

## **GENERAL SAFETY RULES FOR DAY TO REMEMBER EVENTS**

Because of our concern for the safety of all of our participants and volunteers, In His Wakes has put into effect general safety rules pertaining to the water sports activities during our Day to Remember events. **It is imperative that these safety rules are strictly followed** so that the Day to Remember events are a positive experience for all. Furthermore, following these guidelines will ensure that your event maintains its insurance coverage.

### **SKI BOAT**

Only approved/designated drivers will be allowed to drive at the In His Wakes events. The driver **must be experienced at driving competitive ski boats and 18 years of age or older**. Nate Miller will determine who the drivers will be.

### **TUBE BOAT DRIVER AND TUBE RIDING RULES**

Only approved drivers will be allowed to drive at the In His Wakes events. The driver **must be experienced at driving competitive ski boats and 18 years of age or older**. **DRIVER SHALL NOT EXCEED 15 MPH. THERE MUST BE AN OBERSERVER IN THE BOAT TO LET DRIVER KNOW IF A PARTICIPANT HAS FALLEN OFF THE TUBE.**

**All in-water obstacles (docks, other boats, ramps, other obstructions) must be located, removed if feasible, and avoided at all times. Stay in the center of the lake to ensure tubes are clear of the shoreline and docks.**

The driver must keep in mind that tubes rank number 2 in water sports accidents right behind personal watercrafts. **The driver must be responsible and resist the urge to go faster no matter how much the participants may beg!** In addition to striking on-shore obstacles or other boats, the driver must be aware that excessive speeds and bumps can cause heads to bang and necks to whip.

**Slower speeds should be used in the turns...NO WILD WHIPPING AND THROWING THE TUBE IN THE AIR.** Keep an open eye out for the participant's response to the ride. Some may be begging to come in, others may be begging for more...use your judgment and be sensitive to the individual needs of the participants.

You can ride as many participants on the tube per the manufacture recommendations. Just as with the ropes, ensure there are no tears or sun damage in the tube coverings, and also carefully check the inflatable tubes for proper rope connection.

Please remember to be sensitive to the participant's age and gender. We recommend putting girls on tubes with girls and boys with boys. Also, attempt to

group the participants of the same age and level of expertise together.

### **BOAT RIDING AND OPERATION**

All participants **must be seated** while in the boat and **everyone must wear a vest while riding in the boat. A spotter is required in the boat** to notify the driver of a skier or tube riding fall. The spotter should also be wearing a vest as it may be necessary to jump in the water to assist a frightened participant. Do not exceed manufacturer recommendations in regards to number of occupants in the boat.

**No jumping in and out of the boat to swim to shore.** Participants may be transferred from boat to tubes and skis, but they should not be jumping out of the boat just for fun or to swim around. **Boat engine should be off** when participants are on the platform, and when they are entering the water. **Driver should ask whether the platform area is clear prior to starting the engine.** Remember, the participants are not comfortable in the water and a boat approaching them can be quite frightening, please keep a comfortable distance from the participant so that they do not feel threatened by the boat.

**Please refrain from playing music in the boat as this is often a distraction.**

### **LIFE VEST**

**ALL PARTICIPANTS AND VOLUNTEERS must wear a vest while in the water REGARDLESS OF ABILITY TO SWIM!** All in-water volunteers and boat spotters need to wear vests for many reasons. Two of the most important are to **set an example** to the participants and also for **safety** reasons. A panicked participant can pull under even the most advanced swimmer. Please make sure that all host and volunteer's children are also wearing a vest.

We have found that many kids will act as though they can swim, and they cannot. To prevent any chance of a most unfortunate accident, **ANYONE IN THE WATER OR ON THE SHORELINE MUST HAVE A VEST ON, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Make sure that the vests fit each participant correctly.** A vest which is too large can go over the participant's head and is also uncomfortable to wear. A vest too small may not be able to support the weight of the individual. Upon arrival, ensure that each participant and volunteer has a proper fitting vest. Volunteers may want to bring their own vest for comfort.

### **SWIMMING**

There needs to be a swim area designated for all swim activities. Again, all swimmers and anyone on the shoreline must be in a properly fitting vest. The area

needs to be defined by some boundary (perhaps buoys) and a volunteer who is trained in life saving techniques needs to be assigned to oversee this area. No boats should come into the swim area nor should any participants swim to the boat from the swim area. This is a great location to teach newcomers to the water the proper way to float in a vest.

If you have a large group of participants in the water, it may be necessary to implement a buddy system. Match every participant with a partner within the group. Approximately every 10 minutes within the swim session, blow a whistle and have the “buddy’s” join hands and lift them into the air for the lifeguard to take a head count. This is an easy and effective way to keep a count of how many kids are in the water and keeps them in the assigned areas.

**It is the Host’s responsibility to ensure that all volunteers and participant’s are aware of the general safety rules.**