

Safety is the responsibility of all of us who enjoy watercraft on Sabbathday Lake. At the start of what appears to be a very busy season on the water, a quick review of watercraft safety will help ensure that all of us enjoy the boating season. Remember to register your boat, if necessary, and always have your PFD (personal floatation device) near at hand when you are on the water.

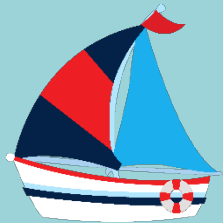
### Unlawful Operation

Maine law states that these dangerous operating practices are illegal.

**Reckless Operation** of a watercraft, water ski, surfboard or similar device is operating in a manner that recklessly creates a substantial risk of serious bodily injury to another person. For example, weaving your watercraft through congested waterway traffic is illegal, reckless operation.

**Operating to Endanger** is operating a watercraft, water ski, surfboard, or similar device in a manner that endangers a person or property.

**Imprudent Operation of a Watercraft** is engaging in prolonged circling, informal racing, wake jumping or other types of continued and repeated activities that harass another person while operating in Maine water.



**Operating Within a Bathing Area** is operating a motorboat in an area that is marked or buoyed for swimming.

**Improper Speed or Distance** is not keeping a proper speed and distance while operating a watercraft. You may not operate at a rate of speed that is not reasonable and prudent for existing conditions.

**Operators must regulate their speed** to avoid endangering, injuring, or unnecessarily inconveniencing another watercraft and its occupant, whether anchored or underway.

Operators also must consider the effect of their watercraft's wake on waterfront piers, floats other property, or shorelines.

**You may not operate a watercraft** at greater than "headway speed" while: Within 200 feet of any shoreline, including islands. Within a marina or an approved anchorage in coastal or inland waters. "Headway speed" means the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and control of the watercraft. Exception: Watercraft may operate at greater than headway speed in the areas stated while actively fishing or while following a direct course to pick up or drop off skiers.

Safe navigation on Maine waterways is everyone's responsibility. All operators are equally responsible for taking action to avoid collisions.



### **Navigation Rules**

There are two terms that help explain these rules.

**Stand-on watercraft:** The watercraft that should maintain its course and speed.

**Give-way watercraft:** The watercraft that must take early and substantial action to avoid collision by stopping, slowing down or changing course.

### **Meeting Head-On**

**Power vs. Power:** Neither watercraft is the stand-on watercraft. Both watercrafts should keep to the starboard (right).

**Power vs. Sail:** The powerboat is the give-way watercraft. The sailboat is the stand-on watercraft.

### **Crossing Situations**

**Power vs. Power:** The watercraft on the operator's port (left) side is the give-way watercraft. The watercraft on the operator's starboard (right) side is the stand-on watercraft.

**Power vs. Sail:** The powerboat is the give-way watercraft. The sailboat is the stand-on watercraft.

## Overtaking

**Power vs. Power:** The watercraft that is overtaking another watercraft is the give-way watercraft. The watercraft being overtaken is the stand-on watercraft.

**Power vs. Sail:** The watercraft that is overtaking another watercraft is the give-way watercraft. The watercraft being overtaken is the stand-on watercraft.

## Nighttime Navigation

Be on the lookout for the lights of other watercraft when operating at night. Several types of lights serve as navigational aids at night.

**Sidelights:** The red and green lights are called side lights because they are visible to another watercraft approaching from the side or head-on. The red light indicates a watercraft's port (left) side; the green indicated a watercraft's starboard (right) side.

**Sternlight:** This white light is seen from behind or nearly behind the watercraft.



This information is from the Boaters Guide to Maine Laws and Regulations which can be found at:  
[www.maine.gov > ifw > docs > maine-boating-laws](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/maine-boating-laws)



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BOATING  
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