PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)

Some Helpful Hints for PWC Operation on Congamond Lakes

- See applicable Commonwealth of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR) and Southwick Bylaws for additional detailed information. Copies are usually available at the ramp Contact Stations.
- State launching facilities are for launching or loading of watercraft. They are not docking or beaching facilities during your time at/on the lakes.
- No person under 16 years of age shall operate a PWC. One may operate a PWC if 18 years of age or older, are between 16 and 17 years and have passed an approved safety course, and carry said certificate with you at all times.
- PWC operators & passengers must wear a Type I, II, III or V Coast Guard Approved flotation device at all times.
- PWC operation is prohibited in/on North Pond per Massachusetts CMR.
- No PWC shall be operated within 150 feet of a swimmer, shore or moored vessel, except at headway speed (the slowest speed at which a PWC can go and maintain steerage).
- PWC’s shall go no faster than headway speed or generate a wake in a channel or underpass, or within 150 feet of any underpass, sandbar, marina or launch area.
- Traffic flow on the lakes is counter-clockwise.
- No person shall operate a PWC between sunset and sunrise.
- No person shall remove or modify the exhaust or muffler system of a PWC or operate same.
- No person shall tow a water skier, boat, any floatation device or person in any manner from a personal watercraft.
- No person shall operate a PWC in a negligent manner. Examples of negligent operation are:
  - Unreasonable jumping of the wakes of another boat;
  - Following within 150 feet of a water skier;
  - Weaving through congested boat traffic;
  - Speeding in restricted areas;
  - Crossing unreasonably close to another boat;
  - Operating a PWC in such a manner that it endangers the life, limb, or property of any person.
- Don’t ruin a great day and become a statistic. Obey all boating laws! Copies are available from the Ramp Attendant on duty.