



Corporation des résidents du Lac Xavier

VIVRE en HARMONIE

Boat Driving Guide ***Advice from Nelson Grenier***

General Advice

Remember that you are the one responsible for your boat.

Ensure that your passengers have the best experience possible while in your boat or when doing water sports.

Make sure there are no loose objects in the boat and no ropes trailing.

Always be respectful and have a positive attitude towards others on the water and along the shore.

Avoid creating waves close to other vessels – boats, pedal boats, canoes, windsurfers, etc. – and swimmers.

- To avoid creating unwanted waves, do not drive in circles, especially in the narrower parts of the lake.

Avoid driving between 20 and 30 miles an hour. At these speeds, the boat drags in the water and creates large waves. The waves amplify as they move towards the shore in shallower water, affecting all in their path including docked boats, docks and other objects. Drive in a manner that keeps the boat level (see Annex 2), with the throttle at a minimum, when boating 100 feet or less from shore.

If you want to drive at a higher speed, do so at a speed at which your boat will plane on the water. This approach will create a smaller wake, which is especially important where the lake is narrow (e.g. la baie St-Jean).

When leaving from or returning to your dock, drive in a straight line from A to B.

When returning to your dock, or when bringing back a skier, do so with the dock as your focus. Once passed the dock, drop your speed by pulling back on the throttle and make a 90 degree turn. Your boat will quickly level which will avoid creating waves at your dock and at those of your neighbours (see Annex 1).

Towing Sports Advice

Remember that when undertaking water sports, you are there at the service of your skier and not the reverse.

Your first objective is to ensure that skier enjoys the experience and wants to continue; it is not to scare him/her and not for them to get injured.

Always explain well what to do and how to do it. Provide a demonstration or perhaps someone else in your group can do so. Remember that there are those who learn by listening and those who are more visual; explaining by doing both is best.

Take the time to evaluate the physical abilities of your skier. If he/she is a novice, undertake starts that are consistent with his/her ability. Keep in mind your skier's weight and abilities. A good driver can adjust driving speed based on the skier's ability.

There is not only one speed for a boat. Towing children and lighter adults require less speed. Judge accordingly.

It is always the skier that dictates when to accelerate. Two commands are used.

First command: GEAR, which means letting the boat drift forward (no throttle). This allows the skier to stabilize and get ready in the water. It also allows for the rope to unravel and to ensure it is not caught up in the equipment (ski, wakeboard, kneeboard, propeller, etc.).

Second command: Once the skier is comfortable, the skier will say GO. Therefore, two commands, the first, GEAR, and the second, GO. At this point, the driver should accelerate to pull the skier out of the water.

Once the skier is out of the water, indicate to him/her to keep the upper body upright while keeping the knees flexed. This will help the skier stay well positioned and will take less energy and effort on the part of the skier.

Avoid driving in a circle with your skier.

Let him/her know that if he/she appears tired or a problem arises, he/she should let go of the rope handle, and not wait for the boat to eventually slow down. It's the skier that decides when and if to slow down or stop.

When a skier has dropped the rope handle or has fallen, the driver should keep the boat going forward in a straight line, immediately dropping the speed so the boat becomes level in the water. Without giving much throttle, pivot the boat 180 degrees and return to pick up your fallen skier in the same straight line. Avoid making the pivot/turn with a full throttle.

During this time, the skier can rest and catch their breath. Pick up your skier from the driver's side of the boat. This allows the driver to always have eye contact with the skier. This will also reassure the skier, in particular, that the boat will not run over him/her.

The rope

Avoid tossing the cord handle at the skier's head. Always throw it four to five feet beyond the skier. The skier can reach for the rope and pull the handle towards him/her.

Staring with two skis and dropping one

Remind the skier to drop one ski while skiing in a straight line and never while in a turn. Why? Because in a straight line, the skier is most stable and can balance on one ski as he/she prepares to drop. Also, if the skier falls while dropping in a turn, centrifugal forces can lead to a more violent fall.

When bringing a skier back to the dock, direct them to stay in the boat's wake and parallel to the dock. Never bring the skier back to the dock while turning the boat or driving in an arc.

Keep in mind that it is difficult to judge stopping distance with a water ski. Depending on the circumstances – speed, direction, skier ability – the skier could end up hitting the dock and suffering significant injury.

By following this general advice, your boating activities are likely to be more enjoyable and you'll have a better appreciation for them.

Annex 1



Bon/Appropriate



Mauvais/Inappropriate

Annex 2



Bon/
Appropriate



Mauvais/
Inappropriate