

# Flotilla Island Operating Rules

**Effective January 1, 2025**

Revised and adopted October 14, 2024, by America's Boating Club of Lake Murray, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons, Columbia, South Carolina and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 12-3, Lake Murray, Columbia, South Carolina. These rules may be revised at the discretion of the Flotilla Island Joint Governing Board.

The Joint Governing Board for Flotilla Island (Board) has adopted the following rules as guidelines in the use of the Flotilla Island facilities that are shared by America's Boating Club of Lake Murray (ABC/Lake Murray) and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 12-3 (USCGA). The Board does not consider it necessary or even practical to provide rules to cover all situations and circumstances. If each member observes the principles of fair play, exercises good judgment and remembers that the facilities are intended primarily for the private use of ABC/LAKE MURRAY and USCGA members, their families and guests, these rules should suffice.

The Board is charged with the management and oversight of Flotilla Island and, accordingly, has authority to enforce and carry out its responsibilities with respect to these rules. The Board reserves the right to amend, clarify and/or interpret these rules and take any such actions it deems necessary for the safety and good order of America's Boating Club of Lake Murray and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 12-3.

## **General**

1. Use of Flotilla Island is restricted to ABC/LAKE MURRAY members, their spouses, dependents under the age of 21, and invited guests; and USCGA members in their official capacity and invited guests. Members should limit guests to a reasonable number, and the inviting member must accompany guests while on Flotilla Island. Everyone is expected to behave in an appropriate manner. Under all circumstances, members will be held responsible for the conduct of their guests and must ensure compliance with these rules and guidelines. Persons under age 21 are not permitted on Flotilla Island unless accompanied by and under the supervision of an adult member.

2. Any damage to the facilities resulting from misuse or abuse will be the responsibility of the member to repair or to pay any assessment imposed by the Board for the cost of such repairs.

3. The Board requires all members and guests to comply with all federal, state and local laws, regulations and ordinances, especially those pertaining to responsible possession and/or use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, firearms, and others related to safety.

4. The combination to the lock to the entrance gate to Flotilla Island and the building door is not to be shared with any non-member, including vendors for ABC/LAKE MURRAY or USCGA sponsored events or for private events, e.g., caterers; deliveries of tables, chairs, tents, etc.; or other non-members who may be assisting with the set-up for or attending the event. A member must be present to admit and supervise all such people.

If it is discovered that a member gave the gate code to a non-member (person deemed to be trespassing), USCGA members shall be disciplined in accordance with established USCGA policies and ABC/LAKE MURRAY members will lose island privileges as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offense – 30 days
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offense – 90 days
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offense – membership terminated

## **Building and Grounds**

5. Smoking and E-Cigarette use is prohibited inside the building.

6. ABC/LAKE MURRAY members may schedule personal events. Reservation requests must be submitted to the Commander in sufficient time so that the request can be considered by the Executive Committee at its next regularly scheduled meeting. ABC/LAKE MURRAY requests approved by the Executive Committee will be coordinated with the USCGA Flotilla Commander prior to final approval.

ABC/LAKE MURRAY members may schedule personal events Monday through Friday, from November 1 through March 31, and Monday through Thursday, from April 1 through October 31, provided reservations are approved by the ABC/LAKE MURRAY Executive Committee. Reservations for dates other than those listed above will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

7. An ABC/LAKE MURRAY member requesting a reservation for a personal event must complete an application and provide certain basic information, including the number of guests expected to attend, the nature of the event, and whether alcohol will be served, etc. The Executive Committee reserves the right to establish special conditions as an integral component of the approval of any event. The form for such private events is available electronically for download or can be obtained from the member's commander.

8. Members sponsoring personal events must personally invite each person to the event. The Flotilla Island facilities are intended for the use and enjoyment of ABC/LAKE MURRAY and USCGA members as they fulfill the educational and safety mission of their organizations – not for commercial, charitable, political or similar purposes. In case of doubt as to the propriety of a proposed personal event, the member should contact the ABC/LAKE MURRAY commander for advice or referral to the Joint Governing Board.

**\*\*Please note: The above benefit is on hold until insurance liability issues are resolved.\*\***

9. Restrooms, showers, picnic tables, grill area, parking area, docks and launching areas are not considered part of the facilities reserved and, accordingly, may be used during approved personal events by members in good standing and their guests who are not part of the personal event.

10. It shall be understood that events are subject to interruption, disruption, or cancellation with little or no notice in case of an emergency or catastrophic event that necessitates the use of Flotilla Island by first responders.

11. Because of the limited facilities on Flotilla Island, particularly parking and sanitation facilities, no more than 50 people may be invited to a personal event. This restriction does not apply to ABC/LAKE MURRAY or USCGA meetings and events.

12. Members using Flotilla Island for personal functions are required to make a donation to ABC/LAKE MURRAY in the amount of \$100 for any event, plus an additional \$200 deposit that will be refunded once the facility has been inspected and deemed clean and undamaged.

13. Alcohol may not be available or consumed during personal events unless the sponsoring member purchases a dram shop policy also known as Host Liquor Liability Insurance.

14. Food and paper supplies stored in the kitchen are for the use of ABC/LAKE MURRAY or USCGA sponsored events (according to which group purchased them) and are not intended for private use.

15. Regardless of the nature of the use of Flotilla Island, all members using the facilities are responsible for cleaning up afterwards, including the removal of all trash. No janitorial service or trash pickup service is

provided at Flotilla Island. The member(s) shall remove all refuse from Flotilla Island and leave the building clean. All food is to be taken out of the refrigerator and removed from the premises as part of the clean-up. The member(s) must ensure that the building's floor and the restrooms are left clean. The last member leaving the premises is responsible for ensuring the cleanliness of the facility and the locking of the building and Flotilla Island gate.

16. The property must be left secure. This includes turning off all lights, locking all doors and securing all windows.

17. The gate and building must be locked anytime Flotilla Island is unattended. The gate is automatic and requires the member to enter a code and hit the enter key to gain entry. Members are advised to proceed once the gate is fully opened. The gate is on a timer and members are encouraged not to tailgate other members on entry, but to wait their turn. In the event a member hits the gate, they are advised to stop immediately and not proceed as the gate has a sensor and once it makes contact it will begin to reopen. Any member who fails to stop and causes damage will be required to pay for such damage. America's Boating Club of Lake Murray is not responsible for any damage to cars caused by the electronic gate.

18. Pets are allowed on the premises but must be restrained during paid events by either leash or left on the member's vessel. Pets are never allowed inside the building. Pets are not allowed on the back porch during paid events and some non-paid events such as Shake 'N Break and Thornwell Day. Flotilla Fridays and island cleanups are not considered paid events and pets are welcome during those times. Pet owners are expected to pick up after their pets.

19. No camping is permitted on Flotilla Island, including tents. Recreational vehicles are not permitted on Flotilla Island, including motor coaches, Class A, fifth wheel and tow-behind campers except for equipment required as part of training for USCG, USCGA, and first responder operations and training.

### **Docks and Launch Ramps**

20. Leaving one's boat at the docks as well as boat and/or trailer on the grounds for over 72 hours is prohibited. The 72-hour rule, which includes whether the boat/trailer is being used or is unattended, is to prevent members using Flotilla Island as a marina. This does not apply to any USCGA designated patrol boat or to any boat provided through ABC/LAKE MURRAY for public use. Members who need an emergency waiver of this rule must seek permission from the ABC/LAKE MURRAY Executive Committee or the Joint Governing Board.

21. It is expected that the cost of electricity on the docks will be borne by those using electricity while docked. Those using the dock electricity are required to make a donation of at least \$5 per day, to be paid through Constant Contact designated to the Dock Electric account. The ABC/LAKE MURRAY Executive Committee shall periodically review and revise this provision as necessary.

22. All boats entering, leaving and using the back cove and docks shall do so with extreme caution, careful seamanship and in such a manner that no wakes are created within the cove.

23. Appropriate safety measures shall be observed when launching, loading and hauling boats.

24. No swimming is permitted at Flotilla Island. An exception is made during Thornwell Day as they provide their own lifeguards and power to the dock is turned off. USCGA and emergency responders are exempt for training purposes.

25. Children aged 12 and under are required to wear a PFD while on the docks and to be accompanied by an adult at all times.

26. The discharge into Lake Murray of sewage or other unsanitary effluent, waste or garbage is a violation of federal and state law and is in violation of the Flotilla Island Operating Rules.

### **Parking and Docking**

27. Because of the very limited parking, members shall park in an orderly and courteous manner, ensuring to maintain a clear means of ingress and egress.

28. Boats, vehicles or trailers parked improperly are subject to being moved and/or impounded at the owner's expense.

29. In order to maximize and provide additional dock space for members, vessels are required to dock in a uniform manner from April 1 until October 1 of every year.

All vessels 26 feet in length and greater will "stern in" along the dock facing the causeway. (Right side as you walk down the dock). Any vessels less than in length not "sterned in" will be relocated to dockage facing the boat ramp. Owners found in violation of this rule will be contacted by telephone and informed they must return to the dock in a timely matter to relocate their boat; and that failure to do so will result in other members relocating the boat for said member.

There is no assigned docking. During busy times, it may be necessary for boats to raft up with each other.

Use of the pier and floating dock by the ramp (commonly referred to as the USCGA dock) shall be limited to launching and retrieving boats and for embarking and disembarking of passengers. Mooring is prohibited.

All boats, trailers and vehicles must display an ABC Lake Murray sticker. Stickers should be affixed to a vessel's port side stern or window, a vehicle's rear left window/bumper, and a trailer's tongue. USCGA members, when acting in their official capacity, unless also a member of ABC/LAKE MURRAY, are exempt from this requirement.

### **Insurance and Safety Requirements**

30. All vessel owners shall maintain an insurance policy with a minimum coverage of \$100,000. Failure to obtain insurance shall restrict usage of Flotilla Island docks/ramp. Vessel owners/users must provide a current copy of their insurance declaration page to be kept on record with the ABC/LAKE MURRAY Treasurer.

All vessels must be inspected by an ABC/LAKE MURRAY or USCGA Vessel Examiner and display the current year VSC decal.

Members are not permitted to use Flotilla Island docks/ramp without providing proof they have taken and passed a boating safety course – either America's Boating Course (ABC), Boat Handling, or other NASBLA-approved equivalent course. This includes all current and new members.

USCGA members, when acting in their official capacity (under orders), are exempt from these requirements, and will comply with Coast Guard regulations and policies.