

## Wake Surf Tahoe – Safety and Program Policies

The Wake Surf Tahoe Program, operated by the High Fives Foundation, is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants while promoting a respectful, inclusive, and responsible experience. The following policies are in effect for all individuals participating in the program, including athletes, guests, staff, and volunteers.

### 1. Weather Dependence

All Wake Surf Tahoe sessions are weather-dependent and may be canceled or rescheduled on short notice due to unsafe or inclement weather conditions. Participant safety is the highest priority, and decisions to cancel will be made at the discretion of the program staff.

### 2. Guest Policy

- Trained staff and volunteers will be present to provide necessary support during all program activities.
- Due to limited capacity on the vessel, each athlete is permitted to bring **one (1) guest**, if that guest is acting as a **caretaker providing essential assistance**.
- Exceptions may be made for immediate family members, depending on availability.

### 3. Cold Water Advisory

Lake Tahoe's water remains cold throughout the year, even during the summer months, with temperatures typically ranging from approximately 50°F to 70°F. Prolonged exposure may lead to hypothermia or other cold-related health risks.

#### Participants are encouraged to:

- Wear a wetsuit appropriate for the water temperature.
- Bring dry clothing, a towel, and any personal warming equipment needed to stay safe and comfortable.

### 4. Life Jacket Policy

- All participants will be provided with a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket unless they choose to bring their own (also must be Coast Guard-approved).
- Children under the age of 13 are legally required to wear a life jacket at all times while on or near the water.
- Participants over the age of 13 must wear a life jacket at all times while outside the boat, including on the swim platform or in the water.

### 5. Wetsuit Policy

- Wetsuits are strongly recommended for all participants due to cold water temperatures.
- Athletes should bring a properly fitting wetsuit (full or shorty depending on comfort).
- A limited number of wetsuits may be available for loan on a first-come, first-served basis. Sizing and availability are not guaranteed.

### 6. Prohibited Substance Policy

- The use or consumption of alcohol, recreational drugs, or any impairing substances is strictly prohibited before and during program participation.
- Anyone appearing to be under the influence will be denied access to the boat and program activities.

## **7. Propeller and Engine Safety**

- Participants must never approach the rear of the boat while the engine is running.
- Entry to and exit from the water shall only occur when explicitly authorized and when the engine is turned off.

## **8. Safe Conduct Policy**

- Participants must follow all directions from staff and volunteers.
- Any behavior deemed unsafe—including horseplay, aggression, or refusal to comply with instructions—may result in immediate removal from the program without further eligibility.

## **9. Assumption of Risk**

Participation in the Wake Surf Tahoe program involves inherent risks associated with water-based activities.

By participating, athletes and their guests voluntarily assume all risks, including but not limited to personal injury, hypothermia, drowning, or equipment failure. Each individual is responsible for their own health, physical fitness, and actions while on or near the water.

## **10. Noise and Environmental Awareness**

Participants are expected to respect other lake users, wildlife, and shoreline residents. Excessive noise, littering, or any behavior disruptive to the environment or community will not be tolerated.

## **Acknowledgement**

All Participants (and their legal guardians if under 18) will be required to review and sign a liability waiver acknowledging these policies and affirming understanding and agreement prior to participation.