



# PERSONAL WATER CRAFT (P.W.C.) RULES AND REGULATIONS

FRANK G. BONELLI PARK, PUDDINGSTONE LAKE



The term *Personal Watercraft* (P.W.C.) is used to describe vessels such as *Jet Skis, Wave Runners, Sea Doos*, etc. The definition of a Personal Watercraft allowed at Puddingstone Lake is: A vessel that is propelled by a jet pump, uses a handlebar/throttle control configuration, and driver/passengers must sit, stand on, or straddle a seat with knees higher than the gunwale. A vessel under this definition must also be designed to flip completely over in the water and be righted again with no entrapment of water. Personal Watercraft with outboard motors or any other propeller driven means are not allowed.

- 1. P.W.C. are only allowed in the *SPEED ZONE* and *south shore cove area (5 M.P.H. ) to access the swim beach\**.** The *SPEED ZONE* designates fast boating activities and operates from 10:00 AM until one half hour before sunset. At all other times the *SPEED ZONE* has a maximum speed limit of 12 M.P.H.   
\*Swim beach access for P.W.C is a pilot program.
- 2. Any kind of stunts, horseplay or other dangerous activities are prohibited.** These activities include but are not limited to: "360's," "powerslides," wake jumping, deliberate spraying of other persons or vessels, etc. Such actions may result in ejection and/or a citation from the Lake Lifeguards for **reckless and negligent operation** (H&N code 655 (a)) which is a serious offense and levies a heavy penalty
- 3. When passing or running parallel to each other, vessels must be at least 25 feet apart** (Title 17.04.1130). Remember that YOU HAVE NO STEERING WHEN YOU RELEASE THE THROTTLE! The 25 foot distance is a minimum. The law reads: "...operating at a rate of speed and proximity to another vessel so that either operator is required to swerve at the last minute to avoid collision, is unsafe or reckless operation of a vessel." (H&N Code 655.7 (c)).
- 4. When following another boat which is towing a skier, vessels must be at least 150 feet apart** (Title 17.04.1120). Remember that during the winter months (Oct.-Mar.) P.W.C. and water skiing commingle in the *SPEED ZONE*. P.W.C. are not allowed to tow skiers at any time.
- 5. All vessels shall operate in a counterclockwise direction** (Title 17.04.1110) in the pattern designated by the buoys marked "speed zone." **DO NOT CUT ACROSS THE CENTER OF THE *SPEED ZONE*.** This area is designated for emergency use only.
- 6. Any operator of a P.W.C. must be sixteen (16) years of age or older** and is required to be aware of, and in compliance with all lake rules and regulations. Any person 12 to 15 years of age may only operate a P.W.C. if an other person 18 year or older, who is attentive and supervising the operation of the P.W.C., is accompanying him/her.
- 7. All boats must refuel in the designated refueling area only**, which is located at the west end of the powerboat launch ramp. Refueling on the ski beach or launch ramp area is prohibited by state law.

