

# **Lake Thunderbird Association**

## **WATERCRAFT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **PREAMBLE**

Lake Thunderbird is a community restricted to members and their guests. The Board of Directors of the Lake Thunderbird Association has, under the rights granted in Article VI, Section 6, Paragraph (f) of the By-laws adopted a set of rules and regulations as well as penalties for violations of said rules.

The rules and regulations have been written to provide for the safety and well being of all LTA members and their guests, as well as the enjoyment of the recreational activities and amenities, and to maintain in good standing, all members must comply as set forth in Article IX of the By-laws. Members are responsible for the actions of their guests, so it is suggested that all guests be made aware of these rules and regulations.

Rules are enforced by Security, the Lake Manager, the Board of Directors, Water Safety, Conservation or any person or persons appointed by the Board to do so.

At the July 19 2003, Board of Directors meeting, a motion was made, seconded and carried that prohibits the operation of Personal Watercraft on the waters of Lake Thunderbird.

An infraction of these rules and regulations will result in a citation being issued. Ignorance of these rules and regulations will not be acceptable defense when an infraction has occurred. *(eff: 10-16-04)*

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **REGISTRATION OF WATERCRAFT**

1. All watercraft being operated upon Lake Thunderbird must be registered with the Association office. To register a watercraft, the standard registration form is available from the Association office and must be filled out completely and submitted along with:
  - a) A copy of the State Watercraft Certificate of Numbers issued by the State of Illinois or the state in which the owner resides, clearly showing the watercraft is member owned.
  - b) A certificate of liability insurance qualifying property damage and bodily injury (\$100,000.00 minimum) for all watercraft.
  - c) Once registered with the Association, a Lake Thunderbird Association sticker will be assigned and said sticker will be displayed behind the state registration numbers on each side of watercraft without full windshields or on both sides of full windshield crafts.
  - d) Inspection of new watercraft or motors by the Lake Manager or his appointed representative is required before any association sticker is issued.
2. A member may register more than one motorized watercraft if each is of a different type. Type categories are: Powerboat or deck boat, sailboat, canoe/kayak, rowboat, pontoon boat, paddle boat, or fishing boat. Their description follows:

- a) Powerboat/Deck boat – A single or multi hull craft, designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling inside the vessel and powered by outboard motor.
  - b) Row boat – A single hull craft propelled by oars.
  - c) Sailboat – A single or multi hull craft propelled by wind by means of a sail or canvas.
  - d) Canoe/Kayak – A single hull craft whose sides meet in a sharp edge at each end propelled by one or more paddles.
  - e) Pontoon boat – A twin or triple hull craft with a separate deck structure powered by outboard motor only.
  - f) Paddle boat – A single or multi hull craft propelled by means of a paddle wheel powered by hands or feet.
  - g) Fishing boat – A single or multi hull craft propelled by an outboard motor not to exceed 25 hp.
  - h) Any watercraft that differs from the crafts listed above must have the approval of the Board of Directors before being allowed on Lake Thunderbird.
3. Watercraft that has been registered with the Lake Thunderbird Association as of December 31, 2002 will be exempted from the regulations set forth in number 2 of this section.

## **ARTICLE II GUEST BOATERS RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. Guest passes are to be obtained by the property owner and the guest at the Association office, located at the clubhouse.
2. All guests and guest boaters are subject to the same rules and regulations of the Association as the property owner.
3. The property owner will be held responsible in the event of an infraction of these rules and regulations by their guests.
4. Guest boaters must meet the same registration and insurance requirements as member owned watercraft. Guest watercraft must meet all limitation requirements.
5. The cost of guest watercraft pass is \$75.00 per day and must be purchased in advance.

## **ARTICLE III RESTRICTIONS ON SIZES, TYPES & HORSEPOWER OF WATERCRAFT**

1. All powerboats, deck boats, fishing boats, or sailboats operated on Lake Thunderbird must be less than 19 feet in length.
2. No pontoon type boat operated on Lake Thunderbird may exceed 26 ½ feet in length.
3. Measurement of all watercraft will be done by the Lake Manager or his designated representative. The size limitations of watercraft are as measured from the furthest point forward of the bow to the furthest point back of the stern. Pontoon boat measurement will

be the length of the pontoon. All measurements are exclusive of swim platforms or motors. (eff: 5-16-04)

4. Houseboats may not be operated on Lake Thunderbird nor may anyone sleep overnight on a boat unless the boat is docked at a private lot improved with a residence.
5. All other types less than 10 feet in length shall be electric or manual propulsion only.
6. No powerboat or deck boat shall be allowed on Lake Thunderbird that is powered with a motor that exceeds 100 horsepower. This restriction is absolute. Power can only be obtained from an outboard motor. Inboard/outboard units are not allowed.
7. Pontoon boats are restricted to a maximum of 40 horsepower. This restriction is absolute.

Even though Lake Thunderbird is a privately owned lake, all State of Illinois safe boating regulations apply. It is your responsibility to know the regulations and obey them.

#### **ARTICLE IV WATERCRAFT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

General:

1. All provisions of the State of Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act have been adopted by the Association to be applicable to all watercraft operated on Lake Thunderbird. Lake Thunderbird Association rules on boating are posted on the clubhouse bulletin board as well as at the south boat launch location.
2. Understanding that the entire shoreline is considered common property, no docking or beaching of watercraft is permitted in or on any common property, except in designated areas. Docking or beaching of watercraft is not permitted on that portion of shoreline that extends across a member's waterfront without the owner's permission.
3. Any watercraft operator involved in a boating accident must report such accident to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as well as the Lake Manager or Lake Security.
4. There will be times when the whole lake may be designated as "no wake" by the Lake Manager or the Board President. Watercraft operating in a posted and/or designated "No Wake" area must be operated at idle speed only. The entire lake is posted "**NO WAKE**" during the hours of 7:00 PM or dark (whichever occurs first) to 10:00 AM.

*(eff 1-19-08)*

#### **NOTE:**

The lake may be closed at times because of severe weather or extreme lake water levels. Flags depicting status of the lake will be displayed at the dam, clubhouse boat slip and south boat launch. The flag color and meaning are as follows:

**GREEN – Normal rules apply**  
**YELLOW – Lake open with no wake condition**  
**RED – Lake closed to all activities**

5. Any watercraft following in the path of a watercraft pulling any towable device must stay a minimum of 100' behind the towing boat and its towable device.
6. No watercraft may be operated by a person who is under the influence of alcohol or other substance. Any law enforcement official is empowered to make arrests and they are also empowered to administer breathalyzer tests to anyone.
7. The racing of motorized watercraft is strictly prohibited.

**ARTICLE V  
AGE OF OPERATOR**

1. No person under ten (10) years of age may operate a motorized watercraft.
2. Persons at least ten (10) years of age and less than twelve (12) years of age may operate a motorized watercraft only if they are accompanied on the motorized watercraft and under the direct control of a parent or guardian or a person at least eighteen (18) years of age designated by a parent or guardian.
3. Persons at least twelve (12) years of age and less than eighteen (18) years of age may operate a motorized watercraft only if:
  - a) they are accompanied on the motorized watercraft and under the direct control of a parent or guardian, OR
  - b) they are accompanied on the motorized watercraft by a person at least eighteen (18) years of age designated by a parent or guardian, OR
  - c) such motorized watercraft operator is in possession of a Boating Safety Certificate issued by the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Law Enforcement, OR
  - d) a valid certificate issued by another state, a province of the Dominion of Canada, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary or the United States Power Squadron.
4. Violation of this section done with the knowledge of a parent or guardian shall be deemed a violation by the parent or guardian and punishable under Chp. 625 Art II A of the Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act.

**ARTICLE VI  
SPEED LIMITS, PASSENGER LOCATION AND BOAT CAPACITY**

1. Watercraft must never exceed a speed that is safe and reasonable for the prevailing conditions.
2. Watercraft or other motorized watercraft shall not operate at a speed faster than idle speed while entering or operating in a designated "No Wake" area or between the hours of 7:00 PM or dark (whichever occurs first) and 10:00 AM. *(eff: 1-19-08)*
3. The traffic pattern for Lake Thunderbird must be in a counter-clockwise direction during the hours of 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM or dark whichever occurs first.
4. All watercraft shall be operated so as to maintain a distance of fifty (50) feet from beach swimming areas during the hours of 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM or dark (whichever occurs first).
5. All motorized watercraft are to maintain a traffic pattern of fifty (50) feet from the shoreline when operating at a speed that produces a significant wake. *(eff: 10-16-04)*
6. Power boating, water skiing, tubing, and all like activities will only be allowed between the hours of 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM or dark (whichever occurs first). *(eff 10-16-04)*
7. Passengers in a motor boat are prohibited from riding or sitting on the gunwales, top of seat back or on the decking over the bow or stern of the motor boat or a platform while the motor boat is under way. This includes pontoon boats.
8. Operators of all watercraft must not exceed the capacity limits of passengers or weight as set forth on the capacity plate of affixed to said watercraft.



**ARTICLE VII  
REGULATIONS REGARDING WATER SKIING AND ALL TOWABLE  
DEVICES**

General Regulations:

1. The provisions of the State of Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act have been adopted by the Association to be applicable to all towable devices and water skiing activities on Lake Thunderbird.
2. A watercraft towing a skier or towable device may not enter, exit or pass through any “No Wake” restricted areas that are marked by buoys or which may be designated “No Wake” from time to time.
3. All skiers and towable devices must remain outwardly of buoys and other designated restricted areas at all times. Additionally, they are to maintain a distance of fifty (50) feet from the shoreline and piers.
4. Kites, jumps and slalom course may not be used.
5. When towing a person or persons on water skis or in a tube or similar device, the towing vessel must have a capacity of at least three (3) persons and at least two (2) competent persons must be in the vessel.
6. All persons wishing to “slalom” will use the designated and posted ski drop area at the dam for dropping their skis.
7. There will be a maximum of two (2) skiers or towable devices pulled by one watercraft.
8. No water skiing or use of towable devices may take place before 10:00 AM or after 7:00 PM or dark (whichever occurs first).
9. It is mandatory that all persons being towed as a skier or as a user of an inflatable device wear an approved Coast Guard PFD of proper size type and condition.
10. It is mandatory that an orange flag be displayed to alert other boats that a skier or tuber is down. Flags are available at no cost at the Lake Thunderbird office or from any Water Safety Committee member.

**ARTICLE VIII  
SCUBA DIVING**

Scuba diving in “No Wake” areas will be allowed by permit only. All divers shall display a free-flying, white diagonal stripe on a red background “Diver Down” flag. All boaters are required to stay at least 150 feet from the “Diver Down” flag.

**ARTICLE IX  
LAKE SWIMMING & SWIM PLATFORM RULES**

For the purpose of these Lake Swimming and Swim Platform Rules, “lake” is defined as all waters within the continuous and uninterrupted Lake Thunderbird shoreline, in its entirety, to include all coves and inlets.

For the purpose of these Lake Swimming Rules, “swimming” includes wading or the personal use of any kind of non-towed flotation device including any device that is not a registered watercraft as defined in “Article I – Registration of Watercraft”.

Lake swimming is permitted ONLY as follows:

1. At the Beach, within the area confined by the shoreline and the floating ropes, and as further restricted under “Beach” rules contained herein under the “General Rules”.
2. Within twenty-five (25) feet from the shoreline, by a lakefront property owner and his guests, between the property owner’s lateral property lines extended from the shorefront into the lake.
3. Within twenty-five (25) feet of an anchored watercraft in a posted “No Wake” area identifiable by the presence of “No Wake” buoys or in designated or posted coves.

Swim platforms are permitted ONLY as follows:

1. Swim platforms must be positioned, in their entirety, within twenty-five (25) feet from the shoreline and between a property owner’s lateral property lines extended from the shorefront into the lake.
2. Swim platforms must be anchored.
3. Approval of swim platforms must be obtained from Architectural Control Committee before placement. *(eff: 11-15-08)*

## **ARTICLE X BOAT STORAGE AND OVERNIGHT DOCKING**

1. Boat storage is limited to the storage racks at the north boat launch and at the clubhouse marina area boat racks and the storage site at the rear of the maintenance area. Proper permit and paid fees are required to utilize these areas. *(eff: 4-18-08)*
2. Overnight docking will be allowed at any of the Common Property docking facilities for two (2) days, including the dock at the west side of the beach. After the two (2) days the boat may not be docked on Common Property for a minimum of one (1) week.
3. Property owners are allowed to store their watercraft on their own property.

## **ARTICLE XI BOAT SLIPS**

Property owners who have a boat slip will have the option of keeping their Association boat slip from year to year. The rental fee must be paid before January 15<sup>th</sup> or they will lose their boat slip and the next person on the waiting list will have the opportunity to rent the slip. There will be only one watercraft allowed per Association slip. A request letter

will be mailed to the boat slip renter in December. This letter will also state any fee changes there may be.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**CONTRACTOR WATERCRAFT**

Work boats of contractors must have a permit from the Association and will be allowed on the lake for the duration of the job only. In order to obtain a permit, the contractors must show evidence of insurance, provide a hold harmless agreement to the Association and obey all rules regarding watercraft operation on the lake.

**ARTICLE XIII  
RECKLESS OPERATION DEFINED**

No person will operate any watercraft of any kind or manipulate any water skis, aquaplane, or similar device in such a manner as to willfully or wantonly endanger the life, limb, or property of any person, to weave through congested traffic, to jump the wake of another vessel unreasonably or unnecessarily close to the other vessel or when visibility around the other vessel is obstructed, to wait until the last possible moment to swerve to avoid collision, or operate any watercraft so as to approach or pass another watercraft in such a manner or at such a rate of speed as to create a hazardous wake or wash.

**ARTICLE XIV  
PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFD'S)**

1. There shall be at least one US Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) onboard very watercraft for every person. These PFD's can be type I, type II or Type III (wearable PFD's).
2. Any watercraft 16' in length (except canoes or kayaks) must have at least one Type IV (throwable) US Coast Guard Approved PFD onboard.
3. All PFD's must be readily accessible, serviceable condition, of an appropriate size for whom it is intended, and legibly marked with the US Coast Guard Approval number.
4. Children under the age of thirteen (13) must wear an US Coast Guard approved PFD of proper size and condition while the watercraft is underway.

**ARTICLE XV  
WATERCRAFT EQUIPMENT**

1. The following accessories are required:
  - a) All motorboats are required to have one marine type US Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher onboard and readily accessible.
  - b) All motorboats must have an approved mouth, hand or power operated whistle or horn.
  - c) Storage batteries shall be provided with suitable supports and secured against shifting. Batteries shall be equipped with non-conductive shielding means to prevent accidental shorting.
  - d) All motorboats must carry and display when underway between the hours of sunset and sunrise such lights as required by the US Coast Guard. The required lights are a red and green bow and a 360 degree white stern light. Canoes/Kayaks shall carry onboard from sunset to sunrise but not fixed to any part of the boat, a lantern or flashlight capable of showing a white light visible all around the horizon at a distance of 2 miles or more, and shall display such lantern in sufficient time to avoid collision with another watercraft.



**ARTICLE XVI  
FISHING REGULATIONS**

1. The regulations of the State of Illinois pertaining to fishing have been adopted by the Association to be applicable to all fishing activities on Lake Thunderbird. Illinois regulations governing fishing licenses, seasons, limits, legal sizes, etc., must be observed. Lake Thunderbird Conservation Committee has set size limits and “keeper” limits and will enforce these regulations.
2. Dumping of live minnows or any other type of bait into the lake is strictly prohibited.
3. Refusal to allow the Department of Natural Resources personnel, or Conservation Committee members, Water Safety, or Security to check live wells, creels or stringers will result in a fine. All fish limits will be strictly enforced.
4. Fishing on Lake Thunderbird will be by pole and line only. No trout lines, bottle fishing, etc., will be allowed. No set or un-attended lines.
5. Dumping of portable bathroom waste, refuse or any litter in the lake will not be tolerated.
6. Any fish attractors to be placed in the lake must be inspected by the Conservation Committee.

**ARTICLE XVII  
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE NEW CREEL LIMITS  
As of January 16, 2010:**

- Walleye-----**3 per day** must be 16 inches or larger  
Large Mouth Bass-----**1 per day** 12” to 18” protected slot. **NO** fish  
between 12” and 18” can be removed.  
Small Mouth Bass-----**Catch and release**, must be returned to the  
.....Lake.  
Hybrid Striper and White Bass-----**10 per day** in aggregate, only 3 of which maybe  
over 17 inches  
Muskie-----**Catch and Release.**  
.....Must be returned to the lake.  
Crappies, Black & White-----**20 per day** 9 inch minimum  
Bull Head and Channel Catfish-----**NO LIMIT**  
Sunfish/Bluegills-----**NO LIMIT**  
Flat Head Catfish,-----**Catch and release only.**  
..... Must be returned to the lake.

**ARTICLE XVIII  
OPERATION OF ASSOCIATION WATERCRAFT**

1. The operation of the Association watercraft will only be done by Water Safety Committee members, the Lake Manager or the duly authorized representatives of the Lake Manager.

2. Persons accompanying Water Safety Committee members in the operation of the Association watercraft must be either a member of the Water Safety Committee or a current member of the Board of Directors . Amended to let the Chairman of the Water Safety Committee to appoint deputy committee members to serve as water safety patrol members. *(eff: 3-5-08)*

**Articles I, III and IV are hereby revised to reflect the Motion made and carried at the July 19, 2003, Board of Directors meeting, that Personal Watercraft will no longer be allowed on Lake Thunderbird as of May 31, 2004. All references to Personal Watercraft are hereby removed. March 16, 2004**