



**Town of Webster
Police Department**

"Improving the Quality of Life"

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Town of Webster Boating and Lake Bylaws

Chapter 635. WATERWAYS AND BOATING; LAKE RULES AND REGULATIONS

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town Meeting as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]

Article I. Authority of Board of Selectmen

[Adopted 5-8-1988 ATM, Art. 98, as Sec. 20.6 of the General Bylaws]

§ 635-1. Motor boat regulations.

The Selectmen shall set such rules and regulations governing motor boats and other vessels on such waters as lie within the Town of Webster pursuant to MGL c. 90B and later amended.

Article II. Lake Rules and Regulations

[Adopted 5-8-1988 ATM, Art. 98, as Secs. 190.1 through 190.6 of the General Bylaws]

§ 635-2. Boat speed.

No person shall operate any boat within the Town of Webster, Massachusetts at no speed greater than 45 miles per hour except when barefoot skiing which then be 50 miles per hour, or a safe and reasonable speed depending on existing conditions, except during an official supervised race for which a permit has been issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in writing.

§ 635-3. Channel speed.

The operator of any boat shall reduce boat to headway speed (no wake) where posted or where operator's vision is obscured by curves or bends. Speed at all times must be reasonable and proper for existing conditions. No person shall operate a boat at a speed in excess of five miles per hour or water ski through a channel.

§ 635-4. Shore distance.

All power-propelled boats or crafts shall keep a distance of 150 feet from shore or other craft (fishermen) whenever possible.

§ 635-5. Water skiing - Nipmuc Cove.

Water skiing and other high-speed uses are prohibited on the cove known as Nipmuc Cove of Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg except in case of located at the boat ramp in the Webster Memorial Beach area. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall issue permits for any water skiing in this area.

**from the shores of
"Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg"**

§ 635-6. Cars and trucks on ice.

Automobiles and trucks are prohibited on the ice of Lake Chargoggagogmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg except in case of emergency.

§ 635-7. Boating regulations.

Selectmen shall have the right to set-make regulations as outlined in Chapter 635, Article I, of these bylaws.

Article III. Webster Lake Rules and Regulations

[Adopted 10-18-1993 FATM, Art. 43]

§ 635-8. Compliance required.

All vessels operating on the great pond known as Webster Lake in the Town of Webster shall comply with the following Webster Lake Rules and Regulations, MGL c. 90B, and the Division of Law Enforcement Regulations 323 CMR 1.00 — 5.00.

§ 635-9. Police enforcement.

All General Laws and Rules and Regulations shall be enforced by officers of the Webster Police Department and the Massachusetts Environmental Police as those laws apply to MGL c. 90B.

§ 635-10. Intoxicating beverages.

No person shall operate a vessel after drinking intoxicating liquor, taking narcotic drugs, barbiturates, or marijuana. No opened alcoholic beverages shall be carried on board any vessel at any time. Tests will be administered to determine the same standards as driving a motor vehicle.

§ 635-11. Registration required.

No person shall operate or permit the operation of any motorboat without a valid certificate of number (registration).

§ 635-12. Certificate number.

The certificate of number shall be carried on board or person. Certificate numbers shall be displayed in size "3" block of contrasting hull color.

§ 635-13. Required equipment.

All motor boat equipment on board shall comply with MGL c. 90B and 323 CMR 2.06; Generally this will include: lights, paddle, anchor line, bailer, sounding device, fire extinguisher, USCG approved personal flotation device (PFD) type I, II, III, or IV for each person on board, muffler or under water exhaust, and flame arrestor (inboards only).

§ 635-14. Stop required upon direction from authorized personnel.

All persons shall stop when directed to do so by a police officer in uniform or any authorized person showing a badge.

§ 635-15. Person in tow.

No person shall operate a motorboat negligently with a person in tow as to endanger the lives of the public. No person shall be towed after sunset or before sunrise.

§ 635-16. Personal flotation device required for persons in tow.

All persons in tow shall wear a USCG approved PFD of type I, II or III; except as outlined in 323 CMR 2.07:9.

§ 635-17. Tow requirements.

No person shall operate any motorboat with a person in tow unless there is in such boat a person who has attained age 12 in addition to the operator, in a position to observe the person being towed and unless such motorboat is equipped with a ladder, steps, or similar means by which the person being towed can be taken from the water.

§ 635-18. Minimum distance from shore; boat equipment for retrieving towed persons.

- A. All motorboats must be operated in such a manner and at such a distance to prevent their wash from being thrown into or causing excessive rocking to other vessels, rafts, or floats.
- B. Waterskiers shall ski at a safe distance to prevent their wash from being thrown into or causing excessive rocking to other vessels, rafts, or floats.
- C. Motorboats shall not be operated: within 150 feet of the seaward boundary of shoreline which is being used as a swimming area whether public or private or; within 75 feet of the seaward boundary of a public bathing beach if designated by markers, floats or otherwise. This regulation 323 CMR 2.07(1) shall apply to motorboats, barges, waterskiers, or other devices being towed by power and the operator of the towing vessel shall be responsible for compliance therewith.
- D. No person shall operate any motorboat on Webster Lake while towing a person or persons on water skis, a surfboard or other similar device, unless such motorboat is equipped with a ladder, steps, or similar means by which any person being towed can be taken from the water.
- E. No sections of Regulation Number 11 shall apply to a performer engaged in a professional exhibition which has been previously approved by the licensing authorities.

§ 635-19. Nipmuc Cove.

A speed no greater than 10 m.p.h., or a person in tow shall be allowed in the cove known as Nipmuc Cove located at the boat ramp in the Webster Memorial Beach area.

§ 635-20. Speed limit.

No person shall operate a motorboat or craft at a speed greater than 45 miles per hour with the exception of special permits as issued by 323 CMR 2.09.

§ 635-21. Wakes in channel prohibited.

No person shall operate a motorboat or craft to create a wake or in excess of five miles per hour when passing through a channel. Channel is defined as 150 feet on either side of the posted speed limit. Markers are set at the Narrows section, Point Breeze section, and the Long Island section.

§ 635-22. Towing through channel prohibited.

No person shall be towed through a channel.

§ 635-23. Speed limits at night.

The speed limit of all boats operating after sunset and before sunrise shall be 10 miles per hour.

§ 635-24. Personal flotation device required for children.

Any person on any vessel under age 12 shall wear a USCG approved PFD of type I, II or III at all times.

§ 635-25. Personal flotation device required on rafts, tubes and inflatable devices.

Any person on a raft, tube or similar inflatable device more than 50 feet from shore shall wear a USCG approved PFD of type I, II or III.

§ 635-26. Attendance by boat required for swimming away from shore.

Any swimmer more than 150 feet from shore shall be attended by a boat.

§ 635-27. Guardrails on gunwales or decks.

No person shall be allowed to sit on gunwales or decks unless there are adequate guardrails.

§ 635-28. Divers' flags.

All scuba divers must display a diver's flag (float). Boats must remain 100 feet from diver's flag.

§ 635-29. Reporting of accidents.

The operator of any boat involved in an accident, collision, or other casualty, shall report to the Webster Police Department within 48 hours and shall submit in writing a copy of said report to the Massachusetts Environmental Police in accordance with MGL c. 90B.

§ 635-30. Right-of-way of nonmotorized vessels.

Rowboats, canoes, and sailboats shall have the right-of-way at all times on any part of the lake.

§ 635-31. Age restriction for operating personal watercraft.

No one shall operate a jet ski watercraft, surf jet, water bike or other so called personal watercraft under the age of 16.

§ 635-32. Personal flotation device required for operating personal watercraft.

Any person operating a jet ski or personal watercraft shall wear a USCG approved PFD type I, II, or III at all times.

§ 635-33. Time restrictions for operating personal watercraft.

No one shall operate a jet ski or personal watercraft after sunset or before sunrise.

§ 635-34. No towing through channel.

No skier or any other type of tow with a person aboard shall be towed through any channel.

§ 635-35. Permit required for parasailing or glider-sailing.

No person shall tow a person(s) attempting to para-sail or glider-sail from the rear of a boat without first obtaining the necessary permits from both State and local agencies.

§ 635-36. Powerloading.

[Added 5-10-2010 STM, Art. 9]

No person shall powerload a motorboat while approaching any Town-owned docking area or ramp. No person shall create a wake or accelerate while approaching the docking area or boat ramp with his/her motorboat. Violators will be subject to a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.).