

# Lake Thunderbird Association

## WATERCRAFT and FISHING 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 1, 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 all guests should 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

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors (effective 01/01/2022))

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) Owner must take an open book LTA boating quiz in order to receive boat stickers. If owner does not pass, owner must take a Responsible Boating Class. If an owner receives two boating citations, other than no boat sticker, in the same year, owner must re-take and pass the Responsible Boating Quiz. The re-take will not be open book and, if not passed, the owner will need to attend the Responsible Boating Class before a boat sticker will be issued. The open book test is available in the office and on the Association's web site. (eff. 10/17/2019)
  - d) Two Lake Thunderbird Association stickers will be issued for each registered watercraft upon payment to the Lake Thunderbird Association of the annual boat sticker fee. Said stickers must be affixed to the port and starboard sides of the watercraft, midway between the bow and the stern and above the waterline. Affixed stickers must be visible at all times, unobstructed by a boat cover or by any other means, when the watercraft is located on or over Lake Thunderbird waters. Said stickers must be affixed to the watercraft using the stickers' adhesive backing. All watercraft stickers must be installed by June 1<sup>st</sup>, any watercraft found in or over the water with an expired sticker will be fined Class 1. Old stickers must be removed or covered up with new stickers. (eff. 01/01/2021)
  - e) Any person operating a boat on the lake is required to take the Responsible Boating Quiz. (eff. 10/17/2019)
  - f) Inspection of new watercraft or motors by the Lake Manager or the Lake Manager's designated 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) Paddle boards – A long narrow buoyant board capable of supporting a standing occupant which is propelled by paddles. Children under 13 must wear a PFD at all times and all other users must wear or have a PFD attached to the paddle board. (eff. 5-20-17)
- h) Fishing boat – A single or multi hull craft propelled by an outboard motor not to exceed 25 hp.
- i) Any watercraft that differs from the crafts listed above must have the approval of the Board of Directors before being allowed on Lake Thunderbird.

**ARTICLE II  
GUEST BOATERS RULES AND REGULATIONS**

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors (effective 01/01/2022))

No guest boats are allowed on Lake Thunderbird per Board resolution. (eff. 1/21/12)

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

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors (effective 01/01/2022))

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 the Lake Manager’s 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 motors and swim platforms which are bolted on. (eff. 01/01/2021)
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. Violation is a Class 2 & Removal of watercraft from the lake, & loss of lake privileges. (eff. 01/01/2021)
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**

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors (effective 01/01/2022))

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, Water Safety, Conservation Committee(s) 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.
8. All boats must be either removed from the lake by November 15<sup>th</sup>. or stored on their boat lifts with the entire hull/pontoons and motor completely out of the water. Any spillage of oils and/or fuel will be the owner’s responsibility to remove the spillage and clean the entire lake as well as paying all fines. (eff. 01/01/2021)

**ARTICLE V**

**AGE OF OPERATOR**

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors (effective 01/01/2022))

1. No person under the age of 18 shall operate a motorboat with over 10 horsepower unless that person has a valid Boating Safety Certificate issued by the Department of Natural Resources or an entity or organization recognized and approved by the Department. (eff. 02/16/2019)
2. No person under 10 years of age may operate a motorboat.
3. Persons at least 10 years of age and less than 12 years of age may operate a motorboat with over 10 horsepower only if the person is under the direct on board supervision of a parent or guardian who meets the requirements of subsection (1) above or a person at least 18 years of age who meets the requirements of subsection (1) above and is designated by a parent or guardian. (eff. 02/16/2019)
4. Persons at least 12 years of age and less than 18 years of age may operate a motorboat with over 10 horsepower only if the person meets the requirements of subsection (1) above or is under the direct on board supervision of a parent or guardian who meets the requirements of subsection (1) above or a person at least 18 years of age who meets the requirements of subsection (1) above and is designated by a parent or guardian. (eff. 02/16/2019)
5. The owner of a motorboat or a person given supervisory authority over a motorboat shall not permit a motorboat with over 10 horsepower to be operated by a person who does not meet the Boating Safety Certificate requirements of this section. (eff. 02/16/2019)
6. Violation of this section done with the knowledge of the registered owner of the watercraft or the parent or guardian shall be deemed a violation of these regulations. (eff. 10-17-15)

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

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors  
(effective 01/01/2022))

1. Watercraft must always maintain 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. All non-motorized watercraft (kayaks, canoes, paddle boats, row boats, and paddle boards are to maintain a traffic pattern of twenty-five (25) feet from the shoreline between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. except in no-wake areas. Watercraft (non-motorized) does not need to maintain a counter-clockwise direction (eff. 1-1-2018)
7. 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)
8. 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.
9. 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. (eff. 10-17-09)

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

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors  
(effective 01/01/2022))

General Regulations:

1. The provisions of restricted areas but only to change those persons being towed 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. Watercraft that are towing skiers or towable devices must remain outwardly of buoys identifying no wake areas as well as other designated restricted areas at all times. EXCEPTION – Watercraft towing skiers or towable devices may enter designated restricted areas but only to change those being towed. Additionally, they are to maintain a distance of fifty (50) feet from the shoreline and piers. (eff.8-16-15)
4. Kites, jumps and slalom course may not be used.
5. When towing a person or persons on water skis or a towable device, the towing vessel must have a capacity of at least three (3) persons with at least two (2) competent persons. One of the competent persons must be the spotter and must be at least 16 years of age. All competent persons must be capable of assisting a skier or person/persons on the towable device into the vessel in case of an accident or injury. (eff. 01/01/2021)
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. The operator of any watercraft that is towing a person or persons shall display on the watercraft a bright or brilliant orange flag measuring not less than 12 inches per side. The flag shall be displayed at the highest point of the area surrounding the boat's helm as to be visible from all directions, continuously, while the person or persons being towed depart the boat in preparation for towing and until re-entry into the boat when the activity has ceased. Display of the flag for purposes other than the activity described in this Section is prohibited. In addition to the orange flag, a yellow flag will need to be raised when the skier or tubers are down in the water. Yellow flags are available at no cost at the Lake Thunderbird office or from any Water Safety member. (eff. 12-20-14)

### **ARTICLE VIII SCUBA DIVING**

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors  
(effective 01/01/2022)

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**

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors  
(effective 01/01/2022)

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**

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors  
(effective 01/01/2022)

1. Boat storage is limited to the storage racks at the north boat launch, 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**

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors  
(effective 01/01/2022)

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 February 15th 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. Boat Slip must be used only with the leasing member's boat during the year – no renting of slip or not using slip during the year - use it or lose it. Boat's registration number and LTA boat sticker number must match the boat registered in the LTA office for that slip. Sub-leasing or lending will result in loss of the slip and a violation. A request letter will be mailed to the boat slip renter in January. This letter will also state any fee changes. (eff. 01/01/2021)

**ARTICLE XII  
CONTRACTOR WATERCRAFT**

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors  
(effective 01/01/2022)

Work boats of contractors must have a permit from the Association and will be allowed on the Lake only for the duration of the job. 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. See Contractor's Fees.

**ARTICLE XIII  
RECKLESS AND CARELESS OPERATION DEFINED**

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors  
(effective 01/01/2022)

1. Reckless Operation: 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.
2. Careless Operation: No person shall operate any watercraft in a careless or heedless manner as to endanger any person or property, or at a rate of speed greater than will permit him in the exercise of reasonable care to bring the watercraft to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead. (eff. 12-20-14)

**ARTICLE XIV  
PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs)**

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors  
(effective 01/01/2022)

1. There shall be at least one US Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) on board every watercraft for every person. These PFDs can be Type I, Type II or Type III (wearable PFDs).
2. Any watercraft 16' in length (except canoes or kayaks) must have at least one Type IV (throw-able) U.S. Coast Guard Approved PFD on board.
3. All PFDs must be readily accessible, in serviceable condition, of an appropriate size for whom it is intended, and legibly marked with the U.S. Coast Guard Approval number.
4. Children under the age of thirteen (13) must wear an U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD of proper size and condition while the watercraft is underway. (eff. 10-17-09)

**ARTICLE XV  
WATERCRAFT EQUIPMENT**

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors  
(effective 01/01/2022)

The following accessories are required:

1. All motorboats are required to have one marine type U.S. Coast Guard approved fire extinguisher on board and readily accessible.
2. All motorboats must have an approved mouth, hand or power operated whistle or horn.
3. 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.
4. 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 on board 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. (eff. 10-17-09)

**ARTICLE XVI  
FISHING REGULATIONS**

All Violations for this Article are Class 1, 2, 3, 4, amount determined by Board of Directors  
(effective 01/01/2022)

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 or bow only. Only two lines or poles per person as defined by the Illinois DNR rules are allowed. No trot lines, bottle fishing, nor set or un-attended lines, etc., will be allowed. (eff. 01/01/2021)
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.
7. The following species may be fished by bow: Common carp, grass carp, drum and shad. All persons taking fish by these means MUST have a valid Illinois Fishing License. (eff. 5-18-14)
8. Violation will be imposed for not removing and properly disposing of all fish. (eff. 01/01/2021)
9. Violation will be imposed for taking fish other than that specified in #7. (eff. 01/01/2021)
10. No use of alcohol will be allowed while bow fishing.
11. Archery fishing will be allowed year around from 10pm-10am (eff. 5-18-14)