

# Sun Valley Iowa Lake Association Boating Regulations

Revised and Approved: Proposed April 1, 2026

The SVILA Board has adopted the following rules and regulations to promote safe boating on and around Sun Valley Lake, Iowa.

## 1) Permitted Boats

a) No motorized vessel, boat, or personal watercraft (PWC) shall be permitted on Sun Valley Iowa Lake that:

- i) Has not been inspected, is not properly registered with the SVILA office, and does not have current year stickers and lot numbers affixed to such vessels, boats, or PWC.
- ii) Possesses a toilet or sanitary system capable of discharging waste into the lake.
- iii) Can be used as a dwelling
- iv) Except for PWC, and/or jet boats, equipped with any type of open exhaust. Open exhaust shall be defined as any vessel(s) that does not exhaust directly into the water when under power. Any such vessel that has exposed ports when operated under power is included.
- v) Is used with or for the purpose of parasailing.
- vi) Is a motorized surfboard or wakeboard with propeller also known as Lift Efoil
- vii) exceeds in the case of ski, deck, or fishing boats, 22'-0" as noted in the Manufacturers Statement of Origin or Statement of Manufactured Specification – or if defined by the Manufacturer as LOA (Length Overall).
- viii) Or in the case of pontoon or tri-toon vessels 25'-0" (deck) as defined by Manufacturers Statement of Origin or Manufacturers Statement of LOA.
- ix) In any case, has a motor that exceeds the specific manufacturer's maximum allowable horsepower.
- x) Has the ability to take on ballast or additional weight for any purpose, including but not limited to, creation of a larger wake. Either as a factory installed option or as a supplemental device.
- xi) Has been used on any lake or river other than Sun Valley Iowa Lake until the owner and/or operator has inspected and removed any visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from the boat and trailer; drained any water from the boat, motor, bilge, live wells, and bait containers; sprayed, rinsed, and dried the boat and trailer with high pressure hot water (above 140 degrees F or 40 degrees C). **The watercraft must be inspected by trained SVILA representatives prior to relaunching onto the lake.**

## 2) Boat Operations

- a) All operators of motorized boats and PWC will be at least 16 years of age. In addition, all operators aged 16 through 18 must first complete the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) course on safe boating instruction. This course is available online. All such operators shall have in their possession the certificate showing successful completion of the course while operating any such boat or PWC.
- b) The speed limit shall be a safe speed for the conditions of the lake at the time, with a maximum of 35mph on the main body of the lake. **From 30 minutes after sunset until sunrise the maximum speed shall be 10 mph. There shall be a strict observation of all NO WAKE areas and specifically marked buoys. If you are operating your motorized vessel within 50 feet of shore and/or docks, NO WAKE provisions apply.**
- c) **The traffic pattern for all motorized boats and PWC on Sun Valley Iowa Lake shall be in a counterclockwise direction of travel with all turns to the left.** Vessel traffic shall be governed by the following rules:
- i) Passing from rear- pass to the other vessel's port side (left) with a minimum distance of 25 feet.
  - ii) Passing/ meeting head on- pass Port (left) to Port (left) with both drivers veering to their right.
  - iii) Passing at right angles- vessel at right has right-of-way.
  - iv) Manually propelled vessels have right-of-way over all other vessels. Sailboats and non-motorized vessels should always consider the amount of traffic on the lake when in use.
  - v) Sailboats have right-of-way over all motorized vessels. Motorized vessels when meeting or overtaking sailboats shall always pass on the leeward (downwind) side (when sufficient room is available).
  - vi) Any vessel backing from a landing has the right-of-way over incoming vessels.
- d) All boats shall comply with the following skiing/tubing regulations:
- i) Boats, skiers, tubes, PWC, etc. must not get closer than 50 feet of any dock or buoys. This does not apply to fishing boats while fishing.
  - ii) All tow ropes must be a minimum of 50ft.
  - iii) Skiing from docks or dropping a ski is strictly prohibited.
  - iv) There must be a permitted driver and an observer in all vessels pulling skiers, tubes, etc.
  - v) Absolutely NO skiing, tubing or PWC use after sunset. ALL boats must turn on both bow and stern lights at sunset. Any vessel not equipped with lights must be off the lake at sunset.

h) Anchored boats and “boat tie ups” must maintain a minimum distance of 100 feet from the lakeshore and will be monitored at the discretion of the lake patrol.

### 3) Swim Platforms and Buoys

a) Swim platform usage is limited to NO WAKE zones and must have a removable anchor system adequate to hold the platform stationary.

b) No buoyed anchor systems will be permitted.

c) Platforms extending beyond the line of docks must be pulled back to the shore or secured to the dock, so they do not extend beyond the line of docks from sunset until sunrise.

**d) Platforms must be inspected and approved by the Environmental Committee before being put into the water and lot numbers must be on the platform.**

e) No privately owned buoys are permitted on the lake. If a member has a specific safety concern, they may bring it to the Lake Manager, or to the Lake and Grounds Assistant to determine if hazard buoy placement is needed. If so, SVILA will set the buoy and remove it each fall. The member may appeal a refusal to the Board but may not place any buoy into the water without this approval. Placement or movement of buoys shall be done only by the SVILA staff or those authorized by the Lake Manager.

### 4) Fines /Penalties

#### a) Equipment Violations

i) Failure to have a boat new to the lake inspected will result in a \$500 fine.

ii) Use of ballast or other ability to take additional weight for any purpose, including but not limited to, creation of a larger wake \$500 fine, immediate permanent removal of boat from lake and loss of boating privileges for one year. Failure to do so will result in an additional daily fine of \$100.00.

#### b) Sticker Violations

Failure to obtain and display boat stickers and lot numbers shall result in a fine of \$50 per boat or PWC. In addition, except for sticker violations, in any calendar year, violators will be fined \$50 for the 1st offense, \$150 for the 2nd offense, and \$300 and relinquishment of all boating privileges for 1 year for the 3rd offense.

#### c) Moving/Safety Violations

i) The fines for the following violations are \$100 for the 1st offense, \$300 for the 2nd offense, and \$600 and relinquishment of all boating privileges for 1 year for the 3rd offense.

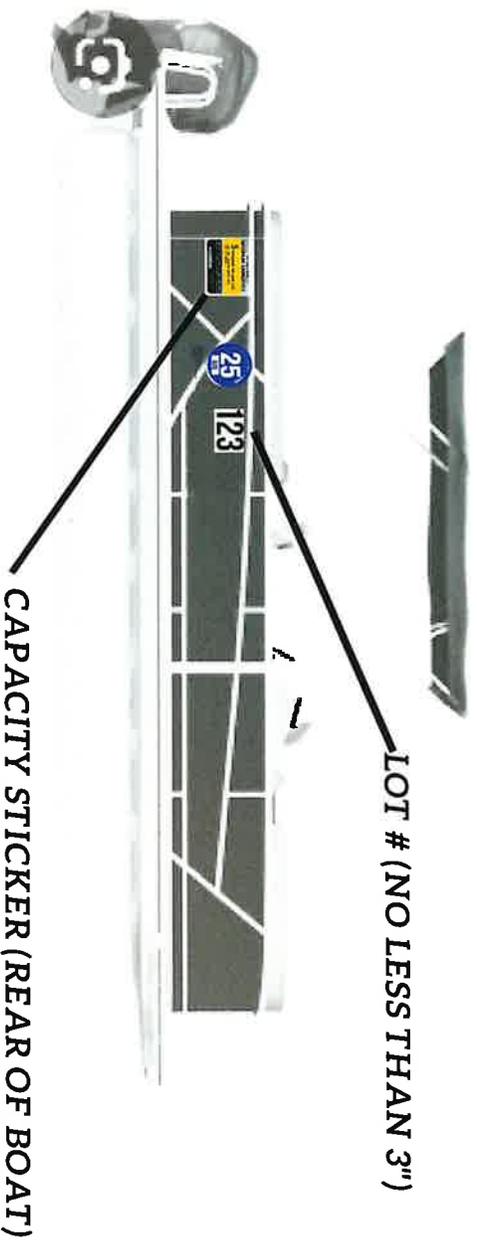
**-Reckless or unsafe boating including but not limited to:**

-Underage drinking on boats

-Underage operation of a Jet ski or powered boats

**SVILA STICKER & LOT NUMBER CLEARLY VISIBLE ON BOTH SIDES OF ALL WATERCRAFT WHEN IN THE WATER**

**CAPACITY OF  
YOUR VESSEL SHOWN  
WITH THE # LOCATED ON  
THE REAR OF YOUR BOAT  
ON BOTH SIDES**

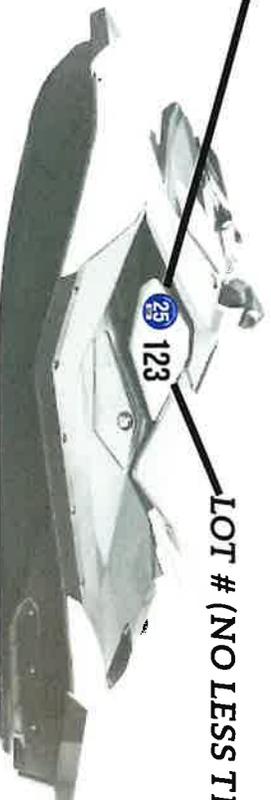


**LOT # (NO LESS THAN 3")**



**SVILA STICKER (CURRENT YEAR)**

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**LOT # (NO LESS THAN 3")**

**SVILA STICKER (CURRENT YEAR)**

**BE SURE YOUR STICKERS ARE VISABLE WHEN BOAT IS IN THE WATER**