**Water Vessel Operator Safety Program**

**Non-Employee Water Safety Rules Acknowledgment**

**Water Vessel Safety:**

The following are rules that shall be adhered to during operation of a UNO vessel or as a passenger.

⮚ During the operation of any vessel assigned to or operated by a UNO operator, all individuals in the vessel will wear, at a minimum unless otherwise specified, a Class III Personal Flotation Device (PFD) at all times while the vessel is in operation. In areas of open waters, or in areas where dangerous conditions exist such as Lake Pontchartrain during high winds, UNO personnel shall wear, at a minimum, a Class I or Class II PFD.

⮚ If an individual passenger refuses to wear a PFD, the individual **SHALL NOT** be allowed on the motor vessel. The senior crew member is to inform the passenger to depart from the vessel. The department Chair will be notified.

⮚ UNO vessels are not to go to areas of open water unless it is absolutely necessary. If they do go into the open area waters they will make certain that the Operator’s Supervisor is aware of their destination and reasons for trip **BEFORE** going out into open waters.

⮚ No vessel is to be operated in outside/unprotected waters when a small craft advisory has been issued for the area. In the event such an advisory is issued during the day, the vessel is to return to protected waters.

⮚ No vessel is to be operated when gale warnings or tropical storm warnings have been issued for coastal Louisiana or in periods of serious visual impairment such as heavy rain or fog.

⮚ Individuals who do not know how to swim shall not be permitted to board a UNO assigned vessel except in emergency conditions.

**Fire Safety:**

Along with general fire safety rules, the following should be followed to prevent fires:

⮚ All guidelines issued by U.S. Coast Guard concerning fire safety will be adhered to at all times.

⮚ Gasoline ***shall not be used as a solvent*** for de-greasing at any time.

⮚ Flammable liquids shall be stored in an approved storage container and stored and used only in an area of adequate ventilation.

⮚ All electrical equipment will be properly grounded and inspected for worn or broken wiring and appropriate repairs made before use.

⮚ Dirty rags shall not be stored in a pile. If necessary, all such rags will be disposed of.

**Personal Safety:**

The following are rules for personal safety when on, or near, a UNO vessel:

⮚ All affected individuals are required to become thoroughly familiar with the requirements of this program and adhere to them.

⮚ No one will operate any equipment assigned to, or operated by, UNO while under the influence of any drug, prescription or non-prescription, which impairs the judgment of the individual or causes the individual to become drowsy. The use of alcohol is strictly prohibited.

⮚ Horse play in and around the vessel is not permitted

⮚ Each individual is responsible for his/her own personal safety and **SHALL NOT** assume safety is the responsibility of anyone else. He/she is responsible for checking and maintaining personal safety items.

⮚ Proper personal safety equipment will be available and worn as per manufacturer’s recommendations for any vessel being operated. If an individual does not possess the necessary safety equipment, he/she must prepare a written document for his/her supervisor explaining the equipment needed and justification for the need.

⮚ All persons are to become aware of the symptoms and immediate first aid for HEAT STRESS & HYPOTHERMIA.

This is to certify that I have read and understand the above stated Water Vessel Safety Rules and I shall comply with them.

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UNO Witness Date

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