



## **Boating Safety Guidelines**

**Our Staff will assist you in going over the checklist, but the safety of the boat and passengers is the responsibility of the captain. Make sure all your questions about anything on this sheet or about the operation of this boat have been answered before leaving the dock. Do not leave the dock with any doubts about the safety, condition or operation of this boat or your ability or your knowledge of the area.**

**Please review and follow these guidelines.**

### ***Loading.***

Evenly disperse weight and passengers around the boat and do not overload. Wear flat non-slip shoes, no heels or clogs.

### ***Starting the engine.***

Make sure the boat is secured to the dock or anchored and the engine is in the neutral and tilted down position. Double check that the lanyard is secured to kill switch. Turn key to start engine. Once the engine starts, untie lines or lift anchor.

### ***Shifting the engine into gear.***

Before going into gear, check your surroundings and shift only when idling slowly. Never shift gears when idling fast as severe engine damage may result. Leave the dock slowly and accelerate gradually. Look for no wake zones with speed limits not to exceed 5 miles per hour. You are responsible for your wake.

### ***Cruising.***

The harbor and bay is marked with red and green buoys. Be sure to use them as your guide. The map will show them as well as the GPS. Avoid the shallow areas. Red buoys should be on your left when leaving the harbor and on your right when returning. Green buoys should be on your right when leaving and on your left when you return.

**“ RED – RIGHT – RETURN ”**

If there is engine failure, under no circumstances should you beach the boat. Drop anchor and call Lighthouse Boat Rentals and/or Sea Tow for assistance. In case of emergency, you should also contact the **Coast Guard on your VHF radio on Channel 16**. Try to cross waves and wakes of other boats bow first and do not hit waves hard. Keep a safe distance from other vessels.

### ***Anchoring.***

Anchor boat in an open area away from other boat traffic. Always make sure anchor is secure before shutting off the engine. Always anchor off from the bow of the boat, never from the stern. Leave enough line out so the boat can rise and fall with the tide. Start your engine before pulling the anchor and avoid getting the anchor line caught in the propeller.

### ***Returning to the Dock.***

Be sure you leave enough time to return to our dock before the end of your rental day. **There is no boating between sunset and sunrise.** Reduce your speed before reaching the dock. And be at a speed just fast enough to maintain control of the boat and be sure to compensate for wind and tide. When approaching the dock put the engine in neutral. Reverse is only to be used to slow your forward momentum not as “the Brakes”. Avoid racing the engine in reverse. Avoid touching the dock. Have someone throw you a dock line if possible. **Most importantly as a reminder! Go slowly and use minimal throttle at the dock.**

### ***Engine failure.***

In case the engine stalls and will not start do not panic but follow these steps. Anchor the boat to avoid drifting into shallow water. Carefully check fuel line and level. Follow the normal starting procedure, making sure the safety lanyard is attached to the kill switch.

Do not remove the engine cover. Avoid overcranking and killing the battery. New engine technology allows for constant easy starting. If you are unable to start your engine contact **Light House Boat Rentals (631-722-2628) first and/or Sea Tow (631-765-3660) for assistance.** You may use either a cell phone or the VHF Radio channel 68 if necessary.

### ***Safe Boating Rules.***

**No Alcohol is permitted on board.**

Obey the capacity posted by Lighthouse Boat Rentals.

Do check the boat for the proper safety equipment.

Do not run the engine at full speed to avoid damaging the engine.

Do not bow ride.

Do not step on seat cushions for your own safety.

Obey the limits of travel listed on the contract. Do not enter the Shinnecock Canal.

Watch for floating objects and avoid shallow areas.

Follow the channel markers on the chart and/or GPS.

**Obey all posted speed limits and no wake zones.**

Avoid beaching the boat at all times.

Check for proper PFD's (personal flotation devices) for all passengers, including children.

**Do not drive the boat into conditions that you feel your ability will not permit.**

### ***Water Skiing /Tubing Rules.***

Skier must wear ski vest jacket.

Only one skier is permitted to be towed at a time.

There must be at least two people on board the boat when skiing/tubing, one driver and an observer facing the skier/tuber.

Turn off engine when picking up or changing skiers.

Do not tie ski rope to cleats, tow rings only.

Proceed at safe speeds for the skiers/tubers abilities.

**Should you have any questions during the duration of your trip, do not hesitate to contact Lighthouse Boat Rentals at 631-722-2628 or on VHF Channel 68. Enjoy your day on the water, knowing that you are on a boat designed and built with your safety in mind.**