

ORDINANCE 2018-09
BOATING AND WATER REGULATIONS ORDINANCE FOR
THE TOWN OF WINCHESTER, VILAS COUNTY, WISCONSIN

A. Purpose:

The Winchester Town Board recognizes an ordinance on boating and water regulations serve the best interests of public health and safety.

B. Authority:

Sections 30.50 through 30.71 of the Wisconsin Statutes are adopted by reference and regulate the operation and control of all boats on any lake, river, or channel in the Town of Winchester, Vilas County, Wisconsin.

C. Speed Restrictions:

1. No person shall operate a motor boat or power boat on any lake, river or channel in the Town of Winchester except in compliance with Section 5.09 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code and as follows:
 - a) In open waters at a speed which is reasonable and prudent
 - b) In all rivers or channels at a slow no wake speed
 - c) No power boat racing without the express permission of the Town Board

D. Water Skiing:

1. No person shall operate a motor boat towing a person on water skis, aquaplane or similar device, no shall any person engage in water skiing, aquaplaning or similar activity except between sunrise and sunset.
2. Water skiing or aquaplaning is forbidden in any channel or river in the Town of Winchester.
3. All water skiing and aquaplaning is confined to the open lakes of the Town and neither the towing boat nor the rider shall approach another watercraft closer than 200 feet. Neither the towing boat nor the rider shall approach any shore or dock closer than 200 feet, except starting out from and returning to a landing which must be from the lake shore only. The departure point and the landing point must be one and the same.

E. Houseboats:

No person shall operate a houseboat on any lake, river or channel in the Town of Winchester. A houseboat is defined as a boat or watercraft which provides living quarters for one or more persons. Each day this section is violated shall constitute a separate offense.

F. Marking Buoys:

No person shall move, tamper with, destroy or attempt to destroy, or moor or fasten any object to any marking buoy located on any of the public waters in this Town.

G. Placing of Marking Buoys:

No person, association, including lake associations, or any other entity may place buoys in any of the public waters in the Town of Winchester without prior permission from the DNR and the Town Board.

H. Personal Watercraft:

1. No person shall operate a personal watercraft on any of the public waters of the Town of Winchester except between sunrise and sunset.
2. Personal watercraft as used in this Ordinance is defined by Section 30.50(9)(d), Wis. Stats.

I. Violations, Legal Actions, and Penalties:

1. The Winchester Town Board shall enforce the Boating and Water Regulation Ordinance and shall make rulings as to the compliance in questionable or disputed situations.
2. If any provision of this ordinance is being violated, written notice of such violation shall be issued indicating both the nature of the violation. Persons may appeal in writing with the Town Clerk within thirty (30) days after receipt of such notice. Appeals shall be placed on the agenda by the Clerk for the next Town Board meeting.
3. If the violation is appealed within the thirty (30) day period, actions may be instituted to collect the penalties for such violations.
4. Any person found to be in violation of this ordinance may be subject to a penalty.
5. Should any section, clause or portion of this ordinance be adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby.
6. This ordinance shall be effective upon passage and publication as provided by law.