

WATERCRAFT POLICY

Approved By: *Danette J. Boyka* Date: 8/15/2018
Parks & Recreation Director

BACKGROUND

Sahuarita Lake is not intended to function as a swimming lake and it is not maintained for swimming water quality. The aerators and water circulation system are easily damaged by plastic, rubber, Styrofoam, and similar materials.

Watercraft that meet the specifications of this policy are allowed to operate on the lake. Operators and passengers are required to remain on the watercraft and shall take all measures to avoid bodily contact with the water.

AUTHORITY

The Parks and Recreation Director is authorized to establish rules and regulations for park property and activities at Town of Sahuarita parks. Watercraft are further regulated by Arizona State legislation and the U.S. Coast Guard.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to regulate the use of watercraft on bodies of water owned and operated by the Town of Sahuarita, and specifically the lake at Sahuarita Lake Park.

DEFINITIONS

Manufacturer; a person, firm, corporation, partnership or association engaged in the business of building, manufacturing or importing watercraft for the purpose of sale or trade.

Motorized watercraft; any watercraft propelled by machinery whether or not the machinery is the main source of propulsion, and powered by electricity, fossil fuel, or steam.

Operate; in reference to a watercraft, means to use, navigate, or employ.

Operator; a person who operates or is in actual physical control of a watercraft.

Personal flotation device; an item worn and carried for use on watercraft as safety equipment to prevent drowning as approved by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Watercraft; a boat or other floating device designed to carry people on the water, propelled by machinery, oars, paddles, or wind.

POLICY & RULES

Sahuarita Lake does not have any designated swimming, wading, surfing, or bathing areas, therefore, all watercraft are considered vessels as defined by the US Coast Guard.

Sahuarita Lake is not a supervised facility. Use of watercraft is at your own risk.

Only rigid, non-inflatable watercraft up to 16 feet in length are allowed. Inflatable watercraft and flotation equipment including kayaks, dinghies, rafts, mattresses, noodles, inner tubes, makeshift contrivances, and similar are not permitted.

Only electric motors not exceeding 10 horsepower (hp) are allowed. No gas-powered or combustion motors permitted.

Watercraft must have personal flotation devices on board and in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Children 12 years and younger must wear a personal flotation device.

A lanyard, leash, tether or similar device that connects the operator to their Stand Up Paddle (SUP) board when in use is required.

Children under 16 years must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.

Pets are not permitted on watercraft.

Watercraft shall be launched and returned to land using the boat ramp at the north end of Sahuarita Lake.

Operators shall comply with watercraft manufacturer guidelines, including maximum number of passengers and weight limitations.

Operators are responsible for compliance with State of Arizona and U.S. Coast Guard boating regulations and laws. Current registration tags shall be displayed as applicable.

Speed limit is five (5) miles per hour (mph) and the entire lake is no wake.

All watercraft operators and passengers shall exhibit courtesy towards other park patrons.

COMPLIANCE

Park rules are in effect 24 hours a day, and are enforceable by any Town Official.

REFERENCES

Sahuarita Town Code: Chapters 12.10.010, 12.15.050, 12.15.070, 12.40.10
Arizona State Statutes: A.R.S. § 5-322, 5-331, 5-350(A)
Arizona Administrative Code: R12-4-501, R12-4-511