

Watercraft Initial Lake Entry and/or Re-entry Checklist

Registration:

Valid HVLA Stickers (Proper lot # displayed)		
HVLA Stickers Displayed AFT port & starboard above water line	Yes	No
Valid NE Boat License	Yes	No
Does Hull ID Number Match the Registration	Yes	No

Safety Equipment:

PFDs/Life Jackets	Yes	No
Throwable Flotation Device (vessels 16' longer)(Life jacket is acceptable)	Yes	No
Fire Extinguisher (if applicable)	Yes	No
Muffler	Yes	No
Ventilation (inboard boats only)	Yes	No
Flame Arrestor (inboard boats only)	Yes	No
Sound producing device (whistle, horn, siren)	Yes	No
Operational navigational lights (vessels 16' longer)	Yes	No
Wooden Paddle (except PWC)	Yes	No
Bailing bucket/bilge pump/sponge: (except PWC)	Yes	No
Whistle or Bell	Yes	No

General Inspection:

Clean/Dry Bilge Area	Pass	Fail
Lifejackets, Minnow Bucket, etc. Inspected for Dry/Overall Cleanliness	Pass	Fail
Ensure Drain Plug In	Pass	Fail
Check Motor Compartment/Outboards for Oil/Fluid Leaks	Pass	Fail
Was Watercraft in Another Lake Within the Last 30 Days	Yes	No
If Yes - Identify the Risk Factors:		
• Was the lake on the contaminated water list?	Yes	No
If Yes - has the watercraft been quarantined for 30 days	Yes	No
• Been power washed by a certified marina?	Yes	No
• Is the watercraft dirty, crusty or slimy below the waterline?	Yes	No
• Look for water on board. Is there standing water in tanks, wells, bait wells	Yes	No

Answering "Yes" to any of these questions may indicate that the watercraft is a high risk for potentially introducing/spreading Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). A very thorough inspection is recommended and possible decontamination needed.

Inspection Date: _____

Resident Signature: _____

Note: Resident's signature also denotes that they have familiarized themselves with all HVLA lake safety rules and regulations.

Inspector's Signature: _____

Brief Explanation of Required Items

1. **NUMBERING:** The boat's registration number must be permanently attached to each side of the forward half of the boat characters must be plain, vertical, block style, not less than three (3) inches high, and in a color contrasting with the background. A space or hyphen must separate the letters from the numbers. Numbering shall start with the validation sticker, followed by the two capital block letters "NB," then a 2-inch space, then three digits in a numerical group, then a 2-inch space, and finally two or three capital block letters. No numbers and letters other than the registration numbers, letters and validation stickers shall be displayed on any mechanically powered boat on either side of the forward half of the vessel.

2. **REGISTRATION/DOCUMENTATION:** Registration or Documentation papers must be on board and available. Length of Registration – Nebraska motorboat registrations are issued for three-year periods, expiring on Dec. 31 of the third year. No motorboat may be operated after Dec. 31 without the registration being renewed.

3. **PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs):** Acceptable PFDs (also known as Life Jackets) must be U.S. Coast Guard approved and in good, serviceable condition. A wearable PFD of suitable size is required for the each person on the boat. Children must have properly fitted PFDs designed for children. Wearable PFDs shall be "readily accessible." Boats 16 Feet or longer, must also have one Type IV (throwable) device, which shall be "immediately available." PFDs shall NOT be stored in unopened plastic packaging. For Personal Watercraft riders, the PFD must be worn.

4. **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:** A fire extinguisher is required on any inboard or inboard/outboard vessel, any outboard vessel with closed compartments, closed living spaces or permanently installed fuel tanks. Fire extinguishers are NOT required for outboard motorboats less than 26 feet in length that are made of open construction and do not carry passengers for hire.
NOTE: Fire extinguishers must be readily accessible and verified as serviceable.

5. **MUFFLER:** Exhaust of all internal combustion engines used on motorboats shall be effectively muffled. It shall be unlawful to operate any motorboat that exceeds a noise level of 96 decibels when measured at 100 feet when the motorboat is on plane.

6. **VENTILATION:** Boats with gasoline engines in closed compartments, built after 1 August 1980 must have a powered ventilation system. Those built prior to that date must have natural or powered ventilation. Boats with closed fuel tank compartments built after 1 August 1978 must meet requirements by displaying a "certificate of compliance." Boats built before that date must have either natural or powered ventilation in the fuel tank compartment.

7. **BACKFIRE FLAME ARRESTER:** All gasoline powered inboard/outboard or inboard motor boats must be equipped with an approved backfire flame control device

7. **SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES:** To comply with Navigation Rules and for distress signaling purposes all boats must carry a sound producing device (whistle, horn, siren, etc.) capable of a 4-second blast audible for 1/2 mile.

8. **NAVIGATION LIGHTS:** All boats must be able to display navigation lights between sunset and sunrise and in conditions of reduced visibility. Boats 16 feet or more in length must have properly installed, working navigation lights and an all around anchor light capable of being lit independently from the red/green/white "running" lights.

9. **OVERALL BOAT CONDITION:** As it applies to this Vessel. Including, but not limited to:

a. Deck free of hazards and clean bilge - The boat must be free from fire hazards, in good overall condition, with bilges reasonably clean and visible hull structure generally sound. The use of automobile parts on boat engines is not acceptable. The engine horsepower must not exceed that shown on the capacity plate.

b. Electrical Systems: The electrical system must be protected by fuses or manual reset circuit breakers. Switches and fuse panels must be protected from rain or water spray. Wiring must be in good condition, properly installed and with no exposed areas or deteriorated insulation. Batteries must be secured and terminals covered to prevent accidental arcing.. If installed, self-circling or kill switch mechanism must be in proper working order. All PWCs require an operating self circling or kill switch mechanism.

Fuel Systems - Portable fuel tanks (normally 7 gallon capacity or less) must be constructed of non-breakable material and free of corrosion and leaks. All vents must be capable of being closed. The tank must be secured and have a vapor-tight, leak-proof cap. Each permanent fuel tank must be properly ventilated.

UNLAWFUL PRACTICES:

If any conservation officer or other law enforcement official of Nebraska sees a vessel being operated without the proper equipment or with any other unsafe condition, he or she may direct the operator to correct the situation immediately or return to mooring until the hazard is corrected.

Overloading: All vessels when loaded must retain at least one-half of the total depth of the boat above the water when measured at the center of the vessel and must meet the requirement of the manufacturer's capacity plate.

It is unlawful to operate or give permission for the operation of a vessel that is not equipped as required (see all requirements below).

It is unlawful for any operator to exceed the speed posted or charted in any specific zone or area. Under all other circumstances speed must be reasonable and proper in consideration of the prevailing conditions..

It is unlawful to wake jump with a motorized vessel within 50 yards of another craft.

Operating a motorboat with a blood alcohol content of .08% or greater constitutes Boating Under the Influence (BUI) and carries a penalty of up to \$1,000 fine, up to six months in jail and the loss of boating privileges for six months. Refusal to submit to a chemical blood alcohol test will result in the same penalties as BUI.

Personal watercraft cannot under any circumstances be operated from sunset to sunrise.

Swimming or bathing is prohibited in any marinas or within 20 yards of launching, mooring or docking areas.

No vessel may be tied off or attached to any buoy, marker or navigational aid on any waters in this state.

It is unlawful to place or leave, in any public waters, any vessel not safe for operation.

No child under 13 is allowed aboard any vessel when not wearing a Coast Guard-approved life preserver except when hunting waterfowl in an anchored boat. Operators shall be held responsible.

No one under 14 shall operate motorboats of any class at any time. Owners shall be held responsible.

Each personal watercraft operator must wear a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch if the personal watercraft is equipped by the manufacturer.

Nebraska law requires any motorboat operator (including personal watercraft) born after 12/31/1985 to complete a Boating Safety Course and be in possession of a course certificate when operating the boat.

ORANGE FLAG Whenever a water skier/tuber, surfboarder or any person engaged in a similar activity or associated equipment, is down in the water the operator or observer of the tow boat must display a hunter orange flag of a size not less than 12 inches square or at least 144 square inches. This flag must be visible from 360 degrees. It is unlawful to display an orange flag when persons or equipment are not in the water.

WATER SKIING Observer – All vessels, when pulling a person on skis, surfboards or similar devices and not equipped with a wide-angle rear view mirror, must have a responsible person age 12 or older as an observer in the vessel with the operator. **Lifesaving Devices** – A person being towed on skis, surfboards or similar devices must

wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket that is in good condition. The exception is during state-authorized regattas and similar ski and water shows. Lines – All lines, when not in use, must be stowed aboard the towing vessel. Skiing Hours – It is unlawful to tow or assist a person on water skis, aquaplane or similar device from the period of one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise unless in duly authorized competition.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION Aquatic Invasive Species – Any waterborne, non-native organism that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species, the ecological stability of impacted waters, or commercial, agricultural, aquacultural or recreational activities.

Impact – Invasive species may cause significant ecological problems because they have been introduced into habitat in which there are no natural pathogens, parasites or predators. Lack of these natural controls may allow a nuisance species to grow exponentially in new habitat. Introduced nuisance species may prey upon or compete with native species and could transmit diseases to native species.

Preventive Steps – Anglers and boaters should take precautions to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive species. This is especially important to boaters who travel to waters that have invasive species not present in any Nebraska waters.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES:

It is unlawful for a boat to arrive at or leave any body of water in Nebraska with water other than from a domestic source except for fire-fighting purposes. Drain water on site.

It is unlawful for a boat or trailer to arrive or leave a launch area with any aquatic vegetation from that water body still attached. Boat blinds cannot use plants listed as invasive species or noxious weeds.

Wash mud off waders. Felt-sole wading boots are not allowed.

These steps are intended to prevent or delay the establishment of aquatic invasive species in Nebraska waters.

Clean, Drain and Dry – Zebra and quagga mussels can survive out of water for up to two weeks. After boating and before launching your boat in a different water body:

Rinse boat and all equipment with hot tap water ideally more than 140 degrees F to kill zebra and quagga mussels. Vinegar can also be used to kill young zebra and quagga mussels, especially in live wells; Spray boat, live well, engine and trailer with a high-pressure sprayer; Pull plugs from bilge, live wells and engine to drain upon leaving a water body. If washing the boat away from the water body you are leaving, do not allow runoff to enter a drainage. Control your runoff. Dry boat and all equipment for at least five days. Use a towel to speed up the drying process.