

**The Lake Quinsigamond Commission acting under the authority of Chapter 294 of the Special Acts of the Legislature of Massachusetts of the year 1916, as amended by Chapter 357 of the Acts of 1973 and other amendments thereto, adopted the following Rules and Regulations pertaining to Lake Quinsigamond.**

By order of the Lake Quinsigamond Commission

**LAKE QUINSIGAMOND RULES**

Rule 1. Any vessel, vehicle, or recreational vehicle of any nature operated on Lake Quinsigamond must meet the statutory requirements of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. All operations of water craft on the water of Lake Quinsigamond shall be in strict compliance with the U.S. Coast Guard Rules and Regulations, the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Rules and Regulations of the Lake Quinsigamond Commission as ordered.

Rule 2. No person shall illegally discharge sewage, thermal pollution, siltation or any other substance which by itself or in combination with any other substance might tend to create a public nuisance into Lake Quinsigamond or into Flint Pond or Hovey Pond, or tributaries thereto, or all of them, in the county of Worcester. Nor shall any person illegally fill in said lake or said ponds or illegally obstruct the flow into or from said lake or ponds, including all waste or refuse from any dwelling, building factory or other establishment. No person shall litter the lake or its shoreline or its tributaries.

Rule 3. All boats or any water craft must, if equipped with toilet facilities have a marine approved holding tank. Boats or any water craft having toilet facilities equipped to discharge effluent overboard will not be permitted on the water of Lake Quinsigamond unless the thru hull fitting for discharge is plugged from the outside of the boat or craft.

Rule 4. No person shall annoy another person or utter any profane, indecent, threatening or abusive language or loud outcry, or play any game of chance, or have possession of any instrument of gambling or do any obscene or indecent act, or use, for the purpose of annoying another person a flashlight or any light or horn or other device, in or upon the waters of Lake Quinsigamond. The use of a bull horn, megaphone, or other amplification device after 8:00 PM or before 7:00 AM, except in an emergency, shall constitute a disturbance of the peace.

Rule 5. No person shall operate any boat, vessel snowmobile, motorcycle, or other vehicle of any type at a speed greater than 40 M.P.H., or a safe and reasonable speed depending on existing conditions, except during an official supervised race for which the Quinsigamond Commission has issued a permit in writing. The operator of any boat, vessel, snowmobile, motorcycle, or other vehicle of any type shall reduce boat to headway speed where operator's vision is obscured by bridges, curves or bends. Speed at all times must be reasonable and proper for existing conditions. No wake zone shall be no greater than 6 MPH.

Rule 6. All persons using the water of Lake Quinsigamond must obey official marker buoys and signs. Craft shall not be tied to buoys or moorings.

Rule 7. No person shall post, paint, affix or display any sign, notice, placard or advertising device on any part of the waters of said lake up to the high water mark, except with the written authority of the Lake Quinsigamond Commission.

Rule 8. No person shall moor any vessel, boat, canoe, raft, buoy or float or erect a wharf, wharves or other structures in the waters of Lake Quinsigamond which presents any hazard, or is not consistent with the reasonable and safe use of the lake as determined by the Lake Quinsigamond Commission. The Commission may order the removal of any such item which it deems hazardous.

Rule 8 A. Any person installing or placing a dock in the waters of Lake Quinsigamond, Flint Pond, or that portion below Stringer Dam shall apply for and construct said dock in compliance with "New Dock Permit Application Process" and "Dock Construction Regulations" as enacted by the Lake Quinsigamond Commission on May 19, 1999.

Rule 8 B: All docks must be maintained in a safe structural condition. Any dock or part thereof deemed hazardous by a commissioner or police officer authorized by the commission may order the repair or removal of said dock. If a dock is deemed a hazard, the owner shall be given 30 days to either repair or remove said dock. The failure of the owner to repair or remove said dock may result in an order by the Commission to remove said dock at the expense of the owner in addition to fines and court fees.

Rule 8 C: No boat, vessel or vehicle of any type shall be moored or secured to any unregistered dock or to a dock that fails to display a valid registration plate and sticker. The registered owner of said boat, vessel or vehicle shall be subject to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00). Each day that said boat, vessel or vehicle is moored to said unregistered dock shall constitute a separate violation.

Rule 8 D: Each valid registration plate shall / will entitle said registered owner to moor their boats, vessels or vehicles for residential property and one boat, vessel, or vehicle for condominiums and commercial docks. Any vessel not registered to the dock owner and so moored for more than seven days in a calendar year, shall constitute a commercial dock space requiring approval of the Commission for a commercial permit.

Rule 8 E: All wharfs or docks must display a valid registration sticker by May thirtieth of each year.

Rule 9. No person shall abandon a boat, canoe or other vessel, or leave the same unfixed, or allow boats, wharves, floats and barrels to go adrift upon the water of Lake Quinsigamond.

Rule 10. Swimming is prohibited at any point in the lake more than 50 feet from land, and in those areas officially marked "No Swimming". Swimming across the lake is prohibited in all cases.

Rule 11. Jumping and diving off bridges, buildings or other structures into the lake is prohibited, except wharves and designated diving structures. Jumping or diving from ropes or lines attached to trees or structures is also prohibited.

Rule 12. Ski-Kites are permitted only with written authorization from the Lake Quinsigamond Commission.

Rule 13. No person shall use the waters of Lake Quinsigamond for the taking off or landing of aircraft, except in case of emergency or authorization from the Lake Quinsigamond Commission.

Rule 14. No person shall conduct a powerboat rental agency or carrying of passengers for hire on the waters of Lake Quinsigamond except as prescribed by and specified in a permit to be issued by the Lake Quinsigamond Commission.

Rule 15. No person shall at any time make an opening in the ice of Lake Quinsigamond exceeding ten inches in diameter, unless in case of emergency, except by permission of the Lake Quinsigamond Commission.

Rule 15-A. No person, vessel, aerators, water pumps, heating – ventilation system, or device of any kind may be used that would interfere with the natural cycle of icing on Lake Quinsigamond. Except by permission of the Lake Quinsigamond Commission.

Rule 16. All powerboat racing and water-ski competition, snowmobile races, iceboat races, canoe races and regattas are prohibited without the written permission of the Lake Quinsigamond Commission.

Rule 17. Snowmobiles, motorcycles, iceboats and other winter recreational vehicles shall exercise reasonable caution and are prohibited from operating over open water at any time, and shall follow the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and shall keep a reasonable distance from all persons, structures and cleared skating areas. Automobiles and trucks are not permitted on the ice. All ice racing must be with the written permission of the Lake Quinsigamond Commission. The race course must be clearly marked to ensure the safety of the general public.

Rule 18. Racing by ice boats, whether propelled by motors or otherwise, motorcycles, snowmobiles or other recreational vehicles, powerboats or sailboats must be held on the portion of the lake that is north of the Lake Quinsigamond Bridge, Route 9, and only on a special permit that will be issued by the Lake Quinsigamond Commission. The race course must be marked and protected so as to ensure the safety of the general public.

Rule 19. All craft not covered by state or federal regulations must carry and display appropriate lighting from sunset to sunrise, including at least one portable flashlight.

Rule 20. Sailboats shall have the right-of-way over racing shells, canoes and row boats on Lake Quinsigamond.

Rule 21. The Rules and Regulations of the Lake Quinsigamond Commission shall be enforced by any state or municipal officer empowered to enforce the State Boating Laws of Massachusetts. Each such officer shall have jurisdiction over all waters of Lake Quinsigamond and its adjoining shores and may in the performance of his duties cross over or through public or private lands and property whether covered by water or not.

Rule 22. No boat, vessel, or vehicle shall be left moored or unattended within the loading area of any public boat ramp.

Rule 22 A. Fishing, sun bathing, or loitering is prohibited in or on any public boat ramp actively being used for the loading or unloading of boats.

Rule 22 B. Swimming is not allowed within fifty feet of any public boat ramp.

Rule 23. No person shall feed any wild animal including birds, ducks, geese, or similar water fowl in or on Lake Quinsigamond or within its adjoining shores.

Rule 24. All structures including ice fishing houses built on or moved onto the ice over Lake Quinsigamond, Flagg Pond, and Flint Pond are subject to the following: Structures must identify and display the owners name and address with at least two inch block letters; Structures must be removed prior to ice out, no later than February 15<sup>th</sup> of each year; If the structure is not removed the owner will forfeit the privilege for future permits and be subject up to a \$500.00 fine; Permit fee of \$20.00 per year.

Rule 25. An event fee of \$150.00 per event day, shall be assessed any organization granted a permit by the Lake Quinsigamond Commission to conduct activities on Lake Quinsigamond that substantially use or interfere with the general use of Lake Quinsigamond, Flint Pond or Flagg Pond.

25-A. Events: A race, regatta, parade, exhibition or practice for a race which is conducted according to a pre-arranged schedule and which by its nature, circumstances or location will introduce extra or unusual hazards to the safety of life or property on the waters of Lake Quinsigamond may not be conducted without a permit issued by the Lake Quinsigamond Commission.

25 B. The Commission may impose restrictions or special conditions upon any applicant or organization in the issuance of a Special Use Permit. The failure of any applicant, organization or participant to perform those special conditions set by the commission shall make the Special Use Permit, null and void. Any law enforcement officer, who has knowledge that the special conditions are not being enforced, shall terminate the event if the conditions cannot be immediately conformed to.

25C. No person, organization (public or private), participant, vendor, school, coach, or volunteer may participate in an event that does not have in possession a valid Special Use Permit from the Lake Quinsigamond Commission.

Rule 26. Upon public notice as required by Massachusetts General Law, the Lake Quinsigamond Commission shall meet in a public place, located within the Town of Grafton, Town of Shrewsbury, or the City of Worcester.

Rule 27. The Chief of Police of the Town of Shrewsbury, ex officio and the Chief of Police of the City of Worcester, ex officio may appoint a designee to represent them and act on their behalf to conduct business of the Lake Quinsigamond Commission.

Rule 28. No person, company, or organization of any type may “power load” a vessel onto a trailer or “Power clean” any engine or conduct any mechanical work or analysis within a boat ramp area of Lake Quinsigamond.

Rule 29. The Lake Quinsigamond Commission may ban an operator of any vessel from the waters of Lake Quinsigamond for a period of up to one year if the Commission finds after a public hearing that the person operated a vessel in a manner that was negligent or endangered the public.

Rule 30. The Lake Quinsigamond Commission may order the removal of any vessel from the waters of Lake Quinsigamond for a period of up to one year if the Commission finds after a public hearing that the vessel was operated in a manner that was negligent or endangered the public.

Rule 31. Motorized boats or vessels of any nature exceeding 30 feet in length are prohibited on Lake Quinsigamond. (Does not apply to Crew boats.)

Rule 32. Persons or vessels participating in the Coaching, Practicing, or Training of rowing or crew shall have distinctive identification as determined by the Commission after consultation with representatives of the participating schools.

**Whoever shall violate any of the above rules and regulations shall be subject to a fine not less than \$50.00 and not more than \$500.00 for each offense. Any person having law enforcement powers or a member of the sworn police service of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, upon observing any violation of these rules may arrest without a warrant and bring such person before the appropriate court. This power of arrest is in addition to any powers of arrest granted under existing laws.**

The above rules voted and approved on November 16, 2005 by Commissioners of the Lake Quinsigamond Commission. Revised 2017.

By order of the Lake Quinsigamond Commission