

TENNESSEE CANOEING AND PADDLE SPORTS LAWS

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

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

Do *not* overload your boat.

Canoes and paddle craft must 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.

Other rules, regulations, and laws may apply.

All boats are subject to inspection.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS/SUGGESTIONS

It is extremely dangerous to climb rock bluffs or trees and to jump or dive into the water. Serious injury or death may occur.

On rivers, stay clear of trees that have fallen and extended into the water. These are called strainers and are very dangerous.

WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET!

80 percent of drowning victims in boating accidents were *not* wearing a life jacket.



Printed in 2010. Any changes or amendments to laws will apply. For more information contact the Boating Division at 615-781-6682.