TENNESSEE PADDLESPORTS LAWS

Human-powered vessels, such as:
CANOES  •  KAYAKS  •  STAND UP PADDLEBOARDS (SUP)

An approved, wearable life jacket for each person must be readily accessible. Throw cushions do not meet this requirement.

Life jacket(s) must be on board, not attached by a line or leash.

Persons under 13 years old must wear a life jacket while underway. Drifting is considered underway.

All paddle craft must be able to exhibit a white light or lantern after sunset or during times of restricted visibility.

Boater’s state registration card must be on board if boat is propelled by motor or a trolling motor.

A fishing license is required by all persons 13 years or older assisting or attempting to take fish.

Do not litter. It is unlawful to throw or sink litter from a boat. In the event that a boat turns over, all contents must be retrieved.

It is unlawful to use or be in possession of drugs or controlled substances while boating or paddling.

Use or possession of alcohol by individuals who are underage is prohibited.

No person shall operate or interfere with the safe operation of any motorboat or vessel.

All boats are subject to inspection.

All navigation rules apply.

Keep a proper lookout at all times.

OTHER HELPFUL HINTS:

Inflatable belt pack life jackets need to be worn with the device in front of the body, not turned to the back side of the body.

Inflatable life jackets are not approved for anyone less than 16 years old.

Do not overload your boat.

Other rules, regulations, and laws may apply.