

CITY OF DOVER

SILVER LAKE AREA BOATING & WATER SKIING REGULATIONS

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SILVER LAKE AREA
BOATING & WATER SKIING REGULATIONS**

Sec. 15-20. Fishing.

- (a) Fishing in areas under the jurisdiction of the City shall be done according to the rules and regulations promulgated by the state Division of Fish and Wildlife.
- (b) Fishing shall be prohibited in park areas designated for swimming, boating, or other public use, such areas to be designated by the posting of signs and to posted hours only.

Sec. 15-34. Interference with wild animals.

No person shall catch, injure, or interfere with any wild animal.

Sec. 74-22. Boating.

Vessels and boating at Silver Lake shall be governed by the following provisions:

- (1) **Permit required.** Before any person shall operate any vessel upon Silver Lake, he shall obtain a permit for each vessel from the Customer Services Department. The vessel shall be registered in the name of the owner with the Customer Services Department at the time of the application for a permit. Thereafter, the owner shall be responsible for the operation of the vessel on Silver Lake and shall be responsible for compliance with the terms of this chapter, whether or not the owner is the operator of the vessel.
- (2) **Permit fee.** For each permit issued pursuant to subsection (2), the Customer Services Department shall collect an annual fee as specified by the City Council.
- (3) **Motorboats.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motorboat in excess of 18 feet in length or 115 horsepower, based on factory specifications as related to the vessel outboard certification (OBC) rating. Older vessels or home-built vessels shall be related as near as possible in accordance with similar vessels with factory horsepower recommendations.
- (4) **Personal Watercraft (PWC).** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate PWC or other similar devices upon Silver Lake. Personal watercraft are defined as motorboats less than 16 feet in length that are powered by jet pumps, not propellers, where the persons stand, kneel, or sit on, rather than inside the vessel. PWCs are operated by one person, and often have seating space for others. Some models have seating for up to four riders (including the operator).
- (5) **Airboat.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate an airboat or other similar devices upon Silver Lake. An airboat, also known as a fanboat, is a flat-bottomed vessel (jon boat) propelled in a forward direction by an aircraft-type propeller and powered by either an internal combustion or electric engine.
- (6) **Hovercraft.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a hovercraft or other

similar devices upon Silver Lake. A hovercraft (air-cushion vehicle, ACV) is a craft capable of traveling over surfaces while supported by a cushion of slow moving, high-pressure air which is ejected against the surface below and contained within a "skirt".

- (7) **Display of permit number.** Every vessel operated upon Silver Lake shall clearly display the permit required in subsection (2) on the right side of the vessel stern and on the right side of the trailer near the tongue. Permits must be clearly visible at all times.
- (8) **Direction of vessels.** As a general rule, and whenever practical, all vessels traveling around Silver Lake shall proceed in a counter-clockwise direction.
- (9) **Overtaking, passing, or meeting another vessel.** The U.S. Coast Guard Inland Rules of the Road regarding the overtaking, passing, or meeting of vessels shall apply to vessels upon Silver Lake.
- (10) **Passing under Silver Lake Bridge.** In passing under the Silver Lake Bridge all vessels shall use the arch to the right and no vessel at any time shall use the center arch. Speed under the bridge and within 75 feet of the bridge shall be at a no wake speed (four miles per hour).
- (11) **Operating distance from shore or bridge.** No power vessel shall operate less than 75 feet from any shore line, swimming area, pier, or dock, except when launching and landing, nor shall any power vessel operate closer than 75 feet to the Silver Lake Bridge, except when that vessel is intending to pass under the bridge, nor shall any power vessel operate closer than 50 feet to any other power or non-power vessel.
- (12) **Vessel racing.** Vessel racing is prohibited upon Silver Lake.
- (13) **Operating vessel in swimming area.** At no time shall any vessel be operated within any designated swimming area.
- (14) **Motorboat mufflers.** All vessels which are mechanically propelled shall at all times maintain, as part of its equipment, a standard manufacturer's muffler for the type of engine used.
- (15) **Vessels operated after sundown.** All non-power vessels operating after sundown shall be equipped with lights satisfying the U.S. Coast Guard Requirements on Inland Rules, and shall keep those lights in constant operation so long as the vessel is being operated and shall not operate at a speed in excess of four miles per hour. The operation of power vessels on Silver Lake shall be permitted from sunrise to sunset. Between sunrise and 10:00 a.m. (local time) power vessels shall be operated at a "no wake speed" (four miles per hour).
- (16) **Lowering, placing, and removing vessels with vehicle.** No person, other than the motor vehicle operator, shall occupy any motor vehicle being used for the purpose of lowering, placing, or removing any vessel at the ramps provided for this purpose at the Silver Lake site. The only vehicle accessible vessel ramp facility is located next to the dam and accessed from the Kings Highway park entrance.

- (17) **Garbage, litter, and other waste.** Garbage, litter, or other waste shall not be dropped or thrown from vessels or from shore into park waters, but shall be disposed of on shore, at designated locations, in the prescribed manner.
- (18) **Kayak, canoe, and other small craft launching.** Kayaks, canoes, and other small watercraft that can be launched without the assistance of a motor vehicle, may utilize the identified small craft launching area adjacent to the swimming beach accessed by the Washington St. park entrance. Craft may not be left in the launch area for any duration longer than necessary to access the lake.
- (19) **Beaching.** Beaching of vessels in other than designated areas is prohibited, except in an emergency or Parks and Recreation Department Director approved special events.
- (20) **Horseplay.** Any horseplay in vessels or changing from one vessel to another while on the water is strictly prohibited.
- (21) **Storms.** In all storm conditions, vessels must return to the docks.
- (22) **Accidents and injuries.** All accidents or injuries shall be reported to the police.
- (23) **Limiting or expanding vessel operations.** The director of Parks and Recreation and the parks, recreation, and community enhancement committee shall have the authority to limit or expand vessel operation in certain areas of the lake to facilitate operation of non-power watercraft or special events.

Sec. 74-123. Water skiing.

- (a) **Where prohibited.** No person shall engage in water skiing within 75 feet of any shoreline or within 75 feet of any designated swimming area.
- (b) **Prohibited devices.** The use of ski ramps, parachutes, and other similar devices that are designed to propel the rider, passenger, or participant into the air shall be prohibited on Silver Lake.
- (c) **Number of skiers.** Vessels shall pull no more than two skiers on weekdays, and no more than one skier on weekends and holidays.
- (d) **Observer.** When a vessel is engaged in pulling a skier, a person at least 12 years of age, other than the vessel operator, shall be in the vessel to observe the skier and to notify the driver of the vessel if the skier should at any time be injured or in need of assistance.
- (e) **Boat operator.** No person under the age of 16 years shall operate a vessel towing a skier or any device.
- (f) **Flotation.** No person shall water ski upon Silver Lake unless he is wearing a life jacket or some other ample form of flotation gear that is approved for the activity by the United States Coast Guard.
- (g) **Bridge.** No person shall water ski under Silver Lake Bridge.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Boating on Silver Lake requires a permit from the City of Dover and the State of Delaware Department of Natural Resources. Anyone who does not comply with the rules and regulations or is the operator of any non-permitted motorboat on Silver Lake will be subject to penalties and fines. State boating permits may be obtained at the Department of Natural Resources on Kings Highway. For more information, call 739-9916. City boating permits may be obtained at 5 East Reed Street, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, call 736-7055.