

## Georgia Boat Safety Laws For Lake Rabun

- Every person in the boat should have a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal floatation device (life jacket). Additionally, an approved throwable device must be on board each boat.
- Children under **13** years of age must wear a life jacket while riding in a boat.
- All skiers (wakeboard, tube, etc.) must wear an approved life jacket.
- **All boats, personal watercrafts and skiers operating above idle speed must keep a distance of 100 ft. from any dock, boat or swimmer.**
- Navigational lights (both bow and stern) must be used after sundown. No PWCs (Jet Ski, Sea Doo, etc.) are allowed to operate between sundown and sunrise.
- Riding on the bow or gunwale (front or sides) of a boat is illegal and also very dangerous.
- **All boats and PWCs should keep to the starboard (*right of center*) on Lake Rabun – it is the law.**
- While it is permitted to “Tube” anywhere on the lake; for safety reasons, it makes more sense to “Tube” in the larger portions of the lake rather than in the “Narrows”, especially if you zig-zag.
- Persons under 12 years of age may not operate a Class A boat (16 ft. or longer) or PWC.
- Persons under 12 years of age may legally operate a boat less than 16 feet long and powered by a motor of 30 hp or less only if accompanied by a competent adult.
- Persons 12 to 15 years of age may legally operate a boat less than 16 feet long or PWC only if they have passed a boating education course approved by the DNR or are accompanied by a competent adult.
- Most boats are required to have an operational fire extinguisher.
- When towing a skier (tube, wakeboard, etc.) you must have an observer or a wide-angle rearview mirror.
- It is unlawful to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Paddleboards, canoes, and kayaks must have a Coast Guard approved PDF for each person on board.
- You can be charged for reckless operation of a boat or PWC. Please be courteous and remember the “Golden Rule”.

These are just a few of the boating rules. It is the responsibility of every boat owner to know the boating laws as well as insuring that your children and houseguest are educated as to safe boating on Lake Rabun. For further information regarding boating laws and responsibilities contact the Georgia Department of Natural Resources or visit their website at: [www.gerogiawildlife.com](http://www.gerogiawildlife.com).