

# JET SKI USERS (PERSONAL WATER CRAFT)

**BEFORE HEADING OUT ON A JET SKI MAKE SURE YOU ARE UP TO SPEED ON ALL THE RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

## WHAT ARE THE RULES

Jet skis are considered 'power-driven vessels' by law, so the same rules apply to both jet skis and power-driven vessels. The easiest way to make sure you know the rules is to complete a safe boating course and familiarise yourself with the local rules (grab yourself a copy of the Navigation Safety Bylaw from our website [www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/navigation-safety-bylaw](http://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/navigation-safety-bylaw)).

Another helpful tool is the FREE smartphone app MarineMate that gives you access to the local boating rules, boat ramp locations, tide times and VHF channels. Simply search MarineMate in your app store to download.



## WEAR A LIFEJACKET

Wear a lifejacket or personal flotation device at all times. The lifejacket must be securely fastened and the lifejacket must be appropriate size.

## KNOW THE SPEED RULES

Keep to 5 knots (a fast walking pace / 9.25km per hour) within:

### COASTAL WATERS

- 200m of the shore
- 50m of another vessel
- 200m of a dive flag
- 50m of a person in the water

### INLAND WATERS

- 30m of the shore
- 50m of another vessel and structures
- 200m of a dive flag
- 50 of a person in the water

These 5 knot restrictions may be reduced or uplifted in some areas. To find out local information freephone the local harbourmaster on 0800 800 401.



**Five knots is a fast walking pace, or 9.25 km/h.**



## FIFTEEN YEARS OR OLDER

You must be 15 years or older to operate a jet ski. Anyone under the age of 15 operating a jet ski, must be under the direct supervision of a person who is 15 years or older where that person is in immediate reach of the controls.

## WATCH OUT FOR SWIMMERS

Remember that you must only travel at 5 knots or less within 50m of a person in the water.

## COMMUNICATIONS

You must carry at least one form of waterproof communication however we recommend you carry two. For example, a cell phone in a dry bag or a waterproof VHF radio.

## KEEP IN TOUCH

Always let someone know where you are going and when you will be back.

## WATER SKIING / TOWING

If you are using your jet ski to water ski or tow, you must have a second person (an observer) sitting on the back watching the person/item being towed.

## WEATHER CHECK

Always check the weather at least 12 hours before heading out.

## TURN SAFELY

Apply the throttle to turn. When you throttle off completely you lose steering control.

