



Summary of General Boating Operation

All activities on the waters or surface of Bangs Lake or any body of water wholly or partly in the Village of Wauconda are done at the participants' own risk. The Village of Wauconda assumes NO LIABILITY for said use.

Note: The following is a summary only and is not meant to be all-inclusive. For additional information please see the Village of Wauconda Ordinance pertaining to Recreational Activities listed in [Chapter 92](#).

Speed Limits

A maximum speed limit of 30 miles per hour exists on Bangs Lake and is radar enforced [92.097\(F\)](#).

No Wake Rules

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motorboat at more than the minimum speed (5 miles per hour) between the hours of sunset and 10:00 a.m. [92.097\(E\)](#).

Life Jackets (Age)

All persons under the age of 13 years shall wear a Type I, II, III or IV Personal Flotation Device (PFD) at all times while on watercraft underway on the lake [92.069\(F\)](#).

Life Jackets (Activity)

All persons water-skiing ([92.069](#)), operators and passengers of personal watercraft, specialty prop-craft and similar water craft (625 ILCS 45/4-1) must wear a Type I, II, III or V PFD while engaged in these water activities.

Inspection

All duly authorized personnel may board and inspect any boat at any time for the purpose of determining if this Chapter is being complied with. Vessels underway must immediately stop upon being hailed by an authorized person [92.043\(A\)](#) and 625 ILCS 45/2-2.

Towing

No person operating any type of watercraft, including personal watercraft and specialty prop-craft, that is towing persons involved in water-skiing, aquaplaning, or similar activity, may operate within 100 feet of any occupied anchored boat, personal watercraft, specialty prop-craft, marked swimming area or public boat landing [92.098\(J\)](#).

Careless Operation

No person shall operate any motorboat, personal watercraft, specialty prop-craft or sailboat in a careless manner so as to be indifferent to the person or property of others, or to operate at excessive speed [92.090](#).

Reckless Operation



No person shall operate any watercraft, or manipulate any water ski, aquaplane or similar device in such a manner as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person, weave through congested traffic, jump the wake of another vessel unreasonably or unnecessarily close to the other vessel, or operate any watercraft so as to approach or pass another watercraft in such a manner or at such a rate of speed as to create a hazardous wake or wash, or operate any watercraft in such an unreasonable manner by turning across the path of another watercraft in such a close proximity as to cause said vessel to use evasive action to avoid a collision [92.091](#).

Hours of Activity

Water skiing, aquaplaning or similar activities, and the operation of personal watercraft and specialty prop-craft are permitted only between the hours of 10 a.m. and sunset, and prohibited when the waters are too crowded with watercraft or water skiers and such fact is properly announced to the public by any Police Official of the Village [92.098\(B\)](#).

Direction of Traffic

All water skiing and similar activities, and all personal watercraft and specialty prop-craft shall travel in a counter-clockwise direction around the lake [92.098\(E\)](#).

Safe Distance

No person who is operating any type of watercraft that is towing persons engaged in water skiing, aquaplaning or a similar activity, may get within 100 feet of any occupied anchored boat, any personal watercraft or specialty prop-craft, or any marked swimming area or public boat landing [92.098\(J\)](#). No person who is water skiing or engaged in a similar activity may get within 100 feet of a personal watercraft or specialty prop-craft or allow the tow rope to get within 100 feet of a personal watercraft or specialty prop-craft [92.098\(K\)](#). It is illegal to operate a personal watercraft or similar craft within 100 feet of the following:

- Another boat towing a skier or person engaged in a similar activity.
- The tow rope of another motorboat towing a skier or person engaged in a similar activity.
- A person involved in skiing or a similar activity [92.098\(I\)](#)

Towing Size

A personal watercraft or similar craft must have a minimum length of 9 feet 11 inches and be designed to seat at least 3 persons when towing persons engaged in water skiing, aquaplaning or similar activity [92.098\(H\)](#). No motorboat which has in tow or is otherwise assisting a person on water skis, aquaplane or similar contrivance shall be operated or propelled in or upon any waterway, unless such motorboat is occupied by at least two competent persons. Every person while water-skiing shall wear a type I, type II or type III personal flotation device in good and serviceable condition. The operator of any watercraft that is towing a person or persons shall display on the watercraft a bright or brilliant orange flag measuring not less than 12 inches per side.

Facing Backwards

It is illegal to operate a personal watercraft or specialty prop-craft facing backwards [92.098\(G\)](#).



Noise Levels

Personal watercraft, specialty prop-craft or similar craft may not exceed the maximum motorboat noise levels. You may not modify a personal watercraft or similar craft in a way that amplifies or increases the noise level above the legal limit. Operators of watercraft shall reduce speed while heading out from or returning to shore to reduce noise levels [92.098\(L\)](#).

Age of Operators

No person under 10 years of age may operate a motorboat, personal watercraft or specialty prop-craft. Persons at least 10 years of age and less than 12 years of age may operate a motorboat, personal watercraft or specialty prop-craft only if they are accompanied on the motorboat, personal watercraft or specialty prop-craft and under the direct control of a parent or guardian or a person of at least 18 years of age designated by a parent or guardian. Persons at least 12 years of age and less than 18 years of age may operate a motorboat, personal watercraft or specialty prop-craft only if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian or a person of at least 18 years of age designated by a parent or guardian or such motorboat, personal watercraft or specialty prop-craft operator is in possession of a boating safety certificate issued by the Department of Conservation Division of Law Enforcement, authorizing the holder to operate a motorboat, personal watercraft or specialty prop-craft [92.092\(A\)](#). Violations of this section done with the knowledge of a parent or guardian shall be deemed a violation by the parent or guardian [92.092\(B\)](#).

Unnecessary Sounding of a Whistle

No person shall sound a whistle except the internationally accepted horn or whistle signals for watercraft [92.105](#).

Fishing Regulations

| <i>Species</i> | <i>Daily Limit</i> | <i>Minimum Length</i> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Northern Pike</i> | 1 | 36 inches |
| <i>Muskellunge</i> | 1 | 36 inches |
| <i>Bass – Large/Small Mouth</i> | 0 | Catch and Release ONLY |
| <i>Walleye</i> | 2 | 14-16 inches Slot |
| <i>Bluegill, Sunfish</i> | 10 | 6 inches |
| <i>Black Crappie</i> | 8 | 10 inches |