

Who Can Legally Operate a Boat in Georgia Waters

Those less than 12 years of age:

- May not legally operate a PWC or a boat powered by a motor of more than 30 horsepower
- May legally operate a boat less than 16 ft in length which is either non-motorized or powered by a motor of 30 horsepower or less only if they are accompanied by a competent adult

Those 12 or 13 years of age:

- May legally operate a non-motorized boat less than 16 ft in length without restrictions
- May legally operate a boat less than 16 ft in length powered by a motor of 30 horsepower or less only if they have passed a boating safety course approved by the Department of Natural Resources, are accompanied by a competent adult or are under direct supervision of a competent adult
- May not legally operate a boat less than 16 ft powered by a motor of more than 30 horsepower

Those 14 or 15 years of age:

- May legally operate a non-motorized boat less than 16 ft in length without restrictions
- May legally operate any other boat only if they have passed a boating safety course approved by the Department of Natural Resources, are accompanied by a competent adult or are under direct supervision of a competent adult

Those 16 years of age or older:

- May operate any boat on the waters of Georgia if they have proper identification onboard

Who Can Legally Operate a Boat in South Carolina Waters

Those 16 years of age or older may operate any boat or PWC without restrictions.

Those younger than 16 years may operate:

- A boat powered by less than 15 horsepower without restrictions
- A boat powered by 15 horsepower or more **only if**:
 - They are accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old who is not under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs **or ...**
 - They have passed a boating safety course approved by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

It is also unlawful for a person to cause or allow a child over whom they have permanent or temporary responsibility to illegally operate a boat or PWC.

Speed Regulations

Failure to regulate speed is defined as operating a boat or PWC at speeds that may cause danger, injury, damage, or unnecessary inconvenience.

You may not operate a boat or PWC in excess of idle speed within 50 ft (SC) or 100 ft (GA) of:

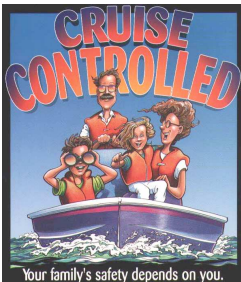
- A moored or anchored boat
- A wharf, pier or dock
- A person in the water.

Maintain idle speed when in the vicinity of a boat flashing a blue light. Boat operators are also responsible for any damage caused by their wake.

Every boater should take a safe boating course offered by one of the following:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| • United States Power Squadrons (USPS) | 866-430-2628 |
| • United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA) | 864-224-0593 or 706-376-0096 |
| • SC Department of Natural Resources | 864-654-8266 x18 |
| • GA Department of Natural Resources | 770-535-5499 |

Check on the web for schedules or on-line courses at www.americasboatingcourse.com



Navigating Lake Hartwell



Prepared by
**The Lake Hartwell
Association**

www.LakeHartwellAssociation.org

Contact us for copies of this brochure or
for membership information.

1-888-200-4899

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"for the sake of the lake"



Channel Markers & Aids to Navigation

The main channel starts at the dam (buoys 1 & 2) and proceeds north to the junction of the Tugaloo and Seneca rivers (buoy 26ATS)

Red buoys with even numbers mark the right side of the channel as one navigates upstream. Use caution passing between a red buoy and the shore.



Green buoys with odd numbers mark the left side of the channel as one navigates upstream. Use caution passing between a green buoy and the shore.

A white buoy with a red vertical bar marks the center of creek channels and the headwater areas of the Tugaloo and Seneca rivers.



Red and green buoys mark the junction of creeks with the main channel. The top color shows the color of the main channel.

Numbered buoys along the Seneca river channel are marked with an "S" while those along the Tugaloo are marked with a "T." Numbers increase as one navigates upstream.



Buoys with horizontal orange stripes and diamonds show special danger or caution areas such as shoals or dead trees.

No wake buoys mark boat ramps, marinas, bridges and other areas where boaters must not exceed idle speed.



Boats Keep Out buoys mark restricted areas near the dam and swimming areas. They are marked with an orange diamond with a + inside.

Channel Marker Codes

12 Mile Creek	12MC
23 Mile Creek	23 MC
26 Mile Creek	26MC
Camp Creek	CAC
Choestoea Creek	CHC
Coneross Creek	COC
Cranes Creek	CRC
Deep Creek	DC
Eastanolle Creek	EC
Fair Play Branch	FPB
Gum Branch Creek	GB
Gum Log Creek	GLC
Lightwood Log Creek	LLC
Little Beaverdam Creek	LBC
Little Powder Bag Creek	LPOC
Martin Creek	MC
Paynes Creek	PC
Powder Bag Creek	POC
Reed Creek	RC
Sadlers Creek	SAC
Seneca Creek	SC
Shoal Creek	SHC

Emergency Phone Numbers

County	Number
Hart	706-376-3114 (or 911)
Franklin	706-384-7111 (or 911) 706-384-2525
Stephens	706-886-2935
Anderson	864-260-4400 (or 911)
Pickens	864-898-5500 (or 911)
Oconee	864-638-4111 (or 911)
USACE	706-856-0300 (or) 888-893-0678
SCDNR	800-922-5431 (24/7) 864-654-8266 (day)
Ga DNR	800-241-4113 (24/7) 770-535-5499 (day)
Marine Radio Channel 16 (156.8MHz) is monitored by Coast Guard Auxiliary.	

Legally Required Equipment for Your Boat

- ✓ Display of boat registration numbers on hull
- ✓ Approved personal flotation devices (PFDs)

All boats must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable type PFD for each person on board or being towed. Each PFD must be in good condition, readily available and the proper size for the intended wearer. In addition, boats 16 ft in length or longer must carry a Type IV throwable device. Any person under 12 in SC must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD when on board a boat less than 16 ft. long. Persons under 10 in GA must wear an approved PFD unless in a completely enclosed cabin.

- ✓ Registration or documentation
- ✓ Fire extinguisher(s)

All boats are required to have a Type B, U.S. Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher(s) onboard if one or more of the following conditions exist:

- *Closed compartments under seats where portable fuel tanks may be stored*
- *Closed storage compartments in which flammable or combustible materials may be stored*
- *Closed living spaces*
- *Permanently installed fuel tanks (any tank where the removal of the tank is hampered by the installation of tie-down straps or clamps).*

- ✓ Ventilation for boats with inboard engines
- ✓ Backfire flame control for boats with inboard engines
- ✓ A horn or whistle—boats over 39.4 ft also require a bell
- ✓ Navigation lights for all boats except personal water craft (PWCs) which can't be operated legally at night
- ✓ Boats over 26 ft require Pollution and MARPOL Trash Placards
- ✓ Boats over 26 ft require a current and complete Navigation Rules book

LHA note: this list is not necessarily all inclusive.