



Boating on Sunset Lake



All rules and regulations of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts governing motor boats and their use apply to Sunset Lake. In addition, the following rules shall be enforced:

1. Reasonable and safe speeds must be maintained when passing small pleasure craft. Headway speed (no wake) must be maintained in small coves, in coves marked as “No Wake Zones”, or within 150 ft of the shoreline.
2. No houseboats are permitted.
3. Motorboats on Sunset Lake shall be restricted as follows:
 - Motorboats on Sunset Lake shall be limited to the use of not larger than Class A Boats (U. S. Coast Guard definition: 18 feet or less in length), with the exception of Pontoon Boats which can have a maximum length of 24 feet.
 - Such boats are to be restricted to 90 Horsepower or less. The absolute maximum engine power allowed on a boat is 90 hp. There will be no exceptions. No modifications to engine power rating, no changing manufactures’ specifications, will be permitted. The Board of Directors shall not issue variances for more than 90 Horsepower.
4. No boat shall carry a motor exceeding manufacturer’s specification.
5. Boat speed shall not exceed 30 mph. Any Member of the Association may request compliance.
6. Regular boating is permitted from 9 AM to ½ hour after sunset.
7. Boating at 6 mph or less is permitted anytime for purpose of fishing, etc.
8. All Member motor boats shall carry a Sunset Lake boating sticker. Sticker will include owner’s lot number. All boaters are required to follow Massachusetts boating rules & laws and are responsible for having the required safety equipment on their boats. Boat stickers shall be located on the right (Starboard) rear of the boat.
9. Water skiers, boarders, and inflatable towed device users must have a competent observer. Skiers must keep 150 ft. from shore. Skiing in coves is restricted to exit from and return to owner’s property. Do not leave skier(s) unattended in lake.
10. No water skiing off Ripple Beach or Lollipop Beach.
11. Do not interfere with non-powered craft (sailboats, canoes, etc.)
12. Short term renters (30 days or less) are prohibited from putting motor boats in Sunset Lake.
13. Because of safety considerations for Association members, the following are excluded from use on Sunset Lake: individual boats designed for speed, including but not limited to, hydroplanes, jet-skis, personal watercraft, water jet boats, water cycle.

14. Whenever possible, travel in a counter-clockwise direction. Do not indulge in “Cowboy” activities in an area with other boating activity.
15. When putting any boat into the lake, it must be decontaminated prior to entry if the boat was in a different body of water. Certain invasive species of plants can attach themselves and cause irreparable harm to the lake. Please see Decontamination Instructions on page 4.

For your convenience, we have chosen to detail and explain a few important sections from Massachusetts Boating Laws. To understand many of the laws and regulations, you must understand the term “headway speed.” Headway speed is defined as the minimum speed a vessel may be operated to maintain steerage way, but not to exceed 6 miles per hour. You also need to have an idea of how far 150 feet is---which is approximately the length of 7.5 pontoon boats tied up end to end.

You must use headway speed:

- Beginning at the mouth of all coves and throughout all coves.
- Within 150 feet of ramps, floats, rafts, swimmers and shorelines
- During times of limited visibility, including fog, dusk and night time

Make sure your wake is not rocking other boats, docks, etc. Your wake is considered a part of your boat, and you are responsible for any damage or injury caused by your wake.

General Safety

- Sailboats have right of way
- Slow down to headway speed when near swimmers, kayaks, canoes and paddle boards
- Water-skiing and tubing regulations worth repeating: An observer, at least 12 years of age, other than the operator, must be constantly observing the person being towed. The boat must be equipped with a ladder, or some similar device, so that the person being towed can be pulled from the water. Persons water-skiing or being towed in any manner must wear a Coast Guard-approved type 1, 2, or 3 life jacket. Water skiing and tubing are not allowed between sunset and 9:00 am.
- Navigational lights must be used between sunset and sunrise.
- Operating any vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs is against the law. A blood alcohol concentration of .08 BAC is the current standard of intoxication in Massachusetts. Penalties have increased substantially and may include the loss of a motor vehicle driver’s license.

This is only a summary of boating laws. All boaters must know and observe all local, state, and federal laws. For further information on boating laws, boating education, or to obtain accident report forms contact the Massachusetts Environmental Police at (508) 564-4961

Source, MA Boating Law: https://www.usps.org/e_stuff/documents/massachusetts-boating-law.pdf



Why are we so concerned about cleaning boats?

We, at Sunset Lake, value our water quality and are very concerned about preventing contamination of our lake by aquatic invasive species, such as variable watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*); Eurasian watermilfoil (*M. spicatum*); and fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*). In Sunset Lake, these invasive species have no natural predators to keep their populations in check. As a result, these species can outcompete beneficial native species, reduce biodiversity, hamper recreational uses, diminish aesthetic values, decrease water quality, and reduce real estate values.

These species grow very rapidly and reproduce by fragmentation. Since the plants can break apart very easily due to wave action produced by boats, the introduction of even one single fragment of any of these plants can result in the infestation of the entire lake. Once introduced into a lake, these plants are extremely difficult to eradicate, often forming dense mats making swimming and boating difficult. When the dense mats decay, the available oxygen in the water may be depleted. The resulting low oxygen conditions can lead to fish kills and harm other beneficial native aquatic organisms.

Let's face it. WHO wants THIS stuff to take over our lake? We need to do EVERYTHING that we possibly can to prevent this!!



Variable Milfoil



Fanwort



Eurasian Milfoil



Boat Decontamination Instructions

All guest boaters at Sunset Lake MUST fill out this “Launch your watercraft Clean Boat Certification” Form before launching their boat

1. Clean and decontaminate your boat using one of the methods listed below.
2. Sign and Date a New Line Below for Each Visit.
3. Place this Side of the Certificate Facing Up on the Dashboard of your Tow Vehicle.

Decontamination Methods (*choose Method A or B*)

Method A: Clean, Drain and Dry Your Watercraft

Step 1: CLEAN all visible plants, mud, or other debris

Step 2: DRAIN all water (bilge, livewells, motor)

Step 3: DRY (1 week during July and August, 2 weeks in June and September, and 4 weeks before and after these dates.)

Method B: Clean, Drain and Wash Your Watercraft

Step 1: CLEAN all visible plants, mud, or other debris

Step 2: DRAIN all water (bilge, livewells, motor)

Step 3: WASH your boat’s hull, trailer, equipment, and any other exposed surfaces, and the inside of your bilge area, livewell, and engine cooling system with one of the following:

- Steam or Scalding Hot Wash (>140 degrees) OR
- Chlorine/bleach Solution (1 oz. per gal. water) OR
- Lysol (as sold or mix to 1% solution) OR
- Vinegar (as sold)

