

# Water Skier's Safety Code

All skiers should be well versed in the fundamental safety rules. These fundamentals as well as other safety procedures are available from AWSA Headquarters in poster format. Whenever possible learn to water ski by taking instruction from a certified instructor.

**Rule 1:** Always wear a flotation device.

A properly fitted personal flotation device is designed to fit snugly so that it won't slip up on the body during a fall. The recommended type is a jacket or vest which covers the chest, abdomen and back.

**Rule 2:** Always be sure your equipment is in good condition.

Your personal safety and enjoyment depends on the equipment used. Check your equipment regularly. Be sure the skis do not have sharp or protruding surfaces that could cut or scrape the skier, check towlines for frayed areas or broken bridles and

handles. Repair or replace damaged or unsafe articles.

**Rule 3:** Don't give the signal to start until the slack has been taken out of the line and you are sure you are clear. Keep your ski tips up.

**Rule 4:** Do not ski near docks, pilings, other boats or swimmers.

Always look ahead and be sure you are aware of your surroundings and where you are going at all times. This may sound silly but the predominance of water ski injuries result from collision with docks or other solid objects.

**Rule 5:** Never put any part of your body through the handle-bridle or wrap the line around yourself in any way.

**Rule 6:** Never ski in shallow water or in an area where there may be obstructions above or just beneath the surface.

**Rule 7:** When a fall is inevitable, try to fall backward or to either side.

A forward fall increases the chance of contacting a ski.

**Rule 8:** Know and use the skier signals, particularly important is the skier's OK signal if you are all right after a fall.

**Rule 9:** If you fall in an area where there is other boat traffic, lift one ski more than half way out of the water as a signal to other boaters.

**Rule 10:** Never ski to the point of excessive fatigue.

**Rule 11:** Always ski during daylight from sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

**Rule 12:** Never ski directly in front of another boat.

**Rule 13:** Always use equal length ropes when skiing doubles.

**Rule 14:** Always ensure that the boat's motor is "off" when a skier is entering the boat from the water.

**Rule 15:** Always have an observer in the towboat.

Enjoy the sport by being courteous to others using the waterways. Courtesy is contagious.

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