



**Foster Bros. Marine**  
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### **Renter Guidelines and Information**

#### **When Launching the boat**

- Always disconnect trailer lights before backing boat into water (you WILL blow the trailer lights if you don't)
- Prep boat before you get down to the water - most launch ramps provide an area for you to do this. Your fellow boaters will appreciate it.
- Make sure boat plug is in and securely tightened. Brass plugs don't need to be "cranked on" – this will brake them.
- Leave winch strap connected until the boat is safely over the water – you can disconnect safety chain to avoid these locking together as the boat is backed into the water.
- If courtesy dock is provided, float the boat off trailer and hold boat by dock. If no dock is provided, start engine while still on the trailer, then manually push boat off before engaging prop. Make sure you're in deep water before engaging prop.

#### **When starting boat**

- Make sure lower unit is completely submerged in water
- Put boat in neutral
- Turn blower on (where applicable)
- Turn key then pump throttle

#### **When trailering boat**

- Bimini Top lowered & Secured
- Drain bilge & livewells @ launch
- Remove aquatic plants from trailer
- Safety chain secured to boat

#### **General boating information to know**

- This is Minnesota state law
  - <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/regulations/boatwater/index.html>
- Use sunscreen – we are not responsible for sun burns.
- It is highly recommended that you do NOT tie the boat to a dock. However, if you find this necessary, use the provided fenders and mooring ropes to avoid the boat rubbing on the dock. Tie the boat up on the side of the dock that allows the waves to push the boat away from the dock.
- Do NOT tie the boat up next to tires – this is "bad" and will leave damaging marks/scratches on the boat
- Trim the motor/lower unit up when pulling up to shore. Don't trim lower unit back down until a safe distance from shore and in at least 5 feet of water. Keep motor at an idle.
- Gas Gauges on boats are typically marginally accurate – we recommend not running below 1/3 tank of gas.
- You MUST stay at least 150 feet away from ANYTHING on the water if you are moving faster than an idle. *IT'S THE LAW!*
- Always shut motor completely OFF when boarding and exiting the rear of the boat – *IT'S THE LAW!*
- When wakeboard and/or skis are not in use make sure they are secured in the boat.
- When towing a person, be sure to be a safe distance from other boats, docks and buoys. Etc. Keep a close eye on other boat traffic while towing.
- Never follow another boat that is towing a person.
- Never leave rope in water when switching persons, other inconsiderate boaters may get too close to you and run over the rope.
- As a "rule of thumb" the person to the right of you has the right-of-way
- Be aware of weather conditions – take appropriate precautions. (i.e. never stay on water in lightning.)
- For hints on using water sport equipment please ask. We are self-proclaimed experts at everything.

#### **Specifically for Sea Doo rentals – in addition to above information**

- For Sea Doo rentals – NEVER tie the craft up to a dock. You WILL damage the watercraft!
- Sea Doo can only be operated from 9 am until 1 hour before sunset.
- Do Not load and unload by a dock or from the back of a boat.
- If the sea doo gets flipped upside down, do NOT attempt to start the machine again without calling us first.

#### **When landing the boat on trailer**

- Never drive the boat all the way onto the trailer - use a mooring rope and manually pull up to the winch strap.
- Secure Safety chain after cranking boat all the way onto trailer before pulling away from water.
- After pulling the boat out of the water, reconnect the trailer lights. Also recheck that the boat is tightened to the trailer winch.
- Make sure all boat accessories are turned off.
- Secure all accessories, life jackets and other loose items in the boat before traveling.
- Check for weeds – it's illegal to travel with weeds hanging on the trailer
- Drain the bilge before leaving the lake - *IT'S THE LAW!*

#### **If taking overnight**

- Always remove boat from the lake at night - NEVER leave boat tied up to a dock overnight in case of storm.
- Secure accessories and equipment inside or keep locked up overnight.
- Always remove keys from boat