

**LAKE NORMAN MARINE COMMISSION
BOAT RENTAL REGULATIONS**

Effective January 1, 2024

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. These regulations may be cited as the BOAT RENTAL REGULATIONS.

SECTION 2. JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES. These regulations shall be applicable on the waters of Lake Norman, the boundaries of which are described in Chapter 1089 of the 1969 Session Laws of the State of North Carolina.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

As used in these regulations:

(a) "Advertise" means to make an announcement, and includes, without limitation, the following ways of making an announcement: person to person communications, whether verbal or in writing, including by posting signs, handing out flyers, or sending letters or e-mails; communications by using the radio, communication by publication in a newspaper or magazine or any other type of printed media; electronic communications via a web site or social media; and communications by video or other visual media, such as on television or internet based video services.

(b) "Boat Inspection" means a boat inspection conducted by an inspector approved by the Lake Norman Marine Commission.

(c) "Boat Owner" means any individual, partnership, company, or other entity that (a) Advertises one or more boats as being available for rent, or (b) provides one or more boats for rental, regardless of whether such individual, partnership, company, or entity is the boat's owner of record.

(d) "Marine Liability Insurance" means a liability insurance policy that covers all reasonably predictable liabilities that may arise while boats are rented, including, without limitation, bodily injury and property damage.

(e) "Rental Boat Permit" means the permit issued by the Commission that must be obtained and kept in good standing to rent a boat on Lake Norman.

(f) "Renter" means any individual, partnership, company, or other entity that rents a boat.

(g) "The Lake Norman Marine Commission" has the meaning set forth in Chapter 1089 of the 1969 Session Laws of the State of North Carolina is sometimes referred to in these regulations as the "Commission".

SECTION 4. REGULATIONS FOR RENTING BOATS

(a) Renting a boat on Lake Norman requires a Rental Boat Permit from the Lake Norman Marine Commission for each boat offered for rent. Each Rental Boat Permit will be accompanied by two stickers, both of which must be prominently displayed on the boat – one on the starboard side and one on the port side. Each Rental Boat Permit must identify the period it is valid and must be renewed by April 1st of the year its due. Boat Owners must inform Renters of, and Renters must abide by, the requirement that any law enforcement officer may, upon request, examine the Rental Boat Permit. A fee will be required for each Rental Boat Permit requested. The fee will be determined annually prior to the distribution of the application

material. Among the factors to be considered prior to issuing a Rental Boat Permit are any matters pertaining specifically to public safety or violations of federal, state, or local laws.

(b) Boat Owners wishing to obtain a Rental Boat Permit and operate on Lake Norman must at a minimum satisfy the following requirements:

1. Liability Insurance. Proof of Marine Liability insurance with policy limits no less than \$500,000 per accident.

2. Boat Inspection. Proof of a successful Boat Inspection must be submitted to the Commission. A list of qualified inspectors will be provided when a Rental Boat Permit is requested. Boat Inspections must be completed on a semi annual basis (once every two years) .

SECTION 5. BOAT OWNER REQUIREMENTS

Each Boat Owner must:

- (a) Ensure all Renters have met North Carolina's minimum boater education requirements; for example, all Renters born on or after January 1, 1988 must show proof of completing an approved NASBLA boating education course.
- (b) Provide all Renters with appropriate training based on the rented boat's complexity and the Renter's prior boating experience.
- (c) Provide all Renters with instruction in the proper and safe navigation on Lake Norman, including the issuance of a navigational chart and/or appropriate navigation app.
- (d) Use, have signed by each Renter, and maintain on file a "Pre-Rental/Pre-Ride Instruction Checklist" acknowledging that the requirements of these Boat Rental Regulations have been reviewed and understood by both parties.
- (e) Comply with all Federal, State, and Local regulations. Violation of Federal, State, or Local laws shall be grounds for denial or revocation of a Rental Boat Permit.

SECTION 6. RENTER REQUIREMENTS

Each Renter must:

- (a) Comply with North Carolina's minimum boater education requirements; for example, all Renters born on or after January 1, 1988 must show proof of completing an approved NASBLA boating education course.
- (b) Ensure that they are appropriately trained based on the rented boat's complexity and the Renter's prior boating experience.
- (c) Demonstrate a familiarity with proper and safe means of navigation on Lake Norman, including the use of a navigational chart and/or appropriate navigation app.
- (d) Sign and maintain on file a "Pre-Rental/Pre-Ride Instruction Checklist" acknowledging that the requirements of these Boat Rental Regulations have been reviewed and understood by both parties.

- (e) Comply with all Federal, State, and Local regulations.

SECTION 7. VIOLATIONS; PENALTY

- (a) It shall be unlawful to rent any boat on the waters of Lake Norman without a valid Rental Boat Permit prominently displayed as required by these Boat Rental Regulations.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to (i) offer to rent a boat on the waters of Lake Norman; or (ii) Advertise that they have one or more boats available for rental on the waters of Lake Norman unless the Boat Owner has a valid Rental Boat Permit for each rental boat.
- (c) It shall be unlawful for any Boat Owner or Renter to refuse to allow a law enforcement officer to examine a boat's Rental Boat Permit.
- (d) It shall be unlawful for a Boat Owner to rent or offer for rent a boat after having received written notice from the Lake Norman Marine Commission that such boat is operating in violation of these Boat Rental Regulations.
- (e) Any person who violates any of the above provisions shall be guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be subject to a maximum fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00), or imprisonment, or both. Each violation shall be considered a separate and distinct offense, and each day of continued violation shall be considered as a separate offense. In addition, a violator may be subject to appropriate injunctive relief and other applicable legal consequences.
- (f) Any Boat Owner who violates these Boat Rental Regulations may have their Rental Boat Permit revoked and shall not be eligible to apply again for one (1) year.

SECTION 8. ENFORCEMENT. Provisions of these Boat Rental Regulations will be enforced by state and local law enforcement agencies that operate on Lake Norman.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. These Rental Boat Regulations shall take effect on January 1, 2024.

Lake Norman Rental Boat Pre-Rental and Pre-Ride Instruction Checklist and Attestation

Renter	Instructor	Operator Responsibility: Operator is responsible for the safe and proper operation of the vessel; Avoid careless, reckless and negligent operation of vessels; Effects of alcohol, controlled substances and stressors. Ensure that there are sufficient and appropriate PFDs (Personal Floatation Device) for all passengers and require all passengers under the age of 13 wear a PFD at all times unless they are in an enclosed cabin.
Renter	Instructor	Navigation Rules: Maintain a proper lookout; Keep a safe distance from other vessels and objects; Operate at a safe speed for the conditions; location and environment; Operate in a defensive manner; Requirements to give way to other vessels and vessel right of way.
Renter	Instructor	NO Wake Zones: All of Lake Norman has a no-wake zone within 150 feet of any dock, bridge, marina, boat ramp, and within 100 feet of a law enforcement vessel that is displaying a flashing blue light. No wake speed is idle speed or a speed creating no appreciable wake.
Renter	Instructor	Aids to navigation; buoys and other waterways markers
Renter	Instructor	Special Waterway Hazards: Operate at slow speed minimum wake when within 300 feet of emergency vessels with activated emergency lights or within 300 feet of construction vessels displaying an orange flag
Renter	Instructor	Awareness of changes to weather or water conditions and proper responses to those changes (Weather App)
Renter	Instructor	Requirements for operating a vessel while a person is waterskiing or participating in similar activities.
Renter	Instructor	Propulsion, steering and stopping characteristics of vessels: Discuss in general and as to the specific vessel being leased or rented
Renter	Instructor	Location and content of manufacturer warning labels
Renter	Instructor	Location of and proper use of safety equipment
Renter	Instructor	Boarding, falling off, capsizing, taking on water, re-boarding and emergency procedures for dealing with these situations
Renter	Instructor	Problems seeing other vessels and being seen by them
Renter	Instructor	The dangers of wake or surf jumping and other reckless operations.
Renter	Instructor	Boating safety identification cards, age and engine requirements

		Photographic identification
Renter	Instructor	
Renter	Instructor	Boating Accidents: Causes and prevention of accidents; Legal requirements: remain on-scene, render assistance, report incident to NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Renter	Instructor	North Carolina divers-down warning device requirements
Renter	Instructor	Noise/Loud Music, nuisances, and other environmental concerns
Renter	Instructor	Blue Herron Island nesting season restrictions (April-August)
Renter	Instructor	Ecosystem awareness based on local issues (Invasive weeds and grasses)
Renter	Instructor	Specific operational characteristics of the vessel being leased or rented
Renter	Instructor	Local characteristics of the waterway where the leased or rented vessel is intended to be operated, to include: Navigational hazards; Boating restricted areas; Water depths, Exclusionary Zones, Rafting Ords.
Renter	Instructor	Check Ride: Conducted an on-the-water demonstration and check ride to verify the prospective operator's ability to safely operate the vessel to be leased or rented
Personal Watercraft		
Renter	Instructor	Specific personal watercraft (PWC) safety requirements: Required to wear PFD; Required use of kill switch lanyard; Location of sound producing device and fire extinguisher; Minimum age to legally operate; Lawful hours of operation
Extended period use (renting for period long enough to require refueling etc.)		
Renter	Instructor	Instruction on care and maintenance of the leased or rented vessel: Fueling and ventilation; Trailering and transporting; Float plans; how and when to complete a float plan; Specific local hazards, e.g.: Seasonably low lake levels, weather, dams, early season cold water.
		I hereby acknowledge I have provided the required pre-rental and pre-ride instruction as specifically acknowledged above.
Date:	<i>Name of rental boat Instructor and signature</i>	
		I hereby acknowledge I have received the required pre-rental and pre-ride instruction as specifically acknowledged above, and I understand the rules and information provided in this orientation.
Date:	<i>Name of Renter and signature</i>	