

GEELONG WATER SKI CLUB INC. CLUB RULES (BOAT EDITION)

Updated: September 2026 by GWSC Committee

Boating on the River Barwon at the Geelong Water Ski Club Inc. is governed by:

- a. [The Safe Transport Victoria Boating Rules](#); Boating rules. Maritime Safety Victoria;
- b. The CCMA requirement to meet the Guide to [Vessel Operating and Zoning Rules for Victorian Waters](#) (VOZR) and the CCMA by-law number 2;
- c. The GWSC Inc. Rules as listed below.

General

1. This document lists the rules and regulations for the Geelong Water Ski Club Inc. The rules aim to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all Members and their Guests.
2. These rules are reviewed annually (in August) by the GWSC Inc. Committee, or as amendments are required. They are held on the [GWSC Inc. website](#) for audit purposes.
3. Members found to be in breach of these rules may have their Membership suspended or terminated either temporarily or permanently.
4. All club members are responsible for reporting any breach of club rules to the Vice President (vicepresident@gwsc.org.au).

Membership & Guests

Joining & Members' Guests

5. On introduction by a Member, a Guest may attend up to 5 times in any one season, after which they must apply for membership. Members are encouraged to invite their guests to join the club as Members.
6. It is Members' responsibility to get all their guests to sign in for each visit using the [Try Booking Guest Link](#).
7. A Member is limited to 5 Guests at any one time.

Boat Driving

8. Boat drivers must be current financial GWSC Members as well as having a current Boat Driving licence. Guests are not allowed to drive.

Conduct & Reputation

9. Members must conduct themselves in a manner not detrimental to the reputation of the club.
10. The Committee, its servants and agents are under no liability for loss or damage to any vehicle, boat, trailer, or anything in or attached to them, while on club property.
11. All club members are responsible for keeping the clubhouse and grounds clean, tidy & litter free.

Clubhouse & Grounds

12. Boat ramp & launching area must be kept clear where possible to enable boats to be put in and taken out seamlessly.
13. Trailers must be parked in the dedicated trailer parking area.
14. The last Member to leave the club must ensure the clubhouse, storage shed, roller door (upstairs) and gate are locked, and the inside roller door and kitchen door are all closed.
15. No one may alter or remove any part of the clubhouse or grounds without Committee approval (secretary@gwsc.org.au).
16. Club skis can be used on site but must not be removed without the Club Captain's approval (Captain@gwsc.org.au).

17. No open fires in the clubhouse.
18. No smoking or vaping on club grounds.
19. No alcohol to be consumed in boats.
20. No dogs are allowed on club grounds.
21. No trail bikes are allowed on club grounds.

Boat Ownership, Registration & Scrutineering

22. Boat Membership Applications are judged by the Committee on their merits. No rear mounted (some outboards are accepted), wakeboard, surf focussed boats, jet skis or PWC are accepted. No wake enhancement devices or ballast are allowed.
23. Before using a boat at the club, a boat must be owned by a Boat-Owner Member.
24. The boat must be registered and successfully scrutineered annually for that member.
25. The boat must be re-scrutineered following any modification or change in boat ownership and be fitting with the current boat framework.
26. Any change of boat ownership by a member must be notified to the Secretary in writing via email within 14 days (secretary@gwsc.org.au).
27. All boats entering the river must have valid membership and current CCMA & GWSC Inc. Membership stickers correctly displayed.

Safety Requirements

28. Boats towing skiers must have an observer (12 years & older), and skier(s) must wear approved buoyancy jackets in accordance with the Marine Safety Act 2010 (Vic) and associated Marine Safety Regulations.
29. It is the responsibility of all Members to ensure correct safety gear is worn at all times by Members, their families and their Guests.
30. All children under 12 years of age must wear a life jacket whilst in a boat.
31. People using the jump must wear a buoyancy jump suit and an approved helmet to reduce risk of personal injury.
32. All boats must comply with the maximum number of people it is legally allowed to carry.
33. It is recommended that all children under 12 use a life jacket when playing in the water in front of the clubhouse.

Guest Try Booking Link / QR Code:



On-Water Operation & Right of Way

34. Boats must travel in an anti-clockwise direction.
35. Boats must stay towards the right hand side of the river.
36. Ski ropes must be pulled in after a skier drops at the clubhouse and before the boat returns to shore.
37. When a flag is displayed, a skier using the slalom course (yellow flag) or the jump (red flag) has right of way over others. When there are more than five boats out, the flags and course cannot be used unless unanimously agreed by all Members present.
38. The slalom course and jump can only be used when the relevant flag is displayed.
39. If you are wanting to use the south end of the river and someone is using the slalom course, you can access the south end of the river (past the slalom course) by:
 - i. Waiting at the powerlines for the slalom boat, then
 - ii. Following that slalom boat through the middle of the course (you will have no skier on) at a similar speed, maintaining safe distance from the boat and the skier, then
 - iii. Going past the skier and boat at a safe distance once they stop at the south end of the slalom course, then
 - iv. Once past, you can put your skier on and enjoy the south end of the river past the slalom course.

If you are in doubt on what to do, please ask the slalom boat or another Member if they can help you on what to do / not do. We are here to help.

40. If you are wanting to come back from the south end of the river and someone is using the slalom course, you can do so with care by:
 - i. Waiting at the south end of the course where the slalom skiers drop for the slalom boat, then
 - ii. Following that slalom boat through the middle of the course (you will have no skier on) at a similar speed, maintaining safe distance from the boat and the skier, then
 - iii. Edging towards the right hand side of the river and stopping your boat at the clubhouse carefully.

If you are in doubt on what to do, please ask the slalom boat or another Member if they can help you on what to do / not do. We are here to help.

41. If you are wanting to use the north end of the river and someone is using the slalom course, you can access the north end of the river (past the powerlines) by:
 - i. Waiting for the slalom boat to drive south past the clubhouse, then
 - ii. Idling your boat (no skier on) north away from the clubhouse until you get to the powerlines, then
 - iii. Putting your skier on at the powerlines and enjoying the north end of the river.

If you are in doubt on what to do, please ask the slalom boat or another Member if they can help you on what to do / not do. We are here to help.

42. If you are wanting to come back from the north end of the river and someone is using the slalom course, you can do so with care by:
 - i. Waiting at the north end of the course where the slalom skiers drop (powerlines) for the slalom boat, then
 - ii. Following that slalom boat south towards the clubhouse (you will have no skier on) at a similar speed, maintaining safe distance from the boat and the skier, then
 - iii. Pulling in and stopping your boat at the clubhouse, careful of those boats exiting the clubhouse area.

If you are in doubt on what to do, please ask the slalom boat or another Member if they can help you on what to do / not do. We are here to help.

43. Be careful around the slalom and jump buoys. If you do break part of the course / buoy, please notify someone at the club on the day (who can help you to fix it) or the Secretary (secretary@gwsc.org.au) if no one is at the club to help.
44. When several people wish to use the slalom course or jump, the whiteboard must be used to run a roster, limited up to six passes per skier.
45. Boats must not be driven between the right-hand (East) bank and the jump when travelling away from the clubhouse (in a northerly direction). There are cables in this area to hold the jump in position and they can get caught on the boat propeller.
46. Skiing is permitted from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset south of the powerlines (180 m north of the boat ramp), in line with Victorian boating rules. North of the powerlines, skiing is permitted from 7am until one hour after sunset. Use good judgement to reduce noise for our neighbours.
47. No inflatable items to be towed behind a boat (e.g. tubes etc).
48. A maximum of up to two (2) skiers only to ski behind a boat at any one time.
49. The jump course and slalom course must not be used at the same time unless there is unanimous agreement by all boats at the river.

Events & Tournaments

50. On tournament days, ski schools, come & try days or working bees, no boat may be launched without the permission of the person in charge of that function while it is in progress.

Acknowledgement

51. At all times, the Member agrees to adhere to & uphold these rules for themselves, their related family members and their Guests. They further agree to adhere to & uphold the rules posted on the sign board(s) at the clubhouse and boat ramp area.

Guest Try Booking Link / QR Code:

