

A MESSAGE ABOUT COLONY MEMBERSHIP TAGS & ENFORCEMENT

As you've likely noticed, our town - and our membership - is changing. The past few years have seen a large number of new, mostly young families move into the Lakes and join the Colony, and we enthusiastically welcome them all!

One of the natural by-products of this social shift is that it takes a while for everyone to recognize all the "new faces", and some folks (both old and new) may not be aware of the rules and efforts the Colony puts in place to keep things clean and safe for everyone. You invested a lot of money and resources into being a Colony member, and your board is always looking for ways to stretch those resources to maintain and protect the things we all love such as beaches, lakes and parks.

With more folks enjoying Colony amenities more often, we are experiencing a large increase in trash and in non-members trying to exploit our facilities. These issues, if left unchecked, result in unpleasant, unsanitary and sometimes dangerous conditions, and you as a Colonist have every right to expect such issues to be addressed.

The Colony has implemented an aggressive effort to keep things safe and fun, and we want to explain it here so everyone's on the same page. We are enacting NO new rules, but we are enforcing existing rules to a degree that is necessary. We're also reminding all Colonists of your ability to help with the effort, although there's no requirement for you to do so.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ASSIST?

Basically, just understand the rules.

#1- PLEASE WEAR YOUR BEACH TAGS, and purchase guest tags for all of your guests at all times. The Colony spends thousands of dollars a year on tags and boat stickers, and we need to use them. If your tag is clearly visible, you likely won't be approached more than once, if at all. Remember you must accompany your guests at all times, and you may not give your friends the tags of family members...you need to get them a real guest tag. You also need these tags for use of parks, playgrounds and lakes (including fishing). We have hired both adult and teenage tag checkers who will be checking 7a to 9p, please be polite to them and know they are protecting YOUR children, property, property value, and more.



#2- HELP US MONITOR BUSY AREAS IF YOU'D LIKE.

The Colony Board and membership is made up of 100% volunteers. We've already heard from dozens of Colonists who want to help, and that's not surprising given the positive, responsible nature of our town. Soon we will have T-shirts and buttons

that identify members in good standing who are helping patrol the beaches, and these will be free upon request. For now, please send your name to office@medfordlakescolony.org. We will also offer guidelines on how to interact in a non-offensive, friendly, yet effective way with non-members who try to access our facilities.

#3- In extreme situations, we recommend that members avoid any confrontation and contact the Colony office 654-7747 or Medford Lakes Police 654-2156. Feel free to take a phone pic from a safe distance or take whatever notes you can that may help later.

#4- TRASH: PLEASE PACK IN AND PACK OUT. The trash cans at the beaches are intended for isolated cups, wrappers and water bottles, they are not intended for full meal trash or pizza boxes, etc. PLEASE take all of your trash with you when you leave, this will keep things clean and sanitary.

To some these efforts may sound a bit heavy-handed for such a small friendly town, but considering the many serious issues we have been facing they are necessary to keep things safe and fun. We anticipate there will be predictable blowback on social media from non-colonists who object to not having free access to our facilities or not having our paid lifeguards babysit their kids this summer, but that's not going to change our enforcement efforts. Our responsibility is to you, our membership, and that responsibility goes into every decision made by your Colony board. We have issued friendly warnings over the past several weeks, but starting Friday 6/16 the increased enforcement policy will go into effect.

Please continue to forward any suggestions or comments to the office at office@medfordlakescolony.org, and THANK YOU for being a part of the Colony.

-Medford Lakes Colony Board

(Artwork by Laker Marlene Janet/Blue Iris)

REPRINTED FROM COLONY RULES & BYLAWS

(Beach tags available at Colony office \$2/day/\$10 season)

ACTIVITY AND GUEST TAGS

While using Colony properties and facilities for general recreational activities such as swimming, boating, fishing, ball playing, tennis, picnicking, ice skating, etc., everyone must wear either an activity tag (in the case of members) or a guest tag as evidence of authority to use. Members and guests must also wear tags while participating in events scheduled by individual members as described under "Use of Colony Properties". The Colony issues activity tags to members each year upon payment of fees for that year. Members may purchase annual guest tags at the Colony's office. Members may purchase daily guest tags from the office, the head lifeguard, or activity tag checkers. The Board will view unauthorized use of the Colony's properties and facilities as trespassing.

HOST MEMBERS MUST BE PRESENT WHILE THEIR GUESTS ARE USING COLONY PROPERTY. NO RESIDENT OF MEDFORD LAKES WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE COLONY MAY USE THE COLONY'S FACILITIES OR PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES OF THE COLONY'S AUXILIARIES AS A GUEST OF A MEMBER OF THE COLONY.

Tags need not be worn while participating in scheduled events such as meetings, athletics, dances, plays, or community service events.

If a member or guest is not wearing proper tags, they must leave Colony property if asked to do so by a Colony member or employee.

The following are improper uses of activity and guest tags and are against Colony rules (See Colony bylaws, Article V, Section 5):

Permitting nonmembers to use members' activity tags.

Obtaining member activity tags for nonmembers.

Permitting nonmember residents of Medford Lakes to use guest tags.

USE OF THE LAKES

Members must obtain identification stickers for their watercraft in order to use them on The Colony's lakes. The Colony issues such stickers to members each year, upon payment of fees for that year, only for watercraft owned by members.

Activity and guest tags must be worn while boating, fishing, or otherwise using our lakes.

Nonmembers may not fish, swim, ice skate, or launch watercraft from lakeside property, public or private. The Colony will consider such action as trespassing.

As of July 2014, there is a smoking ban on Beaches 1, 3, 4 and Areas 2 & 5.

The balance of this section is from Borough Ordinance No. 213, which **PROHIBITS** the following activities:

Swimming, bathing, or wading in the waters of Jackson Park.

Swimming or bathing within seventy-feet of the spillways of our dams (twenty-five feet for Lower Aetna dam).

Tampering with dams or associated water control devices.

Using watercraft propelled by machinery, e.g. Outboard motors, including electric, except as authorized by the Borough or The Colony for maintenance or emergency purposes. Mechanically propelled model boats are also prohibited. Only watercraft propelled wholly by muscle power or sail is permitted.

Throwing litter into any waterway.

USE OF COLONY PROPERTIES

Members and their guests may use Colony beaches, lakes, ball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, parks, etc. for recreational and social

purposes in accordance with these and other rules and regulations which the Board may establish and post at specific properties. Use may be of a general, unscheduled nature, or be scheduled by individual members through the Colony office or with the Department of Property. Participants in events scheduled by individual members must wear activity or guest tags while attending such events. Participants in events scheduled by The Colony, its auxiliaries, or outside organizations need not wear tags except as provided elsewhere in these policies. Scheduled use has precedence over general use in the event of conflict.

All use is at members' and their guests' own risk.

Colony properties are not available for general use between sundown and sunrise.

People walking dogs on Colony properties must properly clean up and dispose of any "deposits" they may make. (Borough Ordinance No. 287).

The Colony must grant advanced approval for fires on its properties. (Borough Ordinance No. 213).

Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed, supplied, or made available on Colony property except at scheduled events with the express permission of the Board. The Board's permission will be contingent upon the event's sponsors obtaining appropriate State and Local permits and agreeing to comply with all laws and regulations regarding alcoholic beverages.

Ball Fields, Tennis Courts and Basketball Courts

Members may schedule use for their own benefit on an occasional basis. Regular scheduling and league competitions are under the sponsorship and control of the Colony's auxiliary, The Medford Lakes Athletic Association (MLAA).

Sponsors are responsible for clean up after their scheduled events.

No glass beverage or food containers are allowed at anytime.

Members may visit the Colony's office to schedule use of the Colony's tennis courts after dark for a modest fee. Members may purchase contracts at the Colony's office, which permit them to play tennis after dark on a regularly scheduled basis throughout the summer.

Beaches

Members may schedule beaches for their own use at times when lifeguards are not normally on duty. Sponsors of special events are responsible for hiring a qualified lifeguard through the Colony office if they plan to swim at the event. Sponsors are responsible for after-event clean up.

No glass beverage or food containers are allowed anytime.

Lifeguards have the responsibility to control the conduct of people using the beaches or in the water. They may ask anyone not complying with their instructions to leave the beach. Repeated violation of lifeguard instructions may result in the member's beach and swimming privileges being suspended.

With regard to swimming or bathing in the waters of the Borough of Medford Lakes, Ordinance No. 25 provides that:

Swimmers and bathers must be suitably and decently attired.

Swimmers and bathers cannot do so while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

No swimming or bathing between nine P.M. and seven A.M. the following day.

NONRESIDENT PARTICIPATION IN COLONY ACTIVITIES

Guests of Members: A nonresident guest of a member may use the Colony's facilities provided the guest wears a current guest tag.