

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Code Book

The regulations in this Code Book are hereby adopted by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission under authority of Amendment 35 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

37.00 Boating Regulations

- [37.01](#) Vessel Operation And Equipment Requirements For State Waters
- [37.02](#) Vessel Operation And Equipment Requirements For Federal Waters
- [37.03](#) Boating Restrictions Below Corps Of Engineers Dams
- [37.04](#) Boating Restrictions On Corps Of Engineers Lakes
- [37.05](#) Skiing Prohibited In Bay Town/Indian Bay Area
- [37.06](#) Skiing Restrictions On Mellwood Lake
- [37.07](#) Skiing Prohibited In White River/Lagrué Bayou Confluence Area
- [37.08](#) Outboard Motor Restrictions On Buffalo National River
- [37.09](#) Vessel Restrictions In Arkansas And White River Navigational Canal
- [37.10](#) Boat Drain Plug Removal Requirement
- [37.11](#) Possession Or Use Of Glass Containers Within The Banks Of Navigable Waterways Prohibited
- [37.12](#) Boat Motor Restriction For Lake Atalanta

37.01 Vessel Operation And Equipment Requirements For State Waters

It is unlawful to operate motorboats or vessels or manipulate any water skis, aquaplane, personal watercraft, or similar device on waters of this state in violation of any provision of Arkansas Code Annotated Title 27, Chapter 101 (A.C.A. §§ 27-101-101 et seq.) or Arkansas Code Annotated Title 5, Chapter 65 (A.C.A. §§ 5- 65-101 et seq.).

PENALTY: As provided for in Arkansas Code Annotated Title 27, Chapter 101 (A.C.A. §§ 27-101-101 et seq.) or Arkansas Code Annotated Title 5, Chapter 65 (A.C.A. §§ 5- 65-101 et seq.).

37.02 Vessel Operation And Equipment Requirements For Federal Waters

It is unlawful to operate motorboats or vessels or manipulate any water skis, aquaplane, personal watercraft, or similar device on federal waters in violation of any provision of Arkansas Code Annotated Title 27, Chapter 101 (A.C.A. §§ 27-101-101 et seq.) or Arkansas Code Annotated Title 5, Chapter 65 (A.C.A. §§ 5- 65-101 et seq.).

PENALTY: As provided for in Arkansas Code Annotated Title 27, Chapter 101 (A.C.A. §§ 27-101-101 et seq.) or Arkansas Code Annotated Title 5, Chapter 65 (A.C.A. §§ 5- 65-101 et seq.).

37.03 Boating Restrictions Below Corps Of Engineers Dams

It is unlawful for any vessel to enter within 300 feet downstream below any dam constructed by the Corps of Engineers on any stream or impoundment in Arkansas.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Commercial river traffic.
- B. Boats used by the Corps of Engineers.
- C. Contractors working on construction or maintenance of dams.
- D. Enforcement officers.

PENALTY: Class 1

37.04 Boating Restrictions On Corps Of Engineers Lakes

It is unlawful to operate a vessel in any manner contrary to signs, markers, or buoys placed by the Corps of Engineers controlling speed, skiing, or operation of vessels.

PENALTY: Class 1

37.05 Skiing Prohibited In Bay Town/Indian Bay Area

It is unlawful to water ski in the Bay Town/Indian Bay area of the White River where prohibiting signs are posted.

PENALTY: Class 1

37.06 Skiing Restrictions On Mellwood Lake

It is unlawful to water ski on Mellwood Lake north of the section line common to Sections 30 and 31, Township 5 South, Range 2 East of the 5th Principal Meridian in Phillips County.

PENALTY: Class 1

37.07 Skiing Prohibited In White River/Lagrué Bayou Confluence Area

It is unlawful to water ski within 1,500 feet in any direction of the confluence of LaGrue Bayou and the White River.

PENALTY: Class 1

37.08 Outboard Motor Restrictions On Buffalo National River

It is unlawful to:

- A. use an outboard motor on the Buffalo River upstream from Erbie Ford; or
- B. use an outboard motor larger than 10 horsepower from Erbie Ford to the White River.

PENALTY: Class 1

37.09 Vessel Restrictions In Arkansas And White River Navigational Canal

It is unlawful to operate any vessel in the Arkansas and White River Navigational Canal between Dam No.1 (Norrell Dam) and the lower guardwall of the dam.

EXCEPTION: When the tailwater elevation exceeds 104' MSL and Corps of Engineers signs are covered.

PENALTY: Class 1

37.10 Boat Drain Plug Removal Requirement

All aquatic vessel drain plug(s), including, but not limited to, bilges, livewells, baitwells and ballast tanks, must be removed before and during trailering of vessel to and from waterbody access facilities.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Fishing tournament officials may submit a request to AGFC Fisheries Division for written permission to allow for the transport of fish to an offsite weigh station. All participants must be given a copy of the permit.
- B. Transportation of baitfish is allowed in compliance with Code [26.27](#).

PENALTY: Class 1

37.11 Possession Or Use Of Glass Containers Within The Banks Of Navigable Waterways Prohibited

- A. It is unlawful to possess or use glass containers within a vessel within the banks of navigable waterways of this State except in compliance with the provisions of Arkansas Code Annotated § 8-6-418.
- B. It also is unlawful to fail to comply with the provisions of Arkansas Code Annotated § 8-6-418 concerning transportation of foodstuffs, beverages, refuse, waste, or trash in navigable waterways of this State by canoe, kayak, inner tube, or other vessel easily susceptible to swamping, tipping, rolling, or otherwise discharging its contents into a waterway.

PENALTY: As provided for in Arkansas Code Annotated § 8-6-418.

37.12 Boat Motor Restriction For Lake Atalanta

It is unlawful to operate any boat motor other than an electric motor on Lake Atalanta.

PENALTY: Class 1