

Charter Township of Orion

Ordinance No. 14

Watercraft - General

Adopted June 12, 1962

AMENDED

August 15, 1994

Section 1 - Definitions

- A. Boats are defined as all water craft with or without self-propulsion machinery, including sea planes when not airborne. The word "boat" shall include water skis, water sleds, surf boards or similar contrivances while being towed by any boat.
- B. The term "navigable waters" is defined as including all lakes, ponds, streams, lagoons, canals or other waters capable of navigation within the territorial limits of the Township of Orion.

Section 2

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any boat upon any navigable waters unless said boat is properly licensed as required by state and federal laws and regulations.

Section 3

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any boat upon any navigable waters while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, narcotic drugs or barbiturates. It shall be unlawful for the owner of any boat or any person having such in charge or in control thereof to authorize or knowingly permit the same to be operated by any person while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, narcotic drugs or barbiturates.

Section 4

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any boat upon any navigable waters in a reckless manner or at an excessive rate of speed or in a manner causing a wake which would endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property of any person. No person shall operate any boat at a rate of speed greater than will permit him, in the exercise of reasonable care, to bring the boat to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead. No person shall operate a boat in a manner so as to unreasonably interfere with the lawful use by others of any navigable waters.

Section 5

No person shall operate on any navigable waters a motor boat at a speed in excess of 10 miles per hour within one hundred (100) feet of any boat lawfully anchored on such navigable waters, within one hundred (100) feet of any lawfully marked bathing beach or within one hundred (100) feet of any lawfully anchored raft or float used for swimming purposes.

Section 6

No person under the age of 14 years shall operate any motor propelled boat equipped with a motor greater than 7-1/2 horsepower, unless accompanied by an adult.

Section 7

No person shall throw, place or otherwise discard any bottle, box, paper, garbage, rubbish or similar objects or any type of unsanitary matter, material or fluid into or upon any navigable waters.

Section 8

No operator of any boat shall have in tow or shall otherwise assist in the propulsion of a person on water skis, water sled, surf boards or other similar contrivances before 10:00 a.m. (in the morning) on any day. Such activities shall be permitted until sunset, except that on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, the day first preceding a holiday and the holiday, such activities shall be terminated not later than 7:00 p.m. (in the afternoon). Any person permitting himself to be towed on water skis, water sleds, surf boards or similar contrivances before or after the time set forth above shall be in violation of this paragraph and shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Section 9

No person shall operate on any navigable waters a motor boat having in tow or to otherwise assist a person on water skis, water sled, surf board or similar contrivance unless there is in such motor boat in addition to the operator at least one competent person in a position to observe the progress of the person being towed. This requirement shall not apply to motor boats equipped with not less than a 170 degree wide angle rear view mirror affixed in such a manner as will permit the operator to observe the progress of the person being towed.

Section 10

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any boat unless equipped with a proper muffler as required by State Law, or to use any siren or noise producing or noise amplifying instrument on any boat on any navigable waters in such manner that the peace and good order of the neighborhood is disturbed, provided, however, that nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prohibit the use of whistles, bells or horns as signals required by the United States Motor Boat Act or other Federal law for the safe navigation of motor boats or vessels.

Section 11

The provisions of this Ordinance shall not be construed to prohibit the running of racing or exhibition boats muffled or unmuffled during any race or regatta operating under the provisions of Act 208 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1958, as amended.

Section 12

Should any provision, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance be held to be invalid for any reason, such holding shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or any part thereof other than the part so declared invalid, it being the legislative intent that this Ordinance shall stand notwithstanding such holding.

Section 13

Every operator of any boat livery or boat launching site open to the public shall post a copy of this Ordinance in a conspicuous place.

Section 14 *(amended 08.15.94)*

Any person violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a fine not exceeding the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) and/or imprisonment in the Oakland County Jail for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days plus the cost of prosecution.

Section 15 - Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication, as provided by law.

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