

### WAKE DAMAGE

- ◆ Operators are responsible for their wake. It is illegal to create a wake that is dangerous to other persons or property.

### SWIMMING

- ◆ Swimming is restricted to within 100 feet of shore, unless accompanied by a vessel.

### NEGLIGENCE

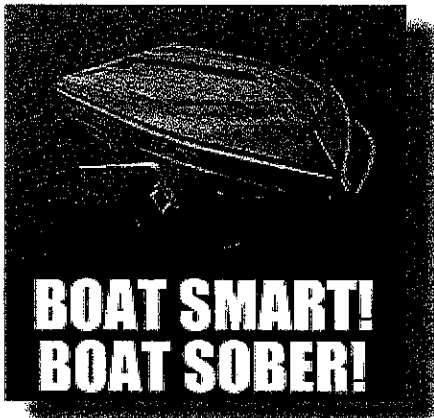
- ◆ **Negligent Operation** is operating in a manner that is likely to endanger life or property.

### RECKLESSNESS

- ◆ **Reckless Operation** is operating with a willful and wanton disregard for the safety of others.

### OPERATOR REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ Persons operating a personal watercraft must be at least fourteen years of age.
- ◆ A person shall not lease, hire, nor rent a personal watercraft to a person under the age of sixteen.
- ◆ It is illegal to operate a watercraft while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.



### ACCIDENTS

- ◆ If involved in an accident, the operator must render assistance if it is needed. He/she must identify themselves to the involved parties, and file a State Accident Report with the local jurisdiction if: there was a death, injury that requires medical treatment, or damage over \$500.

### RIGHT-OF-WAY

- ◆ All craft are governed under the International Rules of the Road (U.S.C.G. COLREGS.).
- ◆ Upon the approach of any emergency vessel showing blue lights or sounding a siren, all watercraft must yield and/or stop. Attempting to elude a police vessel is a criminal offense.

### LITTERING

#### “Don’t Trash The Waterways”

- ◆ The discharging of oil, fuel or sewage into the water is strictly prohibited.

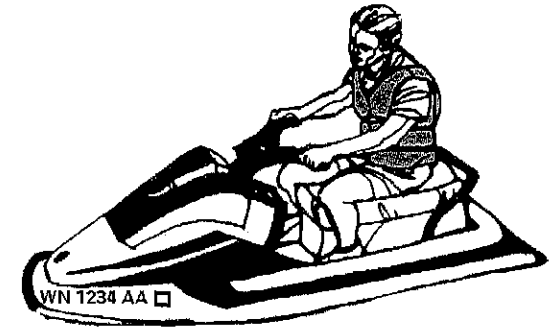
### MISCELLANEOUS

- ◆ Vessels are not permitted within 100 feet of a swimming area.
- ◆ It is illegal to moor at a private dock without permission from the owner.



# Personal Watercraft

## Mercer Island Police Department



### Regulations for the Cities/Towns of: Mercer Island Medina Renton Hunts Point Yarrow Point

City of Mercer Island  
9611 SE 36th Street  
Mercer Island, WA 98040  
Phone (206)236-3500

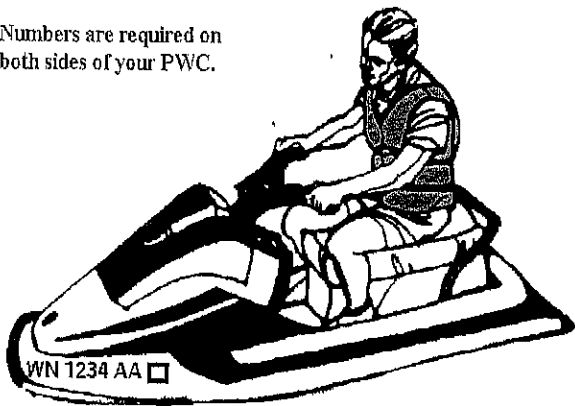
Emergency 911

The Marine Safety Program is designed to promote the safety and enjoyment of all persons using the waters of Lake Washington. All regulations are intended to supplement, not infringe upon, the boating safety laws and regulations of both the State of Washington and the United States Coast Guard (U.S.C.G.). For the purpose of enforcement, the city's limits extend into the lake half-way to the opposite shoreline. The Marine Patrol has powers of arrest throughout the county. The following is a synopsis of the local Harbor Codes.

### REGISTRATION & NUMBERING

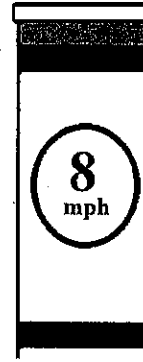
- ◆ All personal watercraft are required to be registered with the State and to display the registration numbers on **each side of the bow**. The numbers must:
  - Be at least 3" tall.
  - Read from left to right.
  - Be clearly visible, affixed forward of the operator area.
  - Be in **BLOCK LETTERING** and in a contrasting color to the hull.

Numbers are required on both sides of your PWC.



### SPEED REGULATIONS

- ◆ There is a 7 knot, 8 mph "NO WAKE" speed limit within 100 yards (300 feet) of shore, docks, bridges, or any fixed object attached to shore.
- ◆ Beyond 100 yards, speed must be "**reasonable and prudent**" for the existing weather and traffic conditions.



### OPERATION REGULATIONS

- ◆ A person shall not operate a personal watercraft in a reckless manner, to include:
  - Weaving through congested vessel traffic
  - Jumping the wake of another vessel (unreasonably close to that vessel or when visibility around the vessel is obstructed)
  - Turning at the last possible moment to avoid a collision (for the purpose of spraying another vessel/person)
- ◆ **Personal watercraft are prohibited from operating during the hours of darkness.**

### WATER-SKIING & TOWED DEVICES

- ◆ The skier must be wearing a lifejacket.
- ◆ There must be a competent observer onboard, in addition to the driver.
- ◆ A "skier-down" flag must be displayed, visible for 360 degrees, when a skier is in the water.
- ◆ When attempting a dock start, the tow craft must head straight away from shore for at least 100 yards before turning.
- ◆ Both the watercraft, and the skier, must maintain a safe distance away from other boats/persons in the water.

### OVERLOADING

- ◆ You may not load the PWC beyond its safe carrying capacity, nor carry any person in an unsafe manner. People must occupy areas of the vessel that were designed to accommodate them (no hanging off of the bow or stern).

### NOISE

- ◆ All watercraft must be equipped with an effective muffling device to prevent excessive or unusual noise.
- ◆ **There is a law requiring full-time mufflers without a by-pass. Noise must be under 90Db.**

### EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ All personal watercraft must have the following equipment on board, currently required by the United States Coast Guard:
  - Everyone onboard must wear a properly sized lifejacket, in serviceable condition.



Type I



Type II



Type III

- A fire extinguisher that is U.S.C.G. approved, fully charged and properly mounted.
- A sound producing device (i.e., horn, whistle). The Marine Patrol suggests that you use a whistle attached to your PFD.
- If the PWC is supplied with a lanyard cutoff switch, it shall be attached to the operator in a fashion that will allow the device to function.

See the **Washington Boaters Guide** for a full explanation of the requirements for your boat!