

Rules & Regulations

Vessel Registration

All undocumented vessels must display their permanently attached (3" in height) block numbers and letters on both sides of the forward half of their vessels. Registration cards must be on board.

Boater Age Restrictions

Wisconsin requires anyone born on or after 1-1-1989 and at least 16 years of age, to have a boating safety certificate to operate a motorboat. No person under the age of 10 may operate a motorboat even if accompanied by a parent or guardian. Persons 12 to 16 must carry a boater's safety certificate to operate a motorboat.

Personal Water Craft

No person under the age of 12 may operate a PWC. Persons 12-16 years old must have a boater safety card. PWC minimum distances: 100 feet from any other vessel, 200 feet from shore.

Speed Restrictions

It is unlawful to operate a vessel at a speed above "slow-no wake" within 100 feet of any dock, raft, pier or bouyed restricted area. It is also unlawful to create hazardous wakes.

Prohibited Methods of Operation

To allow any person to ride or sit on the gunwales, tops of seats, backs or sides or on the decking over the bow while underway, unless such person is inboard of guards or rails provided on the boat to prevent passengers from being lost overboard, except for anchoring, mooring or casting off.

Life Jackets

It is unlawful to operate any vessel (including inflatables and inner tubes) unless at least one Coast Guard Approved PFD **of the proper size** is available for each person aboard.

Life Jackets must be readily accessible.

Children under 13 years of age **must** wear a PFD while underway when not in a cabin or below decks.

Inflatable PFD's may not be used while waterskiing, operating a PWC or by anyone under the age of 16.

All vessels 16' and longer **must** have a Type IV throwable PFD. This PFD must be immediately accessible.

Fire Extinguishers

It is unlawful to operate a vessel, except outboards of open construction, without a fire extinguisher of the size, type and number as specified.

Less than 16'	B-I
16'-26'	B-I
26'-40'	2B-I or 1B-II
Over 40'	3B-I or 1BII and 1BI

Visual Distress Signals

All vessels regardless of length operated between sunset and sunrise must carry night signals.

All vessels greater than 16 feet in length must carry day signals in addition to night distress signals.

A minimum of three signal devices are required.

Hand-Held Flare	Day/Night
Floating Orange Smoke	Day Only
Pistol Parachute Red Flare	Day/Night
Hand-Held Parachute Red Flare	Day/Night
Hand-Held Orange Smoke	Day Only
Red Aerial Pyrotechnic Flare	Day/Night
Orange Flag (3' x 3' min size)	Day Only

Sound Producing Devices

Vessels less than 39.4 (12 meters) must carry a sound producing device (audible for ½ mile). This requirement includes PWC's.

Vessels greater than 39.4 feet (12 meters) must carry a sound producing device (audible for ½ mile) as well as a bell with a clapper (7.9" min. diameter).

Required Placards

Pollution Placards (Oily Waste Discharge); 26' and above displayed in a conspicuous place in machinery spaces or bilge control station. MARPOL Trash Placards; 26' and above displayed in a prominent location.

Navigation Rules

A copy of the Inland Navigational Rules **must be** onboard all vessels 39.4 feet (12 meters) and greater.

Accident Reporting

An operator involved in a boating accident must stop his or her vessel immediately at the scene of the accident and:

Assist anyone injured or in danger from the accident, unless doing so would seriously endanger his or her own vessel or passengers.

Give, in writing, his or her name, address and vessel identification to any person injured and to the owner of any damaged property.

A vessel operator is required to make an oral and written report whenever a boating accident results in:

Loss of life or disappearance of a person **or...** Injury to any person **or...** Property damage in excess of (\$2,000 Wisconsin, \$500 Illinois)

Oral reports must be made immediately to a conservation warden or a local law enforcement officer. A written report must be made within 10 days on Department of Natural Resources form 4100-20 to DNR-Boat Safety, Box 7921, Madison, WI 52707.

Communications

VHF marine radios have a maximum range of 25 miles

Coast Guard monitors channel 16

Use channel 16 for distress calls and for Coast Guard alerts.

You are required to monitor channel 16 when underway.

09 Hailing Channel

13 Vessel to Bridge and Commercial Vessels. Channel 13 is limited to 1 watt or 5 mile range.

09, 13, 16, 68, 69, 71, 72, 78 are working channels

22A is the Coast Guard channel

Mayday Only use Mayday when you or your vessel is in grave danger.

Pan-pan (Pronounced phan-phan) Urgency signal used when your safety or the safety of your ship is in jeopardy.

Securite (Pronounced secure-a-tay) Used to share safety, navigation or important weather information with other mariners.

Right of Way

Under the Rules Of The Road, one boat is the stand-on vessel; the other is the give-way vessel.

Generally, the boat on the starboard (right) side is the stand-on vessel (has the right of way).

The boat on the port side is the give-way vessel and must yield or alter speed or course.

The stand-on vessel is expected to maintain course and speed.

While being overtaken, you are the stand-on vessel.

The overtaking vessel is the give-way vessel and must Keep Clear.

While meeting head-on, both vessels should alter course to starboard and pass port to port.

Generally, sailboats (underway by sail alone) have the right of way over powerboats.

Sailboats under power are considered powerboats.

Vessels engaged in fishing by nets have the right of way over sailing and powerboats.

The pecking order is: Not Under Command, Restricted in Ability to Maneuver, Constrained by Draft, Engaged in Fishing, Sailing, Power, Seaplane.

Aids to Navigation

Lateral Aids to Navigation when entering from seaward:

All-green and all-red companion bouys indicate safe water between them. Red, right, returning....

Port side; **green** "cans", odd number, square daymark.

Starboard side; **red** "nuns", even numbers, triangle daymark.

Diamond shapes warn of restriction or danger. Usually a white marker with orange signage. Black lettering explains the restriction.

Circle marks are "controlled as indicated." Usually a white marker with orange signage.

White bouys with black vertical stripes show the center of the channel.

Navigation Lights

Recreational vessels are required to display navigational lights between sunset and sunrise and other periods of reduced visibility.

Vessels 16 feet or more should be equipped with the correct *manufacturer installed* navigational lights with an all-around anchor light capable of being lit independently from the running lights.

Vessels under oars; must carry a flashlight or lantern that can show a light in sufficient time to prevent a collision.

Vessels less than 23 feet and under 7 knots maximum speed: may display an all-round white light.

Anchoring

Select your area, measure your depth, determine the rode necessary by multiplying your depth by 7. This provides the proper scope.

Bring the bow into the wind, move upwind the length of your scope and drop anchor. Be sure to take into consideration your anchor swing.

Safety Equipment

A prudent captain:

Has taken an accredited course in both CPR and basic first aid. He also maintains a first aid kit aboard his vessel.

Has on board a marine radio and maintains a watch on channel 16.

Has a backup manual dewatering device.

Has an anchor and rode appropriate for the area he is boating.

Has sufficient fenders and lines, in appropriate sizes and lengths, for his vessel.

Spyglass Marine Services, Inc.

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