

PARK AND RECREATION REGULATIONS  
of the  
TOWN OF ABINGTON

Adopted by the  
Park and Recreation Commission

The Park and Recreation Commission of the Town of Abington do ordain as follows:

General Rules for the Use of Parks,  
Playgrounds, and Beaches.

Section 1. The word "Board" and the term "The Board" as used in this ordinance are hereby defined to mean the "Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of the Town of Abington" and the terms "Parks" and "Beaches" are defined to mean parks, playgrounds, recreation fields, and buildings, ponds and beaches therein, and all public service buildings and structures of the Town of Abington which are under control of the Board.

Section 2. No person shall cut, break, scratch, mark, or in any way injure or deface any building, fence, lamp, flagpole, construction improvement, facility or any other feature or property upon or within any park or beach.

Section 3. No person shall throw or cast any stone or any other missile within any park or beach.

Section 4. No person shall throw, deposit, place, or leave in any park or beach or waters therein, any paper rubbish, waste, or refuse of any kind, whether or not the same is offensive to the senses or is injurious to health, except in the receptacles therein provided for waste.

Section 5. No person shall post, paste, fasten, paint, or affix any placard, bill, notice or sign upon any structure, tree, stone, fence, thing or enclosure within any park or beach.

Section 6. No person shall distribute within any park or beach or display any circulars, cards, announcements printed or otherwise, excepting programs for concerts or entertainment given or authorized by the Board.

Section 7. No person shall have possession of any destructive weapon, cannon, fowling piece, pistol, revolver or firearm of any description, or fire, explode or set off any squib, cracker or other thing containing powder, or other combustible or explosive material, within the limits of any park or beach; excepting exhibitions of fireworks given under the direction or by written permission of the board, and with the consent of the Chief or a Deputy Chief of the Fire Department.

Section 8. No person shall at any time set, lay, prepare, or have in possession any trap, snare, artificial light, net, bird line, feret, or any contrivance whatever, for the purpose of catching, taking, or killing any bird or wild creature in any park or beach.

Section 9. No person shall stand or sit on any fence rail or any other structure not intended for such use in any park or beach.

Section 11. No person shall enter a toilet room set apart for the opposite sex.

Section 12. No person shall sell or offer for sale any article or thing whatsoever in any park or beach, but this prohibition shall not apply to sales of refreshments and other articles by the Board or under its direction at the stands conducted or authorized by the Board.

Section 13. No person shall in any such public area annoy another or beg or canvass for alms; or utter any profane, threatening, or abusive or indecent language, or loud and raucous outcry; or act in an obscene or indecent manner, or drink or be under the influence of or have possession of any intoxicating beverage; or any controlled substance as defined under Chapter 94c of the Mass. General Laws; or have any instrument of gambling; or play any game of chance.

Section 14. Archery, golf, model airplane flying and the operation of powered model boats are prohibited from all parks, playgrounds, ponds, and beaches except under organized supervision in conjunction with the Town recreation program.

Section 15. No person shall be permitted to take any dog into any park unless it is led by a suitable leash, and in no case shall any person allow or bring any dog owned or attended by him upon any bathing beach or into any park waters, or in any park building whether the dog is leashed or otherwise.

Section 16. No entertainment or exhibition shall be given in any park or beach excepting the entertainment given under the direction and authority of the Board.

Section 17. No public meeting of any kind shall be held in any park, beach, playground or athletic field, nor shall there be any public speaking therein, without a written permit granted therefor by the Board.

Section 18. No person shall start any fire in any park or beach, except that small fires for culinary purposes may be made by picnic parties in the parks designated by the Board. Every person who starts any such fire and every person using such fire is hereby charged with the duty of completely extinguishing such fire or fires before leaving such park.

Section 19. The operation of powered vehicles such as automobile, motorcycles, motor bikes, mini-bikes, outboard and inboard motor boats, ski-mobiles etc. are prohibited in, on or through any such park, playground or pond except with the written authorization of the Board.

Sectionm 20. Vehicles found violating any of the provision of Section 19 may be moved by or under the direction of a police officer of the Town of Abington or the Parks Police and at the expense of the Owner, to a place where parking is allowed or to any area designated by the Town for storage.

Section 21. No person, except as authorized by the Board, shall land or launch a boat, canoe or other vehicle upon any bathing beach controlled by the Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners or the Town of Abington, and no person save employees of the Board engaged in the line of their duties as such employees, and Board members in performing their official duties, shall land or launch a boat except as duly authorized by the Board.

Section 22. No person shall expose himself or herself to public view in any park or or beach unless properly clothed. Suitable swimming attire shall be deemed "properly clothed" within the meaning of this ordinance when worn while swimming or bathing at designated bathing beaches or in the immediate vicinity thereof.

Section 23. All parks or bathing beaches in the Town of Abington under the jurisdiction of the Park and Recreation Commissioners shall be closed between the hours of dusk and dawn, and any person or persons shall be prohibited from entering the same between these hours except as authorized by the Board.

Section 24. All persons are forbidden to deface or injure any notice placed by the Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners on any park, playground or beach.

Section 25. No animal shall be ridden or driven through any such public area except when authorized by the Board.

Section 26. Any and all groups, associations, clubs and organizations wishing to rent, hire or use facilities under the control of the Board may do so only with the written permission of the Board and with payment of the assigned fee for such use.

Section 27. The Abington Police Department is hereby authorized to enforce all of the above rules and regulations.

Section 28. Whoever violates any rule or regulation of the board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of the Town of Abington shall be fined not more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00).

Section 29. Rules and regulations may be made from time to time by the Board governing the further use and enjoyment of parks, beaches, playgrounds, and the facilities thereof.

Any person who shall violate such rules or regulations, or who refuses to subject himself thereto, may be excluded from the use of such facility. And any person who refuses to obey any such order of exclusion, or who persistently interferes with the orderly conduct of games or play or with the participants therein, shall be guilty of disorderly conduct and upon conviction shall be punished as for that offense.

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication.

The invalidity of any regulation of the Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of the Town of Abington shall not invalidate or render illegal any other regulation contained therein.

These ordinances, or any part thereof, except as otherwise herein provided, may be amended or repealed only at a regular meeting of the Board, subsequent to a regular meeting of the Board at which the same shall have been proposed and presented in writing, by an affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the of the entire Board.

Park and Recreation Commissioners  
William F. Carey, Chairman  
James P. McSorley, Secretary  
David Farrell  
Edmund R. Hall  
Melvin Libby

Adopted February 26, 1975

Retyped September 19, 1995

**Town of Abington  
Park and Recreation Department  
Amendment to Rules and Regulations**

The following amendment is adopted as part of the Abington Rules and Regulations dated February 26, 1975.

**Section 30**

Pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 270, §22(j) smoking, and the use of any tobacco product is hereby prohibited in Abington at town-owned playgrounds, parks, beach/pool areas, and recreational facilities, not including the Strawberry Valley Golf Course outdoor areas.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

This regulation shall be effective as of June 1, 2007. As voted this day April 26, 2007.

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Chairman

Paul F. Walsh

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Vice Chairman

[Signature]

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Member

[Signature]

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Member

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Member