

# LAKE LIMERICK COUNTRY CLUB LAKE PATROL GUIDELINES

## 1.0 PURPOSE

The Lake Limerick Country Club (LLCC) sponsors a volunteer Lake Patrol on Lake Limerick during the summer season (mid-April through the end of October). The function of the Lake Patrol is to monitor general boating and recreational activities on the lake for general compliance with approved and published Lake Safety Rules and Guidelines. The goal of the Lake Patrol is to positively contribute to safe recreational lake usage by noting rule violations and educating members on proper safety practices. This document standardizes Lake Patrol operating procedures including membership, responsibilities, patrol operations and incident reporting and emergency situations.

## 2.0 LAKE PATROL MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

The LLCC Lake Patrol is an all-volunteer Lake Limerick Country Club function. Membership guidelines are as follows:

1. The Lake Patrol is led by a designated captain assigned by the Lake Dam committee. The captain is required to be an LLCC member in good standing and is responsible for coordinating all aspects of Lake Patrol activities (see 3.0).
2. Lake Patrol membership is strictly on a volunteer basis. Lake Patrol members must be LLCC members in good standing or LLCC staff or park hosts and at least 18 years of age.
3. Lake Patrol members must commit to a minimum of one complete season unless extenuating circumstances develop over the course of a season which restricts their availability.
4. Lake Patrol members must have a Washington State boater education card (unless exempt).
5. Lake Patrol members are encouraged to get approved training in safe boating practices, first aid and CPR.

## 3.0 LAKE PATROL CAPTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

The LLCC Lake Patrol captain is lead of the Lake Patrol function and has multiple roles and responsibilities. These include;

1. Maintain a log of all Patrol members including contact information. Encourage and promote new membership.
2. Develop and manage a calendar of Patrol activities
3. Maintain a log of important safety contacts including local fire and police departments, Coast Guard and key community members. Assure a copy of the contact list is in the Patrol boat for ready access.
4. Attend Lake Dam committee meetings and report status of Patrol activities (unless his/her meeting participation is excused).
5. Review, approve and coordinate all member boat registration requests with the Lake/Dam committee
6. Provide training to all Patrol members on Lake Limerick Rules and Safety Guidelines, Washington State and Coast Guard boating rules and regulations and general operating procedures of the Lake Patrol.
7. Develop and maintain an Incident Log to record safety incidents/infractions encountered during normal Patrol activities (see section 5.0). Educate Patrol members on requirements for documenting incidents in the log. Prepare LLCC Incident/Complaint forms on a weekly basis (see 5.0.1)

## 4.0 LAKE PATROL OPERATIONS

The Lake Patrol is intended to be a community friendly function, not a security force, and is focused on helping members understand and execute safe boating and water recreation on Lake Limerick. It is the member's responsibility to exercise proper judgement and caution when participating in water recreation. Members are also responsible for their own safety. To accomplish its objective, the Lake Patrol is tasked with conducting on-lake patrols to monitor general activities, identify and correct unsafe practices and document/report on any incidents encountered. This responsibility encompasses recreational, fishing and personal/casual (kayaks, canoes, swimming, other) water activities.

## LAKE LIMERICK COUNTRY CLUB LAKE PATROL GUIDELINES

On-lake patrols should focus on the following emphasis areas;

1. Conduct on-lake Patrols during times when lake usage is the busiest. The LLCC Lake Patrol boat should be used for all Patrol activities. Patrol member boats may be used with the approval of the Lake Patrol captain. Any private boats must have a clearly visible "Lake Patrol Boat" sign.
2. Observe boating and other activities for unsafe practices and violations of the approved "Lake Safety Rules and Guidelines" Instruct offending individuals on proper practices.
3. Verify boats on the lake have proper LLCC registration decals.
4. Identify public recreational boaters (public access is restricted to fishing only) and request they leave the lake. The Patrol may escort unauthorized boats to the boat launch if necessary.
5. Assure boat speed limits and times are observed.
6. Document all incidents or infractions observed on the incident log including nature of activity, time and date, member name and lot number and LLCC registration tag numbers. Patrol members may also issue verbal warnings to boat operators and capture visual evidence of infractions with an on-board camera system.

### 5.0 FORMAL INCIDENT AND INFRACTION REPORTING

The Lake Patrol, as previously discussed, is responsible for maintaining a log of significant safety incidents and infractions encountered while on patrol. LLCC members are also encouraged to report incidents they observe to the LLCC office who will then forward them to the Lake Patrol captain for processing. On a weekly basis, the Lake Patrol captain will formally document all incidents/infractions recorded in the incident log on the LLCC Incident/Complaint form and forward them to both the Compliance and Lake/Dam committees. Guidelines for incident reporting are as follows:

1. The LLCC Incident/Complaint form (see LLCC Website, Association Documents) shall be used to document boating incidents/infractions that are encountered during patrols. These reports shall be forwarded to both the Compliance and Lake Dam Committees and filed in the LLCC office.
2. Incidents reported should represent clear violations to the Lake Rules and Safety Guidelines document. Incidents may be categorized into three distinct types; a) minor rule infractions b) major rule infractions which represent significant safety concerns and c) repeat violators
3. Minor infractions are those which do not pose a significant safety hazard such as improper or missing registration decals, disregarding no wake zones, having an oversized vessel on the lake and others at the discretion of the Lake Patrol captain.
4. Major infractions include those which could result in physical harm to individuals. This includes lack of safety flags on-board or in-use, excessive swerving or cutting across boating lanes or buoy lines, turning sharp donuts while pulling skiers or tubers, sitting on boat bows or sides or standing due to overloading when underway and others at the discretion of the Lake Patrol captain.
5. Issuance of fines or other corrective action resulting from Lake Patrol reports is the responsibility of the Compliance committee. The Lake Dam committee shall be provided copies of all proposed fines.

### 6.0 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

If emergency situations are encountered during Lake Patrol, such as fire, physical injury, boat collisions or potential drownings, the Lake Patrol is tasked with;

1. Immediately providing on-site aid to all involved individuals
2. Requesting emergency support by calling 911 and also notifying the LLCC office to provide situational awareness. Lake Patrol members should always have a cell phone available when on patrol.
3. If emergency aid is required (ambulance, fire department or sheriff's office), first responders should be directed to the nearest LLCC park or the WDFW boat launch. Patrol members may transport individuals to this site if they feel they will not cause further injuries to involved individuals.
4. Stopping all boating activities in the immediate vicinity of the incident
5. Gathering relevant incident information and witness information for post incident reports