

# Sturbridge Lakes Association

## Common Grounds, Boating and Fishing, and Beach Rules

To allow all residents to enjoy our common grounds in a safe and comfortable atmosphere, the following rules will be enforced by the Sturbridge Lakes Association Board of Trustees, Management, and Lifeguards. The following are not all-inclusive, but are intended to illustrate minimum acceptable expectations when using common grounds. Any conduct by residents and their guests while using common grounds, beaches and lakes for swimming, fishing, or boating that violates any of the following rules or any instruction given by the lifeguards at the beach, is subject to disciplinary action which may include the following:

Time outs supervised by the lifeguards; Being told to leave the beach for the day; Being excluded from the beach and common grounds for the remainder of the year (or longer). All such decisions are at the discretion of the management and lifeguards and must be followed.

All decisions may be appealed with the Sturbridge Lakes Association Board of Trustees. All appeals must be in writing and will be heard at the first available Trustee's meeting.

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### Common Grounds Hours:

**The common grounds are open for residents use between DAWN AND DUSK. Please restrict your use of the facilities to between these hours.**

### RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. EVERYONE is required to WEAR current year resident or guest activity tag on their person while using any of the common areas, including the beaches and lakes. Tags will be checked at the beaches at all times and at the other common areas. If a tag is not visible, the person will be asked to leave the areas. If the offender does not leave, the appropriate legal action will be taken to remove that person from the common area and future use may be suspended.

EVERY PERSON USING A COMMON AREA MUST DISPLAY A TAG, EVEN GUESTS.

2. No tumultuous or disorderly conduct, profanity, abusive language or behavior, unsafe practices, or horseplay is permitted on any common area or beach.
3. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR CANNABIS PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND, SMOKING OF ANY KIND, VAPING, ETC. ARE ALLOWED ON ANY OF THE COMMON AREAS AT ANY TIME.
4. Persons suspected of being under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, or any drugs shall be prohibited from entering the water, and may be asked to leave common grounds.
5. No glass bottles or glass containers of any kind are permitted. This includes all common grounds, including but not limited to swimming areas and beaches, dams, tennis courts, and playgrounds.

6. Charcoal fires permitted in grilles only. All fires must be extinguished at least 15 minutes prior to leaving. No other fires are permitted to be built, and no incendiary devices of any kind (example, fireworks) are allowed on any common areas at any time.
7. All picnic areas must be cleaned up and trash disposed of before leaving.
8. No automobiles, all-terrain vehicles, mopeds, motorcycles, bikes, go-carts, or any other motorized vehicles, except emergency and maintenance vehicles, are permitted on the common grounds or beaches at any time.
9. NO SKATEBOARDING IS PERMITTED ON THE COMMON GROUNDS.
10. All fishing on Sturbridge Lakes Association property is subject to NJ Fishing Laws and licenses are necessary. Any person fishing must also have the appropriate Sturbridge Lakes activity tag and/or SLA hat visible. Any person fishing without the tag visible will be considered to be trespassing and appropriate action will be taken. SLA may issue a hat or other identifying material to be visibly carried or worn by residents in a further effort to deter trespassers.

CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY. Do not remove the fish from the lakes. Please be careful when removing hooks from fish. Instruct your children on the proper handling of the fish. Clean up hooks, bait, trash from the area before leaving.

11. Residents in good standing may launch their own non-motorized watercraft (electric motors 9.9 HP or under) from the beach launch area but must have all proper safety equipment and must operate their craft in a safe responsible manner. Craft may not enter the swimming area and must obey all lifeguard directions.
12. No boating, canoeing, water skiing, sail boating, or surf boarding, paddle boarding, etc in swimming area. Follow safe boating practices when launching and using boats or other watercraft on any of the lakes. No capsizing, diving, or jumping from the sides of the boats since the lakes are shallow and that could cause injury. **Wear a Coast Guard approved flotation device/life vest at all times.** Do not dock your boat on other residents' properties. Boats are not allowed to be docked overnight on any of the common areas.
13. In order to use one of the Association's boats, a person must be at least 16 years of age \*IF THE PARENT SIGNS A WAIVER, otherwise they would have to be 18. Lifeguards will have waivers to be signed by the person or a parent, before using the boat. Flotation devices must be worn by everyone.

## **Sturbridge Lakes Association Common Grounds, Boating and Fishing, and Beach Rules**

The lifeguards have U.S. Coast Guard approved flotation devices available. A member's tag will be held by the lifeguard while using the boat. The boat must be returned within the allotted time. A waiting list is provided.

**14. NO SWIMMING IN ANY OF THE LAKES EXCEPT WITHIN THE LIFELINES AT FOXVIEW AND CHATHAM BEACHES WHEN LIFEGUARDS ARE ON DUTY.**

15. No swimming outside the lifelines.

16. NO SWIMMING WITHOUT LIFEGUARD ON DUTY. It is your responsibility to determine if the lifeguards are on duty. Generally, the beaches will be open and guarded daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 11:00a.m. to 7:00p.m.

Exceptions: Inclement weather and lake treatment. Lake treatment will be posted on the bulletin boards and at each beach house. If you have a question about whether the lake is open for swimming, please call the management office at (888) 884-8490.

17. EVERYONE MUST LEAVE THE WATER IMMEDIATELY WHEN THE LIFEGUARD SIGNALS THAT THUNDER, LIGHTNING, OR OTHER ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS ARE PRESENT. THIS IS FOR YOUR SAFETY. PLEASE RESPOND IMMEDIATELY.

18. EVERYONE MUST LEAVE THE WATER IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.

19. Small children with flotation devices (swimmies, rafts, rings, etc.) must be accompanied by an adult, and the adult must be within arm's reach of the child at all times that the child is in the water.

20. All children under the age of 4 must be supervised with a parent or guardian in the water at all times, and must be within arm's reach of the child all times that the child is in the water.

21. Children 12 and under must be supervised by a parent or adult (age 18 minimum) at all times. A parent must give written permission to a beach manager for a baby-sitter between the ages of 16 and 18 to be responsible for the child 11 years old or younger in their care. NO guests allowed for children ages 13-14 years old. Children ages between 15-17 years old are allowed one guest only. Aged 18-year-olds can bring more than one guest (based on guest tags).

22. All children under the age of 14 must pass a swim test (to be determined by the lifeguards) in order to go into the deep water and to the dock. Ankle bands will be given to everyone who passes the test. Lost ankle bands can be

replaced at the cost of \$1.00. Any child who has not passed the swim test will only be permitted to go to the dock with a parent/guardian if they wear a flotation device.

23. Children in diapers must wear waterproof pants (with snug fitting elastic waist and leg bands) over diapers. Children should be encouraged to use the restroom before entering the water. Do not enter the water if you are experiencing or recovering from diarrhea. Do not wash soiled diapers or clothing in the water. Immediately report any "accidents" in the water to a lifeguard.

24. Ball playing on the beaches and in the water will be at the discretion of the lifeguards, dependent on the number of patrons present.

25. Use only the ladders to climb up on the docks. One person at a time on the ladder.

26. No ball playing, running, pushing, shoving, or putting mud on the dock.

27. Diving will be restricted to certain areas of the docks. Please obey the signs on the docks. No swimming behind or under the dock. No diving to the side or back of the dock.

28. Rope drops shall not be permitted.

29. Do not tug, hang on to, or go beyond the lifelines (the ropes are used to mark the swimming areas).

30. No chicken fights or diving from another person's shoulders.

31. No rock, sand, shell, or seaweed throwing.

32. No one is permitted to bring anything other than swimming equipment into the lake. Nor are they permitted to remove anything from the bottom of the lake, without the permission of the lifeguard.

33. No pets are permitted on the beaches or playgrounds at any time.

**AGAIN, THE LIFEGUARDS HAVE THE FINAL WORD WHEN IT COMES TO ENFORCING THE RULES AND REGULATIONS AT THE BEACHES, AND HAVE SUSPENSION AUTHORITY RANGING FROM A TIEMOUT TO LONGER. PLEASE HELP MAKE THEIR JOBS EASIER AND FOLLOW THE RULES.**

**DEPENDING ON THE OFFENSE OF BREAKING ANY COMMON GROUND RULE(S), THE STURBRIDGE LAKES ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND MANAGEMENT MAY PROCEED WITH APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION AND COMPLAINTS WILL BE FILED. FUTURE USE OF COMMON AREAS MAY BE SUSPENDED OR REVOKED.**