

Note:

The State of Nevada requests copies of all course records for the State Education Database. By including your records in our database, we can re-issue cards to students that lose them, and we can track education numbers. This is a critical step in Nevada's effort to ensure all boaters are educated. Please let Edwin Lyngar know if you are unable to provide this information before your course is approved for use in the state.

Nevada Specific Laws to Consider

Personal Water Craft Laws

- A. Persons less than 14 years of age shall not operate a Personal Watercraft.
- B. Each person on a Personal Watercraft (PWC) must wear a Coast Guard approved PFD.
- C. PWC operators must carry a USCG-approved fire extinguisher and a sound-producing device onboard.
- D. It is illegal to operate a PWC from sunset to sunrise, unless it is equipped with the required navigation lights.
- E. Vessels nearing each other must operate at wake speed when within 5 lengths of the longest vessel. This eliminates wake jumping.

Nevada Boating Information and Regulations

- A. Boating laws are enforced primarily by Game Wardens employed by the Nevada Department of Wildlife.
- B. There must be at least one wearable life jacket (PFD) for each person onboard.
- C. No vessel shall be operated within Nevada in a reckless or negligent manner.
- D. Every vessel operating in the State of Nevada shall carry and use safety equipment in accordance with U. S. Coast Guard requirements as specified in the Code of Federal Regulations.
- E. Each person engaged in water skiing (or anyone towed through or on the water behind a boat) must wear a U. S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V PFD

- unless there is an observer onboard, in addition to the operator, who is in a position to observe the progress of the skier.
- F. Any accident involving death, disappearance or personal injury, or damage greater than \$500 must be reported.
- G. All children under the age of 13 must wear a lifejacket while underway, unless in an enclosed cabin.
- H. Operating under the influence is dangerous and illegal. The blood alcohol level at which a boater is considered operating under the influence is .08 in Nevada.

Water Skiing

Vessel operators towing a person(s) on water skis, surfboard or any other device have additional laws.

- A. A person operating a vessel that is towing a person on water skis, surfboard or any other device must be:
- At least 16 years of age *or*...
 - At least 14 years of age and have onboard a person at least 21 years of age in a position to supervise the operator.
- B. All persons being towed behind a vessel on water skis, surfboard or other device must wear a Coast Guard Approved life jacket
- C. Every vessel towing a person(s) on water skis, surfboard or other device must have onboard, in addition to the vessel operator, an observer:
- At least 14 years of age *or*...
 - At least 12 years of age *and* another passenger who is at least 21 years of age.
 - The observer must display the “skier down” flag whenever the towed person(s) is in the water preparing to be towed or awaiting pick up by the towing vessel.
- D. It is illegal for vessels to tow persons on water skis, surfboard or any other device between sunset and sunrise.
- E. The vessel towing the skier must be rated for at least 3 passengers.
- F. Teak Surfing or “Platform Dragging” is illegal in all Nevada waters.

Boating Education requirement

Beginning Jan. 1, 2003, boaters who were born on or after Jan. 1, 1983 are required to complete a boater education course before operating a boat on Nevada's interstate waters. This requirement applies only to operators using a motorboat with a motor exceeding 15 horsepower. Nevada's interstate waters include Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, the Colorado River from Davis Dam south to the California state line, Lake Tahoe and Topaz Lake.

Lanyard Law

Boaters are required to wear the engine cutoff lanyard (for boats so equipped) anytime the boat is moving faster than a no wake speed (five miles an hour) to accommodate trolling fishermen and docking maneuvers. The engine cutoff lanyard, sometimes called a "kill switch" is a short piece of string or coiled material that connects to the boat operator and to the boat console. When the operator falls overboard or otherwise moves too far from the helm, the lanyard is pulled free and the boat engine is automatically shut off.

Unlawful operation

Nevada law states that these dangerous operating practices are illegal: Negligent or reckless operation, operating in an exclusionary zone, overloading, improper speed or distance, unsafe condition, and failure to follow navigation rules.

A) Negligent or Reckless Operation of a vessel or the reckless manipulation of water skis, a surfboard or similar device is operating in a manner that causes danger to the life, limb, or property of any person. Examples of negligent or reckless operation are:

- Riding on the bow, gunwale, transom or swim platform of a vessel while underway at a speed greater than no wake speed
- Maneuvering a towed skier or towed device such that the tow rope passes over another vessel or its skier
- Operating a vessel or manipulating water skis, a surfboard or similar device so as to pass between a vessel and its tow
- Chasing, harassing or disturbing wildlife with a vessel

B) Operating in Exclusion Area is operating a vessel within any marked exclusion area such as a swimming area or any other area marked by signs or buoys.

C) Overloading is defined as loading the vessel beyond the recommended capacity shown on the capacity plate installed by the vessel manufacturer.

D) Improper Speed or Distance is not maintaining a proper speed or distance while operating a vessel. Specifically, it is illegal to:

1) Operate or allow others to operate a vessel at greater than no wake speed within:

- 100 feet of a person swimming
- 100 feet of a person being towed by another vessel
- 200 feet of a beach used by swimmers; a swimming float, diving platform or lifeline; or a landing float with a vessel(s) secured to it or that is being used to load or unload a vessel's passengers.

2) Operate a vessel at greater than no wake speed on certain waters designated by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, within all harbors, or within any other marked speed zones.

“No Wake Speed” means... a speed at which your vessel does not produce a wake, or in other words, leaves a flat wave disturbance; not to exceed 5 miles per hour

E) Unsafe Condition is operating a vessel in a condition that causes danger to the occupants or others on the waterways. Peace officers may instruct the operator to take immediate corrective action or terminate the voyage if the vessel is:

- Overloaded
- Equipped with insufficient personal flotation devices, fire extinguishers, backfire flame arrestors, ventilation or navigation lights
- Leaking fuel or has fuel in the bilges
- Being operated in extremely adverse conditions.

F) Failure to Follow Navigational Rules is operating a vessel on Nevada waters in violation of the navigational rules. Operators of all vessels must follow the inland navigational rules.

Registering, titling and contacting the Nevada Department of Wildlife

Boaters must have a Nevada Certificate of Number (registration) and validation decals to legally operate a vessel on Nevada's waters. The only exceptions are

- Non-motorized vessels (sailboats without engines, canoes, kayaks, etc.)
- Vessels properly registered in another state and using Nevada waters for 90 or fewer consecutive days
- Ship's lifeboats.

The Certificate of Number (registration card) must be onboard and available for inspection by an enforcement officer whenever the vessel is operated. Also note, a recent change in Nevada now requires all documented boats to be registered with the state.

The certificate of number, registration and title can be obtained by submitting the proper application and fee to:

Nevada Department of Wildlife

1100 Valley Road

Reno, NV 89512

phone: 1-775-688-1500

fax: 1-775-688-1595

Application forms are obtained by writing to the address above, calling 1-775-688-1500 or visiting one of the Department of Wildlife offices in Reno, Fallon, Elko, Ely, Las Vegas or Henderson.

Fees		
If the transaction is a ...		then your fee is ...
Title		\$ 20.00
Annual Registration of a vessel (by length*)	less than 13 ft.	\$ 20.00
	13 feet to less than 18 feet	\$ 25.00
	18 feet to less than 22 feet	\$ 40.00
	22 feet to less than 26 feet	\$ 55.00
	26 feet to less than 31 feet	\$ 75.00
	over 31 ft.	\$ 100.00

Duplicate decals	\$ 20.00
Duplicate title	\$ 20.00
Transfer title of a used vessel (residents)	\$ 20.00
Transfer title of a used vessel (non-residents)	\$ 20.00
Transfer title of a new vessel	\$ 20.00
<i>*Measured from the tip of the bow to the back of the transom.</i>	