

# Indiana Boating Laws

## Age and Operator Restrictions

No one **under 15 years of age** may legally operate a motorboat greater than 10 hp or a PWC.

Boaters who are 15 years of age may operate a motorboat or PWC until they become a licensed driver only if they complete a boater education course approved by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and have on board an ID card issued by the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV).

A person who has never been licensed by the BMV must complete an approved boater education course successfully and have on board an ID issued by the Indiana BMV to operate a motorboat legally.

All other motorboat or PWC operators must have a valid vehicle driver's license to operate on all Indiana public waters.

## Navigation Lights

Boat operators must make sure that their boats are equipped with the proper navigation lights. They must use the lights when away from the dock between sunset and sunrise, and during periods of restricted visibility such as fog or heavy rain. No other lights that may be mistaken for required navigation lights may be exhibited. All boats are required to display a white light visible from all directions whenever they are moored or anchored away from dock between sunset and sunrise. Docking lights are not to be used as navigation lights, but only to dock vessel. Docking lights hinder the vision of others and make it difficult to see proper navigation lighting.

## Vessel Speed Restrictions

No person operating a motorboat shall approach or pass another boat in a manner, or at a high rate of speed, which creates a hazardous wake or wash. No person shall operate any motorboat less than two hundred (200) feet off the shoreline, unless they are operating at idle speed. All boats must be operated at 10 miles per hour or less between sunset and sunrise.

## "Idle Speed" or "No-Wake"

This indicates a boating restricted area established to protect the safety of the public, protection of ecological resources and property. Idle speed means the slowest possible speed, not exceeding five miles per hour, to maintain steerage with minimal wake.