

Watercraft Safety

Compiled by the Connestee Falls Fishing Club (revised and reissued February 2017)

The Connestee Falls Property Owners Association has adopted a number of Rules and Regulations to ensure your safety on our waters. Full details of watercraft practices are found in Article XI, section 3 of the CFPOA Rules and Regulations.

- No individual shall operate any watercraft in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any individual. (CFPOA Rules and Regulations Article XI,3.A).
- No individual shall operate any watercraft while under the influence of narcotics, barbiturates, liquor, or other intoxicating substance or drugs. (CFPOA Rules and Regulations Article XI,3.B).
- The electric motor of any watercraft must be stopped during the pickup, loading, or unloading of an individual from the water, dock, shore, or while operator is engaged in any act of loading or transferring passengers. (CFPOA Rules and Regulations Article XI,3.F).
- Children under (12) years of age may not operate any type of watercraft on any lake unless under the supervision of a responsible adult. Children under sixteen (16) years of age may not operate any type of power watercraft on any lake unless under the supervision of a responsible adult. (CFPOA Rules and Regulations Article XI,3.C).
- All safety regulations of the state and the U.S. Coast Guard will be enforced for all watercraft used on lakes within the Community. (CFPOA Rules and Regulations Article XI,3.H).

State and Coast Guard Requirements (applicable to Connestee Falls Lakes):

- **Personal Flotation Devices** - Recreational vessels must have one Type I, II, or III Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) (life jacket) of a suitable size for each individual aboard, and, in addition, for vessels 16 feet or more, one throwable Type IV PFD (ring buoy, buoyant cushion) . **Each child under 13 must wear an appropriate PFD** approved by the Coast Guard, unless the vessel is not underway.
- **Signaling** - A vessel must have some means of making an efficient sound signal (e.g., horn or whistle) to signal your intentions and to signal your position in periods of reduced visibility.
- **Operating at Night:** Row or paddle boats and small sailboats may display those lights prescribed by the Coast Guard for a sailing vessel, but if they do not, they shall have ready at hand a flashlight, lighted lantern or similar device shining a white light exhibited in sufficient time to prevent collision. Power driven vessels, may carry a white light in the stern or have on board a hand flashlight in good working condition which shall be ready at hand to be temporarily displayed in time to prevent collision.
- **Accidents** – An operator is required to stop and render assistance to other individuals affected by an accident as may be practical and necessary in order to save them or minimize any danger resulting from the accident. An operator is required to make immediate notification to the Transylvania County Sheriff (911) and to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (800 662 7137) when an accident occurs that involves a vessel or its equipment resulting in a death or disappearance of an individual from a vessel. Reporting to N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is also required if an individual is injured and requires medical treatment beyond first aid, or if actual physical damage to property (including vessels) exceeds \$2,000.
- **Right of Way** - Navigation safety is largely a matter of boating courtesy, or the observation of the “golden rule” in marine traffic. There are, however, “rules of the road.” They include: Meeting - when two watercraft approach each other from opposite directions “heads on”, each must alter course to the right to avoid collision. Crossing - when two watercraft approach each other at an angle, the one on the right has the right-of-way and the other must stay clear. Any watercraft under sail or propelled by oars or paddles has the right of way over motorboats.