

**REGIONAL REGULATIONS**  
**“PROVISIONS AND REGULATIONS FOR NAVIGATION**  
**ON THE PIEDMONTESE WATERS OF LAKE MAGGIORE**

(Promulgated with D.P.G.R. n. 3/R of 14/4/2000)

**SECTION 1**  
**SCOPE OF APPLICATION**

**ART. 1**

*Circulation of navigation units*

1. Navigation is permitted along the coastline, up to a distance of 150 meters from the shore, only to sailboats, rowboats, pedal-driven boats, windsurf boards and professional and non-professional fishing units. Fishing motorboats must be driven at a speed appropriate for train fishing.
2. Motorboats are allowed to cross the coast belt of which at §1 by the shortest way (perpendicularly to the coastline) at a speed no higher than 10 Km/h (about 5 knots).
3. Beyond the coast belt of which at §1, during the day or at night, boats cannot exceed the maximum speed limit of 45 km/h (about 25 knots), except for boats equipped with full scope (360°) white signal light, for which speed during the night must be limited to 14 km/h (about 7 knots).
4. Boat pilots must in any case regulate the speed of their unit so as not to represent a danger for bathers and for other units, paying attention to traffic, visibility and conditions of the lake.
5. The provisions of which at § 1, 2 and 3 are not applicable to:
  - a) rescue and emergency boats, Civil Defence units, Fire Department, Customs, Police units and boats belonging to the Provincial and Regional Administration;
  - b) units with temporary operational plate specifically authorized by the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division;
  - c) units assigned to regular public and private service;
  - d) units assigned to control, assistance and jury duty during authorized sports events;
6. In derogation of the provision of which at §3 beyond the coast belt of which at § 1 competition units are allowed to navigate at a higher speed than the maximum limit of 45 km/h (about 25 knots).

**ART. 2**

*Behaviour during navigation*

1. All boats must keep at a minimum distance of 50 meters from regular public service units and be especially careful near piers used by regular public and private service boats, near ports, sailing, motorboating and water skiing schools, and within the lake areas reserved for specific activities (water skiing, water scooters, exit corridors, etc.).
2. All units are allowed to cross the regular public service routes making sure however not to get in the way of the above mentioned units.
3. It is forbidden:

- a) to interfere with the route, impede access or exit from ports and docking of regular public and private service units;
  - b) get in the way of professional fishing boats as well as of units involved in authorized events as provided for by article 13;
  - c) follow on the wake of water skiers at a distance of less than 50 meters from the towing boat;
  - d) steer a boat into areas reserved for bathing, reed thicket water expanses and the areas of archaeological or naturalistic relevance specifically identified by the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division;
  - e) mooring and taking-off of seaplanes and of other types of aeromobiles except along corridors and within areas especially delimited by the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division.
4. Navigation of sports crafts is not permitted except during special events organized by the Italian Motorboating Federation (FIM) and authorized training as provided for by article 13.
  5. The restrictions of which at § 3, letter e), are not applicable to:  
Civil Protection units involved in rescue operations, Fire Department, Customs and Police boats.

### **ART. 3**

#### *Regular Public Transportation*

1. The public transportation units headed for docking must always give the right of way to boats leaving the port and if necessary must stop outside the docking area, that is at a safe distance, and wait for the departing public service units to complete their manoeuvring.
2. The regular public service units must enter and exit the ports and/or take off from the piers at the minimum speed allowed and with displaced hull.
3. Docking and take-off of public transportation units must be done with displaced hull and at a safe distance from the port access that is from the wharves and piers.

### **ART. 4**

#### *Water skiing and other sports using towboats*

1. Water skiing can be done:
  - a) on one's own ;
  - b) with motorboats rented to the public by a third party;
  - c) by water skiing schools, sports associations and other nautical clubs
2. Water skiing is not allowed on the water expanse between Isola Bella and Isola Superiore and the nearest opposite shore (Lido di Carciano - hotel Lido Palace).
3. When water skiing on one's own (free) or with a motorboat rented by a third party, the following regulations must be complied with:
  - a) water skiing is allowed from 8:00 A.M. to sunset, with favourable weather conditions and at a distance from both the shore and the islands of at least 150 meters;
  - b) boat pilots must be assisted by an expert swimmer;
  - c) a maximum number of occupants equal to the boat load is allowed on the tow boats in addition to the pilot and the assisting expert swimmer; the water skier must be included in the number of occupants;

- d) the water skier's start and reentry must take place only within areas free from bathers and boats as well as within special corridors delimited by the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division or at a minimum distance of 150 meters from the coast;
  - e) during the various towing phases the distance between the boat and the water skier must not be less than 12 meters;
  - f) the tow boats must be equipped with turnabout and motor idling mechanisms and must keep on board a first aid kit and a life-jacket for the water skier;
  - g) the sidelong safety distance between the towing boat and other units must not be less than 50 meters;
  - h) water skiers must wear a life-jacket;
  - i) the maximum speed allowed is 45 km/h (about 25 knots);
  - l) all tow boats must be equipped with towing devices and rearview mirrors as required by the current regulations;
  - m) the towboat pilot must always have a valid navigation permit no matter what the power of the motor installed on the boat might be.
4. Anybody intending to set up on the Piedmontese water expanses of Lake Maggiore: start corridors, trampolines and slalom fields must file a request for special authorization by the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division.
5. In the exercise of special activities such as "classical disciplines, bear foot, water skiing for handicapped, speed and wakeboard" must comply with the following regulations:
- a) navigation at over the minimum speed of 45 Km/h (about 25 knots) is allowed to the Italian Federation of Water Skiing (FISN) from 8:00 A.M. to sunset with favourable weather conditions within special areas delimited by the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division. Only units fit for training and competition specifically recognized by FISN, possessing the related certification and driven by pilots with the required navigation licence issued by the Federation can navigate within such areas. The current sports regulations related to the various specialties are applicable within such areas. Only one pre-delimited water expanse is allowed for water skiing, "speed" specialty;
  - b) the equipment required for practicing the sports activity can be set up within the areas of which at letter a);
  - c) the areas of which at letter a) cannot be situated: along routes of access to ports, near harbour mouths, within areas reserved for professional fishing and near piers reserved for regular public and private service boats. The areas must be clearly delimited and signalled at night as well;
  - d) the regulations of which at §3 are applicable to competition and training sports activities practiced outside the areas of which at letter a);
  - e) the navigation units for the above must be clearly identified with FISN marks and registered with the nautical register of the same federation;
  - f) the boat pilot must have a valid nautical licence and be certified by FISN.
6. All other activities requiring towing (kite-flying, hang gliding, and similar) are permitted only against previous authorization by the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division as required by article 55, § 7, of law dated January 20 1997, n. 19 (Ratification and execution of the convention between Italy and Switzerland to discipline navigation on Lake Maggiore and Lake of Lugano, with enclosures, stipulated on Lake Maggiore on December 2nd 1992).

#### **ART. 5**

#### *Water scooters and similar*

1. Navigation with water scooter and similar motor driven vehicles is allowed on the following conditions:
  - a) from 9.00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M. on lake areas situated at a minimum distance of 150 meters from both the coast and the islands;
  - b) at maximum speed of 30 km/h (about 16 knots);
  - c) if required by law the pilots must have a nautical licence;
  - d) during navigation the pilot must absolutely wear a regular life jacket and an appropriate rescue diving suit;
  - e) navigation is forbidden along the routes of regular public and private service boats;
  - f) it is forbidden to follow on the wake of navigation units at a distance of less than 100 meters;
  - g) parking of water scooter and similar vehicles on the beach or on State property is forbidden;
  - h) Navigation is not allowed on the water expanse between Isola Bella and Isola Superiore and the nearest opposite shore (Lido di Carciano - hotel Lido Palace).
2. Water scooters and similar motor driven vehicles can cross the coast belt of which at art.1 §1 by the shortest way (perpendicularly to the coast) on condition that the unit be driven at such a speed as not to let the exhaust pipe emerge from the water. The speed cannot in any way exceed 5 km/h (about 3 knots).
 

FIM members are allowed to exceed the maximum speed limit of 30 km/h (about 16 knots) from 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. and from 3:00 to 7:00 P.M. within specific areas authorized by the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division to FIM. The current sports regulations related to the various specialties are applicable within such areas.
4. The equipment required for practicing sports activities can be set up within the areas of which at § 3.
5. The areas of which at § 3 cannot be situated: along the routes of access to ports near harbour mouths, within areas reserved for professional fishing and near piers reserved for regular public and private service boats. Such areas must be clearly delimited and signalled during the night as well.
6. The sports crafts must be clearly identified by marks issued by FIM and carry on board the documentation certifying their use for competitive sports.
7. It is up to the local coastal Municipalities to prohibit or regulate with more restrictive measures the use of water scooters and of other similar means within their territory.

## **ART. 6**

### *“Windsurf” Boards*

1. Windsurfing is allowed only during the day and with good visibility from one hour after dawn to sunset.
2. The windsurfers must steer the board so as not to create dangerous situations or get in the way of other units and therefore must always keep a minimum distance from one another of at least 10 meters. The windsurfers must always wear a regular life jacket and cannot carry on board people or animals.
3. Windsurf boards are not allowed:
  - a) along the routes of regular public and private service boats;
  - b) within ports and their surroundings;
  - c) within 150 meters from the shore in areas occupied by bathers;

d) within lake expanses reserved for specific sports activities (water skiing, water scooters, exit corridors, etc.)

4. Windsurfing school must furthermore:

a) comply with the general safety measures adopted by the Italian Sailing Federation (FIV);

b) have taken out a third party insurance in favour of the trainees as well;

#### **ART. 7**

##### *Row and pedal-driven boats, joles, kayaks, rafts.*

1. The use of small row or pedal driven boats (canoes, joles, kayaks, rafts) is allowed with lake calm and in good weather conditions. On such boats can be transported only as many people as can be seated.

2. Small boats as described above at §1 are not allowed on routes followed by regular public and private service units, within ports and their surroundings, on water expanses reserved for specific sports activities (water skiing, water scooters, exit corridors, ecc.).

#### **ART. 8**

##### *Bathing*

1. Bathing is not allowed:

a) within ports and their accesses ;

b) on water expanses reserved for specific sports activities (water skiing, water scooters, exit corridors, ecc.);

c) near public piers and their surroundings.

2. Anybody intending to bathe at a distance of over 150 meters from the coast must be assisted by a support unit and wear a red cap.

3. The tourist structures located along the shore must ensure the presence of personnel able to give assistance to the bathers.

#### **ART. 9**

##### *Diving*

1. The following rules must be complied with when practicing deep water diving:

a) it is mandatory to signal one's presence with a red flag crossed by a diagonal white stripe;

b) if using a support unit it must hoist the appropriate flag; the diver must keep within a 50 meter range of the support unit;

c) no diving is allowed along the routes followed by regular public and private service units;

d) no diving is allowed within ports and their accesses nor near private or public piers or wharves.

e) no diving is allowed in areas reserved for bathing, within the reed thicket areas and within water expanses with environmental, archaeological or naturalistic relevance.

f) no diving is allowed within lake areas reserved for specific sports activities (water skiing, water scooters, exit corridors, etc.)

2. the restrictions of which at §1 letters c), d), e) and f), are not applicable in case of assistance given by Civil Protection, Fire Department and Police units.

3. the restrictions of which at §1 letters c), d), e) and f), are not applicable in case of professional activities duly authorized by the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division.

#### **ART. 10**

##### *Renting of motor boats*

1. Anybody renting out motor boats or other units without pilot must:
  - a) take note of the identity and traceability of the people to whom the unit is delivered;
  - b) if required by law make sure the renter is in possession of regular nautical licence;
  - c) make sure that the boat is equipped with the required homologated safety devices;
  - d) ensure availability of other units if a rescue intervention is required.
2. Rentors and lessors of sports crafts must inform the users of the general provisions applicable to navigation and of the specific provisions valid on the lake.

#### **ART. 11**

##### *Users' Behaviour*

1. It is forbidden to remove, modify, displace, tamper with or damage the daytime and nighttime signals as well as to dock the boats to the devices mentioned above.
2. Anybody damaging a signal device must immediately notify the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division
3. Within port areas it is forbidden:
  - a) to park vehicles and trolleys as well as dock boats outside authorized spaces;
  - b) occupy access and exit corridors;
  - c) hinder the execution of public maintenance on harbour works, carry out caulking or varnishing works without the prescribed authorization by the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division.
4. Within ports and near wharves or piers, boats must be docked exclusively perpendicularly to the existing wharves and ramps and port installations must be used exclusively for the purpose for which they were built.
5. Anybody navigating on the internal Piedmontese water expanses must have on board fully functional safety and first aid equipment as provided by the regulations applicable to the specific unit used for navigation.

#### **ART. 12**

##### *Use of piers, wharves and harbour structures*

1. It is forbidden:
  - a) to occupy and gain access to piers, wharves and docking stages reserved for regular public and private service units for use not connected to navigation including fishing and bathing;
  - b) lower fishing nets within port areas as well as within a range of 200 meters from their access;
  - c) leave vehicles and trolleys outside the specifically marked parking spaces on squares leading to boarding areas.

#### **ART. 13**

##### *Nautical and sports events*

1. Unless specifically authorized by the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division shows and events of any sort or navigation for competitive training are not permitted on the lake.
2. Events on the lake or extending on to the lake expanses can be organized in derogation of the provisions of which at article 1, § 1, 2 e 3.
3. The specifications set forth by the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division when issuing the authorization of which at §1 must be complied with.

**ART. 14**  
*Regulations*

1. Draining into the water or on the shore of residues of oil and lubricant combustion, fuel and any other dangerous or polluting substance, even if diluted, is strictly forbidden. It is also forbidden to abandon wreckages of boats, objects, rubble or waste of any kind.
2. Motors installed on boats and service stations must be kept in perfect working conditions to avoid leakages of oil, fuel and any other liquid into the water.
3. Maintenance and refueling must be carried out so as to avoid dripping or leakages into the water of oils, fuel and any other polluting liquid.

**PARAGRAPH II**  
**ADVERTISING**

**ART. 15**  
*Information*

1. The present provisions and specifications are posted on the municipal bulletin boards of all coastal towns, at all public landing places, in ports, on regular public service boats, on the bulletin boards of all nautical clubs, water skiing clubs, shipyards and bathing establishments.
2. Anybody navigating on Lake Maggiore must keep on board copy of the present regulations except for those navigating with the units of which at art. 5, 6, 7 e 10 .

**PARAGRAPH III**  
**SURVEILLANCE**

**ART. 16**  
*Surveillance*

1. All controls, contestation and notification of the violations specified by the present set of rules, in compliance with regional law dated August 3rd 1993, n.39 (Setting of administrative fines for violations related to Inland Navigation) are carried out by:
  - a) regional personnel responsible for Inland Navigation, within the limits set for the service to which they are assigned, and based on their functions as provided for by article 55 and subsequent of the Code of Criminal Procedure;
  - b) Criminal Police officers and agents.

**PARAGRAPH IV**

## **FINES**

### **ART. 17**

#### *Fines*

1. As specified by l.r. 39/1993 an administrative fine from a minimum of L.100.000 to a maximum of L.1.000.000 will be imposed for failure to comply with each provision set forth by the present set of rules.

## **PARAGRAPH V REFERENCE CLAUSES**

### **ART. 18**

#### *Reference clauses*

1. While replacing every previous regional provision to discipline navigation on the Piedmontese side of Lake Maggiore the provisions set forth herewith do not constitute a derogation of regional provisions applicable within Parks and Nature Reserves established according to the law.
2. The Piedmont Region, through specific administrative dispositions set forth by the Officer in charge of the Regional Inland Navigation and Trade Division, reserves the right to intervene on the aspects of the present set of rules to set forth additional provisions concerning safe navigation so as to protect the public safety:
3. The current general regulations concerning navigation including the law of January 20 1997 n.19 (Ratification and execution of the convention between Italy and Switzerland to discipline navigation on Lake Maggiore and Lake of Lugano, with enclosures, stipulated on Lake Maggiore on December 2 1992) are applicable to any provision not set forth in the present set of rules.