



BLUEWATER

BLUEWATER & STATE OF NEBRASKA BOATING RULES

All boats and jet skis operating on the lake must comply with all Bluewater rules and regulations as well as regulations established by the State of Nebraska for boating.

ALL BOATS AND JET SKIS ON THE LAKE MUST BE OWNED BY LOT OWNERS, REGISTERED WITH THE ASSOCIATION AND CONTAIN THE APPROPRIATE AND CURRENT ASSOCIATION STICKER. THIS BLUEWATER STICKER MUST BE DISPLAYED ON THE UPPER RIGHT AFT (REAR) SIDE OF THE WATERCRAFT. Stickers can be obtained from the Association with proof of current registration, proof of liability insurance and current HOA dues. Any non-member boat found on the lake may be removed by the Association.

Boater safety and education courses are offered by the Nebraska Game & Parks. Visit the boater education page to learn more at outdoornebraska.gov.

Key State of Nebraska Rules (2022):

(full rules found here: https://www.nebraska.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Game_and_Parks_Commission/Title-163/Chapter-3.pdf)

1. Sailboats, canoes, rowboats, paddleboards, any vessel not operating under mechanical power, any anchored vessel and swimmers ALWAYS have the right of way.
2. You must be 14 years of age to operate a motorboat, including personal watercraft.
3. All watercraft towing any device must have an orange warning flag on board and display it when the person being towed is down.
4. While towing a rider, you must have a spotter 13 years or older or use a wide-angled mirror. This applies to all watercraft, including jet skis
5. It is unlawful for anyone under 16 years of age to tow riders from a personal watercraft.
6. Speeds exceeding 5 mph are illegal **within 90 feet of any vessel, dock or beach**. Surf, Wakeboard, Ski, etc. at a MINIMUM of 90 feet from any dock.
7. It is unlawful to **produce a wake or exceed 5 mph** in an area designated as **“no wake”**.
8. It is unlawful for a jet ski to **wake jump within 150’ of another watercraft**.
9. Jet skis cannot **follow and jump the wake of any vessel pulling a rider, tube or surfer**.
10. After sunset, proper navigation lights must be used consisting of a green/red bow light and white stern or tower light. Decorative LED strip lighting alone, is not sufficient.
11. After sunset, the speed limit is 5mph.
12. Jet skis may only be operated between sunrise and sunset, no nighttime operation is permitted.
13. Children under 13 years of age must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved (USCGA) life vest while on any watercraft.



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14. Anyone born after 1985 must have a Nebraska Boater's License to operate a watercraft and carry it with them while an operating watercraft.
15. All boats must have an efficient whistle or other mechanical sound producing device (horn).
16. All boats must have a USCGA life-saving device of Type I, II, or III for each person on board. In addition, every vessel shall carry at least one USCGA throwable flotation device (Type IV).

Bluewater Rules & Regulations

1. Noise & Music: Loud music from boats is not permitted after sunset. Be respectful and turn it down. Offenders may face fines.
2. No Littering: Dumping trash (containers, wrappers, etc.) into the lake is strictly prohibited. Offenders may face fines or revocation of lake access.
3. Only Bluewater residents and immediate family can operate jet skis. Friends, relatives, and guests are expressly prohibited from operating jet skis.
4. The maximum speed limit is 35 MPH. (5 MPH sunset to sunrise)
5. All boating will be in a COUNTERCLOCKWISE direction. See the map for further reference.
6. When exiting coves, boats must yield to oncoming traffic.
7. All persons being towed MUST wear life jackets.
8. Boats with a downed rider (skier, wakeboarder, or towable) should turn toward the shore to pick up their rider. This would be a right hand turn on the entire lake. If you are 90' from docks this will not be a problem.
9. Boats of any kind must not operate between a downed skier and the towing boat and tow lines must not exceed 75 feet.
10. Boats are limited to one tow during busy times on the lake. Never more than two tow lines and that is only in low traffic times.
11. Watercraft must not follow a boat with a tow/rider closer than 150 feet (2/3 of a city block). Do not tailgate boats.
12. Swimming across the lake is prohibited.
13. Swimming or fishing at boat launch or marina is prohibited.
14. Before launching your watercraft, please e-mail the following information to BluewaterRamp@gmail.com:
 - a. Insurance: Proof of liability insurance
 - b. Proof of ownership: (NE Registration, or Title) showing the watercraft is owned by the resident.
 - c. Pictures of the watercraft



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- d. Description of the watercraft (year, size, colors)
 - e. Contact information for the lot owner: (Name, mailing address, Lot Number, E-mail address, cell phone number(s))
 - f. Names of authorized operators with evidence of NE Boater's license (if required)
 - g. Signed copy of the Bluewater Boating Rules (*see bottom of this document*)
15. To launch or remove your boat from the lake, [TEXT 402-999-7029](text:402-999-7029) and request a scheduled time at least 24 hours in advance.
16. All Boat / Jet Ski trailers must be garaged or stored off-premises.
17. Boat Sizes and Horsepower:
- a. **Pontoon Boats:** Must be under 27 feet 1 inch in manufacturer-advertised length. Surfing pontoons must adhere to inboard and v-drive weight and length limits.
 - b. **Inboard & V-Drive:** Maximum advertised manufacturer's length of less than 23 feet 1 inch. Maximum Dry weight of 7,000lbs.
 - c. **Inboard/Outboard:** Maximum advertised manufacturer's length of less than 23 feet as measured from bow tip to drain plug.
 - d. **Outboard Boats:** Maximum advertised manufacturer's length of 23 feet. All outboard engines must be 4-stroke.
 - e. **Boat Motors:** No motors may be altered or modified from their original factory production standards to increase their performance or HP.
 - f. **Jet skis** are permitted and may be subject to limitations as set forth by Rules & Regulations. All must be 4-stroke. Jet skis cannot, under any circumstance, be operated from sunset to sunrise.
 - g. **Jet Boats and Air Boats are prohibited.**
 - h. It is the boat owner's responsibility to verify that lengths do not exceed the above-mentioned classifications and all boat lengths will be verified by the Bluewater Association. Any discrepancies will be reviewed by the Association's Directors using the following: Advertised manufacturer's length and hull identification/model number.
18. Buoys
- a. A red buoy may be placed approximately 30' from the lake-side edge of your dock to remind boaters of a minimum safe distance to operate.
 - b. A maximum of two buoys is allowed per dock: one to mark safe boating distance and one for a swimming area. Please do not add excessive buoys.
19. Docks
- a. The Declarant (Bluewater Development) shall approve the location of all docks.
 - b. Lot 1-31 shall have all the same dock/lift setup. It will be a floating Shoremaster, single load / slip



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- c. Floating docks are recommended.
- d. Shoremaster Dock Installation:
 - i. Shoremaster Dock is set into approved location
 - ii. Anchor Pipe is inserted through pipe collars
 - iii. Anchor Pipe are self-seating.
 - 1. No Auguring
 - 2. No side-casting
 - 3. No excavation of lake bottom
 - iv. Gangway is attached to the floating dock and then extends to the lot beyond shoreline
 - v. All docks installations are completed by Shoremaster Certified Installers.

20. Lifts

- a. The Declarant shall approve the placement of all lifts
- b. Floating lifts are recommended.
- c. Lots 1-31 shall all have the same lift setup. It will be a floating Shoremaster, single load with a beige canopy.
- d. All canopies need to be gray or black.

21. For the prevention of zebra mussels:

- a. NO visitor boats or visitor jet skis
- b. Once a resident's boat is launched in the spring; it MUST stay in Bluewater lake on dock or resident's beach until fall, unless service is needed. Documentation will need to be provided in order to relaunch boat into the lake.
- c. Once a boat is removed from within the lake, it will be tethered to the trailer and cannot be brought back to the lake if the tether is broken without proof of decontamination.
- d. All vendor boats must provide proof of decontamination.

22. Lake access is a revocable easement, and violations of Bluewater or Nebraska boating laws may result in suspension of privileges. This is set by the Board of the Association.

- a. First offense: warning or suspension of lake usage to be determined by the HOA based on the severity of the offense.
- b. Second offense: removal of watercraft from the lake for a period to be determined by the HOA but not less than 30 days.
- c. Third offense in one boating season: Suspension of boating privileges for the remainder of the season. Reinstatement will only be allowed after a written application is made to the Association Board.



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23. Any property owner or their guest convicted of operating a motorized watercraft under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance will lose Bluewater boating privileges for one year from the conviction date.

THE FOLLOWING RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAIN TO THE FUEL STATION AND OFF-WATER SLIP AREAS

24. Each Preserve Lot can have a single boat slip. The Lot Owner will pay for and maintain the slip at their own expense including power to operate the lift and insurance. Bluewater HOA will incur no costs associated with these slips.
25. All lifts will be kept in an operable and safe manner and maintained yearly for safety and aesthetics. All lift covers must be replaced when there are signs of wear and tear.
26. There will be no jet ski slips unless the slip Owner uses the boat slip to house a jet ski in place of a boat.
27. ATVs and/or golf carts are recommended for transportation to and from the area. There will be NO VEHICLE parking in this area.
28. There will be no additional lighting permitted in or around the boat slips due to the dark light policy.
29. Absolutely no swimming within 100 yards of the area.
30. No loitering, loud music, or partying allowed on any dock. This is to protect the quiet enjoyment of other lots near this area.
31. Low-volume bubblers and deicers can be installed in the lift area to attempt to prevent ice damage. Open water from these devices should be limited to the area immediately around the dock or five to ten feet, from the dock edges, as much as is reasonably possible.

Homeowners must ensure all watercraft and toys are cleaned before use to prevent invasive species like zebra mussels. Water toys to consider: wake boards, paddle boats, kayaks, canoes, floaties, and the like. If any of these items are used on another body of water, please be sure to follow the protocol listed below before using in Bluewater Lake.

PROTOCOL FOR CLEANING WATERCRAFT, TRAILERS, TOYS, AND EQUIPMENT

1. REMOVE all plants and mud and dispose of in trash
2. WASH all surfaces inside and out with high-pressure hot water (140-155°). DRY as much as possible
3. DRAIN all water from areas of item
4. DRY item for at least (5) days in warm, dry weather



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5. If you do not wish to do this yourself, **hire a local marina qualified to clean and certify**

I have read and understand the Bluewater Boating Rules and will share these rules with all authorized watercraft operators in my family.

Resident Signature

Date

Update History:

Version 3.0 - 2/27/25

- Added 7,000lb dry weight restriction to “wake boats” and aligned “surf pontoon boats” with the wake boat limitations.
- Updated consequences for rules violations
- Updated grammar and consolidated rules and recommendations to reduce redundancy
- Added noise and littering rules

Version 3.1 – 3/12/25

- Added signature block and removed summary rules link