

ARLAG – Code of Ethics

2023



Objectives and Legal Basis:

The Code of Ethics is a behavioral guide adopted by the members of ARLAG in order to fulfill the association's mission, which is to protect the body of water and shores of Gagnon Lake, within a context of courtesy and the right to tranquility for the users around the lake. Without reproducing their content, the Code of Ethics is based on existing legal documents created by various governments, including:

1. The laws and regulations of the Quebec Ministry of the Environment;
2. Provincial regulations concerning sport fishing in Quebec;
3. Municipal Bylaw NUMBER 346-22-01- *Règlement relatif aux nuisance de la municipalité de Val-des-Lacs* (Nuisance Regulation of the Municipality of Val-des-Lacs);
4. Federal regulations on restrictions regarding boat usage (SOR/2008-120).

Lake Protection

- a. It is prohibited to use any watercraft engine exceeding 7.5 kW under the *Federal Vessel Operation Restriction Regulations, Annex 3, Part 5, No. 231*.
- b. Excessive speed navigation is prohibited, regardless of the device (remote-controlled device, electric surfboard, etc.);
- c. Non-resident and short-term tenant watercraft are not welcome, unless the hull of the watercraft has been carefully cleaned to avoid contamination from another body of water;
- d. Navigate the lake while avoiding sediment disturbance;
- e. Limit the use of watercraft (oars or electric motor) as much as possible in areas with high aquatic plant density;
- f. Pump out septic tanks of non-seasonal residences every two years, and once every four years for secondary or seasonal residences under the *Regulation respecting waste water disposal systems for isolated dwellings* Q-2, R.22 (Article 13);
- g. Protect the shoreline by avoiding mowing or deforestation in the first 10 meters from the shore when the terrain slope is less than 30%, and in the first 15 meters from the shore when the slope is greater than 30% under the *Regulation respecting activities in wetlands, bodies of water and sensitive areas*. However, clearing a 5-meter-wide access to the lake is permitted;
- h. Limit nutrient input into the lake by using domestic products without phosphorus and nitrates whenever possible;
- i. Do not apply fertilizer, pesticides, or herbicides to your property;
- j. Collect floating debris (aquatic plants and others) and dispose of them as waste. Do not compost them;
- k. Do not feed ducks, geese, and wild animals in general.

Safety

- l. Any swimmer swimming far from the shore must always be accompanied by a watercraft or a visible marker;
- m. All stationary and floating equipment must be visible and must not obstruct navigation;
- n. Respect all individuals and watercraft present on the water and around the lake.

Tranquility of Residents and Lake Users

- o. Communicate calmly and politely with residents;
- p. Use of pyrotechnic devices (fireworks) is prohibited without a permit from the municipality and completely prohibited after 10:00 PM, in accordance with Article 5.6 of the *Règlement relatif aux nuisances de la municipalité de Val-des-Lacs* (Nuisance Regulation of the Municipality of Val-des-Lacs);
- q. Avoid visual pollution and intense light sources in accordance with Article 3.11 of the *Règlement relatif aux nuisances de la municipalité de Val-des-Lacs* (Nuisance Regulation of the Municipality of Val-des-Lacs);
- r. Avoid causing noise from property maintenance (lawnmower, lawnmower tractor, edger, leaf blower, chainsaw, or any other equipment intended for property maintenance) between 9:00 PM and 8:00 AM, in accordance with Article 5.3 of the *Règlement relatif aux nuisances de la municipalité de Val-des-Lacs* (Nuisance Regulation of the Municipality of Val-des-Lacs);
- s. It is prohibited to make noise with music that is audible at a distance of 15 meters or more from the property boundary, building, or boat, in accordance with Articles 5.4 and 5.5 of the *Règlement relatif aux nuisances de la municipalité de Val-des-Lacs* (Nuisance Regulation of the Municipality of Val-des-Lacs);
- t. Avoid shouting or speaking loudly unnecessarily on the lake in the morning and evening;
- u. The use of drones must not invade residents' privacy at any time;
- v. The use of snowmobiles on the lake during winter must be limited to ensure the tranquility of residents and your own safety, as several areas of the lake are not frozen due to numerous underground sources.

Fishing

- w. Trout fishing is limited to members (and their guests) of a residence contributing to trout purchases;
- x. Catches are limited to 8 trout per day per residence;
- y. It is recommended to avoid releasing undesirable small fish back into the water;
- z. The use of live bait is prohibited at all times.

Notes

It is the responsibility of property owners to inform their visitors and tenants of the current Code of Ethics of Gagnon Lake, especially by clearly displaying this document in rented residences.

Code of Ethics adopted by ARLAG members during the 2023 general assembly.