

## **“REGIONAL REGULATIONS TO DISCIPLINE NAVIGATION ON LAKE OF ORTA”**

(Promulgated with D.P.G.R. n. 2906 of 1/7/1992 and integrated with the amendments promulgated with D.P.G.R. n. 14/R of 14/11/2001)

### **ART. 1**

#### *Purpose*

1. Purpose of the present set of rules is to discipline navigation on the Lake of Mergozzo to guarantee safe navigation and bathing, protect the ecosystem of the lake and promote the socio-economic development of the local communities by encouraging forms of tourism compatible with the protection of the cultural and environmental assets.

### **ART. 2**

#### *Navigation restrictions*

1. Navigation and offshore standing is forbidden to all sports crafts with a gross tonnage of over 6 tons and a width of over 3.50 meters, except for the regular public and private service units, specifically authorized by the Piedmont Region, Division of Transportation and Planning of Infrastructures.

2. Residence on pleasure boats is forbidden.

3. Navigation with any kind of craft is forbidden within the reed thicket water expanses, the lake areas with archaeological and naturalistic relevance and their 100 meters external belt.

4. Navigation with motor on is forbidden on the water expanse of the lake between the coast and 100 meters therefrom; such area must be crossed by rowing.

5. Mooring and taking-off of seaplanes and other types of aeromobiles is forbidden except in cases of emergency and public order intervention.

### **ART. 3**

#### *Protection of the coastline*

1. Navigation is permitted along the coastline up to a distance of 100 meters from the shore only to sailboats, rowboats, pedal-driven crafts, windsurf boards and units involved in professional and non-professional fishing in derogation of the provision set forth by art. 2, § 4. Such motor crafts must be driven at a speed appropriate for train fishing.

2. In derogation of the provision set forth at art.2 §4 motor boats are permitted to cross the lake belt of which at art. 2 §4 by the shortest way (perpendicularly to the coast) at a speed no higher than 7 km/h (about 4 knots).

3. Abrogated

4. In derogation of the provision set forth by art.2 §4 residents of the Isle of San Giulio are allowed to navigate with a motor boat at a speed no higher than 4 knots (7 km/h) within the water expanse situated between the Isle of San Giulio and the Eastern shore of the lake along the lake belt between the shore and 100 meters therefrom respecting the speed limits specified by art. 4, § 2.

#### **ART. 4**

##### *Speed limits for navigation units*

1. Outside the water expanse of which at art. 2, § 4, boat pilots must regulate the speed so as not to represent a danger for bathers and other crafts.
2. The maximum speed limits of 20 knots (37 km/h) during the day and of 4 knots (7 km/h) during the night cannot in any case be exceeded except for regular public service units and boats subject to testing duly authorized by the Piedmont Region, Division of Transportation and Planning of Infrastructures.
3. Within the lake area between the coast and 100 meters therefrom, regular public service units must not exceed the speed of 4 knots.

#### **ART. 5**

##### *Scope of application*

1. The provisions of which at art.2, 3 and 4 are not applicable to surveillance, rescue and operational units authorized by the Piedmont Region, Division of Transportation and Planning of Infrastructures.
2. The provisions of which at art.4 §2 are not applicable to units involved in control, assistance and jury duty during authorized sports events, keeping firm however the obligation for such units to regulate the speed of their crafts so as not to represent a danger for the people and for other units.
3. The derogations specified at §1, of the present artiche are not applicable to units assigned to public service within the areas of which at art. 2, §3.

#### **ART. 6**

##### *Signalling of the water expanse*

1. The lake areas subject to regulation and navigation restrictions of which at the preceding articles are clearly signalled by floating buoys:
2. the buoys are differentiated as follows:
  - cylindrical yellow buoy .  
Signals all off-limits and regulated areas;
  - red cylindrical buoy.  
Signals the boundaries of water skiing areas;
  - red buoy (spherical, biconical or cylindrical) surmounted by a red flag.  
Signals the presence of an underwater diver.

#### **ART. 7**

### *Behaviour during navigation*

1. During navigation, right of way priority must be given to:
  - a) regular public service units;
  - b) emergency, police and surveillance units;
  - c) professional fishing boats.
2. Motorboats and sailboats must keep a distance of at least 80 meters from regular public service units or professional fishing boats.
3. It is in any case forbidden to get in the way of regular public service units and of professional fishing boats as well as hinder approaching and docking manoeuvres.
4. Finally it is forbidden to follow in the wake of boats towing water skiers or keep a distance of less than 80 meters from them.

### **ART. 8**

#### *Water skiing*

1. Water skiing is allowed from 8:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. with favourable weather and lake calm within the lake area situated at a distance of at least 100 meters from the coast except for the water expanse situated between the Isle of San Giulio and the Eastern shore of the lake where water skiing is in any case forbidden.
2. When water skiing, the following rules must be complied with:
  - a) the boat pilots must be accompanied by an expert swimmer;
  - b) as provided for by §1 the water skier's start must be in an area free from bathers, boats and/or along navigation corridors clearly delimited and duly authorized by the competent authorities.
  - c) the sidelong safety distance between the towing craft and the other units must be greater than the length of the tow cable;
  - d) during the various towing phases a minimum distance of 12 meters must be kept between the towing boat and the skier;
  - e) the towboats used for water skiing must feature the turnabout and motor idling mechanisms and keep on board all the equipment required by the current regulations;
  - f) it is forbidden to transport on board other passengers in addition to the pilot and the expert swimmer accompanying him and to tow two or more skiers at the same time;
  - g) the skiers must wear a life-jacket.
3. In derogation of the speed limit restriction specified by art.4 §2, while waterskiing the tow boats are allowed to reach the maximum speed of 25 knots (46 km/h).
4. The specifications provided for by Sports regulations are applicable within areas especially reserved for legally authorized Waterskiing schools, Sports Clubs and Associations and clearly delimited by the Piedmont Region, Division of Transportation and Planning of Infrastructures.

### **ART. 9**

#### *Use of 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 hinder the navigation.

3. Windsurfers must wear a life jacket.

4. Windsurfing boards are not allowed:

- a) on routes followed by regular public service boats;
- b) within ports and near their accesses;
- c) within areas reserved for bathing;
- d) within the protected areas of which at art.2, §3;
- e) within waterskiing start corridors.

## **ART. 10**

### *Bathing*

1. Bathing is forbidden within: port areas, water expanses reserved for sports, areas opposite the docks reserved for regular public service units and for their manoeuvres, navigation corridors and the protected areas specified by art.2, § 3.

2. Anybody intending to bathe beyond 100 meters from the coast must wear a red bathing cap.

## **ART. 11**

### *Underwater Diving*

1. Divers must signal their presence with a buoy as specified by art.6 §2 and must be assisted by a support boat.

2. Diving is forbidden:

- a) on routes followed by regular public service boats;
- b) within ports and near their accesses;
- c) within areas reserved for bathing;
- d) within the protected areas of which at art.2, §3;
- e) within waterskiing start corridors.

3. The restrictions of which at §2 are not applicable in case of rescue intervention, to Police units or to units involved in professional research activities duly authorized by the Piedmont Region, Division of Transportation and Planning of Infrastructures.

## **ART. 12**

### *Shows and Events*

1. Unless specifically authorized by the Piedmont Region, Division of Transportation and Planning of Infrastructures, shows and events of any sort are not permitted on the lake.

## **ART. 13**

### *Excessive Noise*

- 1. It is forbidden to provoke on the lake excessive noise with a level of over 70 decibels measured from a distance of 25 meters.

## **ART. 14**

### *Use of docks, wharves and sports structures*

1. It is forbidden:

- a) to block and enter for private use, including fishing, wharves, piers and docking structures reserved for regular public service units;
- b) hamper or impede in any way the transit of pedestrians on public wharves and piers;

#### **ART. 15**

##### *Maintenance and refueling*

1. The motors of all sports crafts and all service station installations must be kept in perfect working conditions.
2. Appropriate and efficient equipment must be used while carrying out maintenance and refueling operations so as to avoid any leakage or shedding of oil, fuel or other polluting materials (liquid, gaseous or solid) into the lake.

#### **ART. 16**

##### *Dumping*

1. Dumping of solid and/or liquid waste of any kind and draining of sewer water into the lake, along its shores, on piers, wharves and docks is absolutely forbidden.
2. It is furthermore forbidden to drain into the lake combustion residues of fuel oils, wash waters and any other dangerous or polluting substance.
3. Solid or liquid waste must be disposed of only in appropriate containers to be delivered to the special structures provided for on land by the authorities of competency including the Municipal Administrations.

#### **ART. 17**

##### *Users' behaviour*

1. It is forbidden to remove, modify, displace, tamper with or damage buoys, warning signs and night- and daytime signs and placards.
2. Within harbour areas it is forbidden:
  - a) to park vehicles or boats except in specifically authorized areas;
  - b) occupy access and exit lanes;
  - c) interfere with the execution of public maintenance and repair works.
3. Docking of boats and crafts, except within special authorized spaces, as well as abandoning wreckages anywhere along the lakeshores is in any case strictly forbidden.

#### **ART. 18**

##### *Renting of crafts and boats*

1. Renting of motorboats not requiring a nautical licence is forbidden to anybody under the age of 16.
2. Renting of sailboats is forbidden to anybody under the age of 14.
3. The lessors of sports crafts must inform the renters of the general navigation provisions as well as of the regulations specific for the lake.
4. As required by the current regulations the renters must take out a third party insurance.

**ART. 19**  
*Information*

1. The present provisions and specifications are posted at the office of the Authorities with competency over navigation, on the municipal bulletin boards of all coastal towns, at all public landing places, as well as within all public and private bathing and nautical activity establishments.
2. Anybody navigating on Lake Maggiore must keep on board copy of the present regulations and a summary thereof must be posted so as to be clearly visible to all as required by the Piedmont Region, Division of Transportation and Planning of Infrastructures.
3. Anybody planning to navigate on the Lake of Orta must keep on board the special "tax card" distributed annually for free by the structures identified by the Piedmont Region, Division of Transportation and Planning of Infrastructures

**ART. 20**  
*Surveillance*

1. As provided for by the present set of rules surveillance aimed at ensuring compliance with the regulations is carried out by competent organizations specifically nominated for that purpose.

**ART. 21**  
*Fines*

1. As provided for by the current set of rules fines will be imposed for failure to comply with the present regulations.

**ART. 22**  
*General Provisions*

1. The Piedmont Region, through the Division of Transportation and Planning of Infrastructures, reserves the right to reduce the number of navigation hours and/or set seasonal restrictions versus the provisions set forth by the present regulations.

**ART. 23**  
*Reference clause*

1. The regulations concerning inland navigation are applicable to any matter not disciplined by the present set of rules.