

HVL Lakes and Watercraft Rules

All boating and other uses of HVL POA lakes are conducted at your own risk.

Violations of the HVL POA Lakes and Watercraft rules may result in the loss of watercraft and/or fishing privileges and an individual may be banned from the use of the HVL POA lakes after the third violation within a calendar year.

A. General Lakes Rules

- 1) All HVL POA members, their immediate family members and renters who have paid the Renter Amenity Fee may utilize the HVL POA lakes but must be prepared to show a valid HVL POA identification when requested by an HVL POA Deputy or other POA staff member.
- 2) All injuries that occur on the HVL POA lakes should be reported to the HVL POA Deputies.
- 3) Bonfires or campfires are not permitted at the beach, marina areas, Willie's dock area or dam at any time without a burning permit issued by the HVL POA Board of Directors.
- 4) All litter must be placed in the containers provided. If containers are not present, take your trash with you when leaving the area.
- 5) Ice skating and ice fishing are permitted on HVL POA lakes but at your own risk.
- 6) Swimming in restricted areas (marinas, Willie's dock area, beach after posted hours, and high-speed zone during open status) is prohibited.
- 7) The use of mooring buoys on HVL POA lakes is prohibited.
- 8) The HVL POA lakes are treated with chemicals at least twice a year. The dates vary from year to year but usually the second Monday in June and the second Monday in August are selected. All HVL POA lakes are closed the day of chemical treatment. It is the HVL POA member's responsibility to be aware of these treatment dates. The treatment dates and lake usage restrictions are published in the Echoes newspaper and on public signs within HVL. Depending on weather conditions, rain dates may apply.
- 9) Property owners will not add chemicals to the water in any HVL lake for the purpose of controlling lake weeds. This will include chemicals made specifically for this purpose or any other chemical not specific to the treatment of lake vegetation.
- 10) Discarding or discharging of any waste material including, but not limited to organic yard waste such as leaves, grass, brush, etc. into HVL POA lakes is prohibited.
- 11) It is Indiana State Law that prohibits operating a watercraft while intoxicated due to alcohol or drugs and you may be arrested for a DUI.
- 12) HVL has adopted the State of Indiana Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination Rules & Regulations.

B. Main Lake, HVL POA Docks and Spillway Rules

- 1) The sluice gate on the main lake is opened on the first Monday in November and remains opened until the first Saturday prior to the first Monday in March. Watercraft may be damaged if left in the water during this period. The HVL POA Board of Directors from time to time may authorize changing of these dates for purposes of required maintenance with notification published in the Echoes newspaper. There will be a "no-wake" status on the lake from one week after the opening of the sluice gate until the bottom of the seawall is covered after closing the sluice gate. During this time the "Yellow" light will remain "ON" at all times while the lake is at winter pool unless the lake is closed and the "Red" light is on.
- 2) An HVL POA Deputy may, at his/her discretion, limit activities that could endanger anyone on the lakes. Self restraint is urged to help limit the number of watercraft using the high-speed zone at any given time.

- 3) No one is permitted on the HVL POA rental docks from dusk to dawn other than dock renters, their immediate family, and their guests.
- 4) Boat trailers may not be stored in the emergency spillway area overnight.
- 5) When a watercraft is in use on lake, boat trailers attached to the towing vehicle may be parked in the emergency spillway area.
- 6) The HVL POA does not guarantee a specific water level for the HVL lakes.
- 7) Only boats registered to the dock lease holder will be allowed in the leased dock space unless prior arrangements have been agreed to by the Community Manager. If it is found that a subleasing arrangement does exist, then the dock lessee will forfeit their right to lease the dock immediately and forfeit lease payments already made.

C. Small Lakes Rules

- 1) Only the designated access areas may be used around the small lakes and only foot traffic is permitted.
- 2) Construction of new docks on the small lakes is prohibited.
- 3) Use of gas motors of any kind on the small lakes is prohibited. Electric motors will be allowed on Lake Alpine and Kathy Lake with the following stipulations:
 - All batteries used must be sealed
 - There will not be any trailer launching allowed or launching from the back of a truck. All boats being used on the lakes must be carried to the lake or wheeled, if the boat is equipped with wheels.
 - Only those living on a lake can leave a boat on the lake or shore overnight.
 - No special weight or size limits other than those set for the main lake will apply.
 - All small lakes are no wake lakes.
- 4) Grass carp have been placed in the small lakes to help control vegetation. Removing these carp is prohibited.

D. Watercraft Rules

The following rules apply to all watercraft used in any HVL POA lake. HVL POA employees or agents of the HVL POA office may be from time to time be exempted from portions of these rules.

1) Watercraft Registration Rules

- a. All watercraft must meet US Coast Guard requirements for safety equipment and safe operation and be registered annually with HVL POA office. US Coast Guard requirements are published in the most recent addition of the "Federal Requirements and Safety Tips for Recreational Boats", available from the US Coast Guard.
- b. Only an HVL POA member may register his/her watercraft. Before a registration certificate is issued, the registrant must exhibit to the HVL POA office, or its representatives, a certificate evidencing a minimum watercraft liability insurance of \$100,000 coverage.
- c. When registering a watercraft, all owners must pass an HVL POA Boat Driver Examination, which is distributed with the watercraft registration form. To receive new watercraft annual stickers, the owner must provide correct answers to all the questions included on the exam.
- d. Current annual registration stickers issued by the HVL POA office must be permanently displayed in the HVL POA-designated areas on the port and starboard sides of the watercraft by May 1st. All watercraft must display current annual registration stickers prior to putting the watercraft on HVL lakes. Approved watercraft stickers include: 1) powerboats (square) and 2) other watercraft (triangle).
- e. Watercraft annual stickers are valid through April 30th of the following year.

- f. The annual watercraft registration fee shall be a fixed cost set by the HVL POA Board of Directors. All HVL POA dues, assessments, fees, penalties and fines must be current to complete the registration process.
- g. When registering new watercraft, the owner must provide proper documentation of ownership and length of the watercraft.
- h. Only one (1) powered watercraft in excess of ten (10.0) horsepower may be registered per HVL POA member.
- i. Air boats, jet skis, powered water skis, ATVs and powered personal watercraft (PWCs) are prohibited from use on HVL POA lakes and will not be issued registration stickers.

2) Watercraft Operation Rules

- a. No watercraft shall be permitted on HVL POA lakes unless it is owned by an HVL POA member, is registered with the HVL POA office, and all HVL POA registration stickers have been properly affixed to the watercraft and trailer. The HVL POA may, from time to time, exempt certain watercraft from some of these rules for the purpose of special events.
- b. The HVL POA traffic lights located around the lake are the primary notification of the main lake status. A green light indicates that the main lake is open to all normal activities. A yellow light indicates that the entire main lake is in no-wake, idle-speed status. A solid or flashing red light indicates that the entire main lake is closed to all activities including but not limited to boating, fishing and swimming. The normal period of time for the main lake to be in open status is between 9:00 a.m. and sunset unless posted or otherwise noted. In the event the HVL POA traffic lights are not functioning, the Cincinnati Enquirer newspaper will be the determination of daily sunset time.
- c. No high-speed operation of any watercraft is permitted on the main lake when the lake is at no-wake idle speed (yellow light) or closed (red light) status. High speed boating is permitted only when the main lake is in open (green light) status.
- d. Operating any watercraft at a speed in excess of no-wake idle speed in any portion of the no-wake zone is strictly prohibited.
- e. No-wake idle speed is defined as operating a powerboat with the throttle "just in gear" or at the lowest speed possible for boat operation.
- f. High-speed boating is permitted only on the main body of the main lake inside the marked buoys and not closer than one-hundred fifty (150) feet from any shoreline or two-hundred (200) feet from the dam. HVL POA buoys mark this area. If a buoy has broken loose or is missing, watercraft operating at high speed must stay 150 feet from the shore.
- g. The maximum speed for operating watercraft on the main lake shall be thirty-five (35) miles per hour.
- h. Any watercraft following another watercraft pulling or towing a water skier, tuber, wake boarder or other approved flotation device must maintain a minimum distance of three-hundred (300) feet to the rear.
- i. Non-motorized watercraft shall have the right-of-way over all motorized watercraft. When motorized watercraft are using the high-speed zone at high speed, non-motorized watercraft should avoid the high-speed zone whenever possible.
- j. No watercraft or device shall anchor or drift in the high-speed zone when the lake is in open status (green light). When drifting in the high-speed zone, US Coast Guard-approved navigation lights must be used between sundown and sunup.
- k. Tying watercraft, floats, or other devices to any buoy is prohibited at all times.
- l. The HVL POA member to whom the watercraft is registered is responsible for the safe and proper operation of the watercraft.
- m. All powered watercraft must travel in a counter-clockwise direction within the high-speed zone on the main lake except when picking up a downed skier, tuber, wake boarder or a person from a flotation device.

- n. Watercraft shall not perform "S" turns or "Figure-8" turns while operating at high-speed.
- o. All powered watercraft must be equipped with and use at all times an effective muffler system. Muffler bypass systems must not be engaged.
- p. The HVL POA member owning the watercraft must provide permission for any guest or relative to use it and must instruct the guest or relative on the watercraft on the HVL POA watercraft rules according to the current year's laminated rule card.
- q. The current year's laminated rule card must be present on all motorized watercraft at all times.
- r. All powerboats and pontoon boats must be equipped with and use mounted US Coast Guard-approved navigation lights between sunset (i.e. when the HVL POA traffic lights turn yellow) and sunrise. All other watercraft operating on the lake between sunset and sunrise must, at a minimum, be equipped with and use a light sufficient enough to identify its presence to other watercraft.
- s. When on the lake, all watercraft must be equipped with US Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III, V PFDs (life jackets) equal to or greater than the number of people on board. All watercraft (except canoes and kayaks) which are sixteen (16) feet or longer must carry at least one Type IV, throwable, PFD.

E. Water Skiing, Tubing and Wake Boarding Rules

The following rules apply to all watercraft pulling a person on water skis, tubes, wake boards or any other device. From time to time, the HVL POA Board of Directors may exempt certain watercraft from some of these rules for the purpose of special events.

- 1) Water skiing, tubing and wake boarding in excess of no-wake idle speed are permitted only within the high-speed zone on the main lake and when it is in open status (green light).
- 2) Watercraft pulling or towing a person in excess of no-wake idle speed must travel in a counter-clockwise direction within the high-speed zone.
- 3) Any person being pulled or towed by a watercraft operating at high speed must remain within the high-speed zone.
- 4) Any watercraft pulling or towing a person must have at least two (2) occupants on board, one to guide and control the boat and one or more to observe the person being towed.
- 5) A watercraft may pull or tow only one (1) person at a time in the high-speed zone regardless of the type of device being pulled or towed.
- 6) Watercraft picking up a downed skier, tuber, wake boarder or a person from any other device must immediately slow down to a no-wake idle speed and then turn back to the right for pick up.
- 7) All persons being pulled or towed on skis, tube, wake board or any other device must wear a US Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III, or V PFD, which is worn in accordance with the PFD's label instructions.
- 8) Water ski or wake board jumping over any object is strictly prohibited.
- 9) Starting or dropping a person on water skis, tube, wake board or any other device from or on a shoreline, beach, marina, boat dock or another watercraft is strictly prohibited. This includes barefoot waterskiers.
- 10) Starting or dropping a person on water skis, tube, wake board or any other device from or in the no-wake idle speed zone is permitted as long as the watercraft itself is operating at no-wake idle speed while in that zone. This includes barefoot water-skiers.
- 11) No internal or external devices or specific boat operations that intentionally enhance wakes to a dangerous size shall be allowed on HVL.

F. Water Trampolines and Large Flotation Devices

- 1) The maximum diameter of any flotation device will be twenty (20) feet in diameter and no more than twenty-six (26) feet in any direction including any attachments, temporary or permanent. The entire flotation device must fit into a square footprint that is no more than twenty (20) feet long and twenty (20) feet wide.
 - 2) Flotation devices may not be left out on the lake between dusk and dawn which is indicated by the lake status light being yellow. They must be moved to the edge of the water and attached to a dock or the shore.
- g. An individual may take a maximum of ten (10) bluegill per day from HVL POA lakes. They must be eight (8) inches long or greater.
 - h. There is no limit on number of other species of fish taken per day from HVL POA lakes.
 - i. Removing turtles from any HVL POA lake is prohibited. Properly identified snapping turtles may be removed from an HVL POA lake using appropriate caution.
- 13) Upon request from a Hidden Valley employee, a resident or visitor must disclose and show the amount of fish in their possession.

G. Fishing Rules

- 1) Only HVL POA members, their immediate family members and registered guests with a valid daily fishing guest pass are permitted to fish on the main lake or any of the small lakes.
- 2) Guests not accompanied by HVL POA members or their immediate family members must have a valid daily fishing pass to fish in any HVL POA lake and must be prepared to show that pass when requested by an HVL POA Deputy.
- 3) Any HVL POA member may obtain a daily fishing guest pass from the HVL POA office for up to three guests per day. A guest may fish for only three (3) days per month. A guest may get a 1, 2 or 3 day pass.
- 4) Fishing on HVL POA lakes is permitted 24 hours a day.
- 5) Netting, giggering, shooting, jug-fishing, electric shock, use of trot lines and/or limb lines or the use of any device for trapping minnows or other small fish are prohibited as a means to take fish from any HVL lakes.
- 6) Removing bullfrogs from any HVL POA lake at any time by any means is prohibited.
- 7) No fishing license is required to fish in HVL POA lakes.
- 8) Commercial fishing of any kind including but not limited to the capturing of minnows, fry, or other small fish in any HVL POA lake is prohibited.
- 9) New and additional fish may not be placed in HVL POA lakes without permission of the HVL POA Board of Directors.
- 10) Minnows may be used for bait on any HVL POA lake only if purchased at a reputable bait store. Emptying the bait fish in whole or in part of a bait bucket into any HVL POA lake is prohibited. Minnows or other small fish cannot be caught by any means on any HVL POA lake whether used for bait or not.
- 11) Fishing in the main lake beach area between the homes on either side of the beach and out to the buoys marking the beach is prohibited.
- 12) Fishing Catch Limits:
 - a. Fishing limits and rules apply to all HVL POA lakes, main and small in aggregate. Daily limits are the possession limit on community property within HVL.
 - b. From time to time, the HVL POA Board of Directors may exempt the Fish and Game Club from some of the limits for largemouth bass for the purpose of conducting sanctioned fishing tournaments. All largemouth bass caught in the tournaments must be released alive in the main lake.
 - c. When fishing from a boat, there will be only one (1) limit per day, per POA member with a maximum of two (2) limits per boat per day.
 - d. An individual may take unlimited largemouth bass per day from HVL POA lakes as long as the largemouth bass are nine (9) inches to thirteen (13) inches in length. Only one (1) may be twenty-two (22) inches or longer. All largemouth bass caught that are less than nine (9) inches and between thirteen (13) inches and twenty-two (22) inches in length must be immediately released and returned to the lake.
 - e. An individual may take a maximum of five (5) red ear sunfish from HVL POA lakes. They must be eight (8) inches long or greater.
 - f. An individual may take a maximum of five (5) crappie per day from HVL POA lakes. They must be eight (8) inches long or greater.