

Lake Summerset Association Prohibition of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) & Watercraft Launch Policy

Purpose: The Lake Summerset Association (LSA) is committed to safeguarding LSA's ecological health, water quality, and recreational value. This policy supplements Illinois laws (625 ILCS 45/5-23; Ill. Admin. Code tit. 17 § 875; 515 ILCS 5/10-10). Every boat operator is required to know the Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act (Redbook 5.1.2), including the prohibition on launching watercraft with Aquatic Invasive Species attached (625 ILCS 45/5-23). There is no known method that guarantees 100% protection against infestation, underscoring the need for community education, vigilance, cooperation, and mandatory prevention steps before launch.

This policy implements and enforces **Redbook Section 5.1.13:**

LSA prohibits the operation and/or placement of any Watercraft, Dock or Lifting System in the waters of Lake Summerset if any evidence of an Aquatic Invasive Species is present. Watercraft, Dock and Lifting Systems must be cleaned prior to being permitted to be placed into the lake if this evidence exists. LSA reserves the right to inspect any Watercraft, Dock or Lifting System prior to placement into the lake.

Redbook Section 1.3 Member Responsibilities:

- Principal members are responsible for their own actions and the actions of their family, guests, and all others having access under their authority.
- Violations of Redbook rules may result in citations and/or fines. **Ignorance of the rules is not a valid excuse.**

1.3.3 – 1.3.7 (Page 5) LSA Public Safety or other staff may stop and question members/guests when there is a strong and honest suspicion a rule is being violated. Refusing to stop, answer questions, or allow inspection is itself a violation.

13. Enforcement of Regulations and Restrictions:

- LSA staff are authorized to enforce all Redbook rules and issue citations for violations. These "enforcement personnel" will carry identification as evidence of the authority which has been delegated to them by LSA
- Violations can result in fines, suspensions of privileges, liens, etc.

Definitions:

- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** Non-native aquatic plants, animals, or pathogens listed by Illinois DNR or federal authorities.
- **Watercraft:** Any vessel carrying one or more people on water, including all boats, canoes, kayaks, etc.
- **Equipment:** Trailers, live wells, bilges, anchors, gear, life vest, rafts, etc.

Prohibited Activities:

- Launching or placing any watercraft, dock, or lifting system into Lake Summerset if any evidence of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is present (Redbook 5.1.13; 625 ILCS 45/5-23).
- Releasing, stocking, or introducing any fish, plants, invertebrates, or other organisms (including bait) into the lake without prior LSA approval and any required Illinois DNR permit.
- Launching any watercraft that is not properly registered with LSA and displaying current LSA decals (Redbook 5.2).

Mandatory Prevention Requirements:

1. Watercraft Entry Questionnaire:

- **All Watercraft** must enter only through the manned Main Gate and submit the completed LSA Main Gate Watercraft Entry questionnaire for ongoing data collection.

2. Launch Certification Permit (LCP):

- **Annual re-certification** for all watercraft at the start of each boating season or when first registering/renewing with LSA.
- **Immediate re-certification required every time** the watercraft leaves Lake Summerset and returns or after any 30-day period outside LSA.
- **All Watercraft** shall complete and sign the LSA Launch Certification Permit (LCP) before launching. The form requires the owner/operator to certify that the watercraft has been Cleaned, Drained, and Dried **OR has not left Lake Summerset in the last 30 days.** Forms will be available online or in the office.
- When entering LSA through the manned Main gate, the staff will perform a visual check of the LCP form displayed in the vehicle windshield and the boat/trailer exterior when going through and report any AIS concerns to Public Safety.

Watercraft launching with vehicles parked at Marinas:

- A signed, dated Launch Certification Permit (LCP) must remain displayed in the windshield of parked vehicle for Public Safety or other LSA staff checks.
- An additional signed, dated Launch Certification Permit must be in the watercraft when on the water for Lake Patrol checks. (A digital photo of LCP on phone is permitted on the water).

Watercraft launching without vehicle parked at Marinas:

- A signed, dated Launch Certification Permit (LCP) must be in the watercraft when on the water for Lake Patrol checks. (A digital photo of LCP on phone is permitted on the water).

3. 5–7 Day Dry-Time Rule: If the Questionnaire, visual check, or LCP indicates the watercraft was used outside Lake Summerset and has not been fully Cleaned, Drained, and Dried:

- The watercraft **may not launch** until vessel, trailer, and all equipment has remained completely dry for the minimum days shown in the table below:

Drying times are based on USGS / Illinois DNR guidelines for zebra mussel veliger survival.

Time of Year	Minimum Drying Days
May–September	5–7 days
April / October	11 days
March / November	18–28 days
Dec–Feb	28 days (3 days if continually frozen)

Illinois law (625 ILCS 45/5-23) requires boats to be cleaned before launch, and this temperature-based drying schedule is the accepted scientific standard when hot-water decontamination is not available.

4. Watercraft Owner/Operators may use the boat wash station or schedule a free inspection through the gate house, but **launch is prohibited** until the dry-time requirement is met or the boat passes inspection and new Launch Certification Permit (LCP) is signed after inspection. LSA trained volunteers to help with inspections and boat wash as needed.
5. **Clean, Drain, Dry Requirements:** All visible plants, mud, debris, and water must be removed. Bilges, live wells, motors, and trailers must be drained. Watercraft and equipment must be completely dry before launching (unless watercraft has not left LSA and has not been in another waterbody). If watercraft was in another waterbody outside of LSA, a hot water rinse/ high-pressure washing or hot steam cleaning for decontamination is strongly recommended when possible.

Enforcement: Redbook Section 1.3.3 – 1.3.7

- Gate house staff, Public Safety or other LSA staff are authorized to check compliance with this policy.
- Members and guests on occasion may be requested by LSA Public Safety or other staff to temporarily stop and answer questions when a strong and honest suspicion exists that an LSA rule is being violated.
- Any member and any guest properly present within Lake Summerset Association who declines to stop and answer questions, when so requested by LSA Public Safety or other staff, shall be deemed to have violated a rule of the Association.
- A member or guest who uses the water of Lake Summerset is required to allow inspection of fishing and boating equipment, upon the request of LSA Public Safety or other LSA staff.
- A member or guest who declines to stay and allow inspection shall be deemed to have violated a rule of LSA.
- LSA staff are required to report any violations of this policy to the GM and Public Safety immediately.
- **Violations include:**
 - Launching with visible AIS, plants, mud, or standing water.
 - Launching before completing the required 5–7-day dry time (dry-times waived if watercraft passes inspection with new Launch Certification Permit signed at inspection).
 - Launching any watercraft not registered with LSA.
 - Launching without a completed, signed, and displayed Launch Certification Permit (LCP).
- **Launch Penalties:**
 - **First offense: \$50 - \$300 fine** (2026 Fees & Fines Schedule - Violation Redbook Rules).
 - **Second offense: \$100 - \$600 fine (doubles)** and possible 30-day suspension of water rights.
 - **Repeat or severe violations: \$1000–\$2,500 fine** (matching Illinois penalties), full-season suspension, and possible referral to Illinois DNR.
 - **Unregistered watercraft launch: \$1,500 fine**, loss of all water rights and full season suspension.
- Appeals follow the standard LSA citation process.

Members are encouraged to participate in monitoring and report violations of this policy to Safety Patrol immediately.

Education and Outreach: Association will provide education via newspaper, website postings, signage at launches/docks, Clean, Drain, Dry” reminders, and resources on identifying/reporting AIS.

Review and Updates: This policy shall be reviewed annually or as needed by the Board and updated to reflect new AIS threats, DNR lists, or best practices.