

# BUFFELSPOORT DAM – WATER USAGE RULES

## Regulations mentioned hereunder pertain to the Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations, 2007; as Amended.

1. The Buffelspoort Dam committee reserves the right to, either refuse permission to launch, or to order immediate removal from the water, any craft considered to be unsafe or being used in a manner which endangers the safety of other water users. **Regulation 8 (2)** states that **Reckless driving on the water will not be tolerated!**
2. It is unlawful to operate a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or any other substance having a narcotic effect. Be warned that, in this regard, the rules on the water are the same as those on the road. **(Reg 17).**
3. The skipper of a craft shall not manoeuvre a craft, a skier or any person being towed on any recreational device by the craft, within **100 metres** of any other person boating, swimming or skiing in the water. Following directly behind a skier is also **STRICLTY FORBIDDEN. (Regulation 36)**
4. No person under the **age of 16 or persons without a valid skipper's licence** may operate a **TOWING** vessel. Persons under the age of 16 and persons without a valid skipper's licence may however drive a boat that is not a towing vessel, under the direct supervision of a qualified skipper. **(Regulation 18)**
5. All craft are required to keep clear of events such as yachting and angling. Any organised events need approval from the department.
6. Vessels may only launch at the designated launch site/s. As per **Regulation 12**, a "Voyage Information Form", available from the Safety Boat Officer, needs to be completed prior to launching and on return.
7. No boat trailers allowed on camping sites and must be left in the designated Boat Trailer area.
8. Vessels are only permitted on the water between 06:00 to 18:30 from *1 October to 31 March* and between 07:00 to 17:00 from *1 April to 30 September*.
9. Personal Flotation Devices (PFD's) for pilot and passengers must be kept in boats. All non-swimmers and children under the age of 12 must wear life jackets, while underway, including Trawling. **Reg 7 (2)**
10. The skipper must always concentrate, have a good view ahead and wear a kill switch lanyard. **Reg 7 (5).**
11. It is not permitted to bow ride or to take up a position on a vessel that may endanger yourself or others.
12. Vessels with a motor size of less than 15hp are required to have the necessary buoyancy to operate safely and operators and passengers need to wear life jackets at all times.
13. All boats must have a valid CoF and there must be a person on all vessels on the dam with a valid CoC (skipper's licence) **Regulation 16 (6) and 22**
14. No canoes or paddle boards permitted in the high activity area. Those participating in these activities must **always** wear life jackets.
15. No entry is permitted in the "no wake zone" (**south of the floating buoy line**) without a permit which must be obtained from the relevant official prior to entering the "no wake zone".
16. **Strictly "No Access" is allowed in the Security and Safety Zone (At the Dam Wall).**

17. All vessels **MUST** travel in an anti-clockwise direction. Due to the size of the dam, travelling at a high speed or racing with other boats is not allowed under any circumstances.
18. No person shall jump or dive from a vessel or swim away from such vessel. No watercraft is allowed to make Power Turns, S-turns and/or circles within **50 meters** from the shore. No boats are allowed to pass closer than 30 meters from the shore whilst under power. (More than idle speed)
19. The skipper of any craft remains responsible for the conduct and safety of his crew.
20. No person may get off their craft onto the shoreline at any place except at the designated areas on the western shore.
21. Boats approaching from the left have the right of way to boats leaving the shore
22. No swimming further than 15 meters from the shore is permitted.
23. Swimming next to the floating buoy line between the high and low activity zones is permissible for "open water swimming training" but persons under the age of 16 will require adult supervision. **NO** swimming is permitted within the security area or in areas where aquatic plants are prevalent.
24. All persons are to keep strictly clear, by at least 20m, of any Aids to Navigation (AtoN) or Demarcation Markers (Buoys). It is an Offence (Merchant Shipping Act) to moor onto or tamper with any AtoN or Demarcation Marker.
25. Failure to comply with the above rules deems a visitor liable to a fine or suspension or loss of visiting rights, as adjudicated by at least three committee members.

*All appropriate instructions from the SAMSA appointed Enforcement Officer, Mr Attie Oosthuizen, should be obeyed by any person in or on the water, either on a craft of whatever nature, or in the water itself. (Regulation 31).*

## **Buffelspoort dam – Water Sports Rules**

1. It is unlawful to participate in towing sports or operate a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or any other substance having a narcotic effect. Be warned that, in this regard, the rules on the water are the same as those on the road.
2. The skipper of a towing vessel must ensure that there is a competent person on the vessel to observe the person being towed and such person must carry a **500mm x 500mm** red flag in the vessel and make sure it is clearly visible when the vessel is engaged in picking up a person in the water. The skipper may not double as an observer.
3. When operational, all pilots towing skiers through a Slalom Course must approach the course in an anti-clockwise direction.
4. Skiing training times: **AM: 5:00-6:00, PM: 17:30-18:30 (or at the discretion of the Enforcement Officer)**. Inform the Enforcement Officer if you wish to make use of one of these allocated times.
5. All skiers must wear the appropriate PFD's. These PFD's may vary by discipline.
6. All boats, after bringing a skier into shore, must throttle back immediately, raise the red flag, and remain motionless while pulling in the ski-rope.
- 7. BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHER PERSONS PARTAKING IN WATER SPORTS AT ALL TIMES.**

**I hereby accept the rules and conditions:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_