented to any person under the influence of intoxicating liquor or marijuana.

RULE NO. 8 – No person, without the permission of the Lake Boon Commission, may permanently moor any vessel, boat, canoe, raft or float, marker buoy, or series of connected buoys, so that any part of the same extends more than twenty (20) feet from the shore, or outside the limits of such lesser distance as may be designated by the Lake Boon Commission for particular locations, by buoys, markers or otherwise.

RULE NO. 9 – Any structure, whether fixed or floating, on the waters of Lake Boon, shall be removed or repaired within twenty (20) days after notification in writing by the Lake Boon Commission that it has been deemed unsafe for said normal use. The property owner concerned may request a Commission hearing within ten (10) days of receipt of notification in case of dispute with the Commission’s findings. in which case, the property owner will have ten (10) days following final determination in which to complete removal or repair of said structure if necessary.

RULE NO. 10 – As a public safety measure, all Lake Boon waterfront property owners must have their street address prominently marked in a manner that is visible from the lake year-round, using contrasting color lettering at least 3 inches in height.

RULE NO. 11 – No person shall engage in the business of renting boats or canoes or permit their premises to be used for launching or dock facilities by other than members of their family or social guests without a Commercial Use Permit. Such permits to be issued by the Selectmen of the town in which the property concerned lies and only after recommendation of the Lake Boon Commission. Such permits shall continue in force until December 31st of the year issued unless sooner suspended or revoked.

RULE NO. 12 – Any person who violates any rule or regulation or order of said Commission or any provision of the acts shall be punished by a fine of not more than one hundred (100) dollars.

BOATING REGULATIONS

Lake Boon is a Great Pond in the state of Massachusetts. That means that it is governed by the boating regulations established by the state, and it is the boater’s responsibility to know and follow those laws and regulations. In addition, there are specific rules on Lake Boon, violation of which could result in a fine.

RULE 1. SPEED

(A) No person shall operate any motor boat on Lake Boon at a speed that is greater than is reasonable and proper under the circumstances and conditions then existing, or operate same or manipulate any water skis, wake board, tube or similar device in a negligent manner so that the lives or safety of the public might be endangered or property damaged.

(B) Speed in any of the narrows shall be such that no appreciable wake is produced, but in no case to exceed the minimum necessary to maintain steerage way.

(C) Speed during the period from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise shall be such that no appreciable wake is produced, but in no case to exceed the minimum necessary to maintain steerage way.

(D) The hours of 2-6 PM on Sundays and Massachusetts State holidays, are designated for canoeing, sailing, swimming and other non-motorized uses of the Lake, and the maximum speed of any motorboat shall be the minimum necessary to maintain steerage way.

RULE 2. WATER SKIING & TOWING

(A) Water skiing, tubing and wake board riding is prohibited in any of the narrows, and in the third and fourth basins.

(B) Only one tow line is permitted from a boat, and the towing of more than two (2) persons on any towed device is hereby prohibited.

(C) No tow line shall exceed seventy-five (75) feet from the point of contact on the tow boat to the object being towed.

RULE 3. BOATS

(A) No vessel may be used as a residence, either permanently or temporarily, on the waters of Lake Boon.

(B) No air boat, so-called, which requires a propeller or propellers which are located above the surface of the water for the propulsion of a boat shall be used or allowed on the waters of Lake Boon except vessels as described above which are operated by any governmental subdivision or department.

DOCUMENT REFERENCES: (Not part of actual ByLaws document)

- Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 90B
- 323 CMR 2.00: The Use of Vessels
- Massachusetts Boating Law (published by Massachusetts Environmental Police)
- Massachusetts Lake Bylaws Listed by Town Boating (published by Massachusetts Environmental Police)