

# Angling Outfitter and Guide Association of Alberta (AOGAA)

## Policy Document

### **Objects Of The Society**

1. The AOGAA exists to promote and preserve the fishing outfitting and guiding industry in Alberta.
2. The AOGAA exists to protect and preserve Alberta's fish and wildlife as well as its aquatic resources. Aquatic resources are deemed to include any specific body of water as well as its watershed.
3. The AOGAA shall endeavor to work with individuals, groups and agencies in all matters affecting the fishing industry in Alberta.

### **1. Requirements for Membership**

- 1.1. An Application for Membership in the AOGAA must be completed and submitted to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors must act on the completed application within no more than 30 days of its submission. If the Board of Directors is satisfied that an applicant meets all requirements for membership in the AOGAA, it shall approve the application. An Applicant shall be deemed a member of the AOGAA upon the approval of the Board.
- 1.2. Applicants must meet the membership requirements as stated in the Bylaws.
- 1.3. Applicants agree to abide by all duties and obligations for members as specified in the AOGAA Bylaws and Policy documents.
- 1.4. Applicants will submit a non-refundable "New Applicant" fee along with the application form.
- 1.5 Guide applicants must indicate either a sponsorship by a current member outfitter or be endorsed by the Mentoring Committee.

### **2. Duties and Obligations of Members**

- 2.1. Client and personnel safety is paramount. All boats will carry a complete set of government mandated safety equipment as well as any additional safety equipment deemed necessary.
- 2.2. Guides will possess a valid / current Alberta fishing license.
- 2.3. Guides who are exempt from requiring a fishing license as outlined in the Alberta Fishing regulations are exempt from 2.2
- 2.4. Members will abide by all applicable Federal and Provincial laws as well as Fish and Wildlife regulations and cooperate with Fish and Wildlife officials in the fulfillment of their duties.
- 2.5. Outfitters are strongly encouraged to use AOGAA guide members and guides are strongly encouraged to work for AOGAA outfitter members.
- 2.6. Guides must have current first aid training and CPR from a provider approved by Alberta Occupational Health And Safety. The first aid / CPR certification must be valid

for the whole season. It is the responsibility of each member to determine the level of first aid required for the jurisdiction in which they operate.

2.7. Members must submit the annual membership fee as established by the Board of Directors within one month of the AGM.

2.8. Members agree to abide by Code of Ethics as stated in these operating policies.

2.9. Members must attend or participate in a minimum of three AOGAA events per year. Any combination of regular scheduled AOGAA meetings, special meetings or sanctioned AOGAA events is acceptable.

2.10. Participation on the Board of Directors shall constitute participation in three AOGAA events. Participation on a Standing committee shall constitute participation in two AOGAA events. Participation on an Ad Hoc committee shall constitute participation in one AOGAA events.

2.11. Participation on an ad hoc committee shall constitute participation in one AOGAA event.

2.12. Members may petition the board to sanction a specific event to count for one membership activity. Sanctioned events may include events carried out by other entities as long as the event fulfills the purpose of the AOGAA as set forth in the Association's Purpose.

2.13. Outfitters must show valid proof of a minimum of two million dollars liability insurance pertaining to their activities as fishing outfitters for the current season.

### **3. Code of Ethics**

Members of the AOGAA subscribe to a high standard of professional conduct and ethics and are encouraged to follow these best of practice guidelines.

3.1. Members will follow ethical business practices. They will not deliberately mislead clients.

3.2. Members will work to ensure that all staff and clients respect the natural resources upon which the industry is built and sustained.

3.3. Members will respect other members, clients, landowners and the public in the fulfillment of their duties.

3.4. Floating anglers should yield to bank and wading fishers. If there is only one navigable channel, floating anglers will seek the cooperation of any wading or bank fishers.

3.5. Members operating in boats will not "cut in" on another boat and will allow a reasonable distance (at least one football field) before moving in front of a boat to ensure that water is not disturbed. Similar discretion should be used if you are about to pull up anchor.

3.6. When possible, members will avoid using the stream bed as a pathway. This type of foot traffic can cause damage to the fragile aquatic habitat. Anglers should use the shoreline to travel from one point to the other, if doing so doesn't violate trespass and stream access laws.

3.7. Members will make every effort to ensure that no wading takes place on spawning redds and to give redds a wide berth.

- 3.8. Members are encouraged to remove trash in order to improve the quality of the river and its banks.
- 3.9. Members will avoid blocking boat ramps by rigging up or un-rigging away from boat ramps and launching or trailering boats quickly.
- 3.10. Members will do all within their power to preserve and conserve the fishery and its related resources.
- 3.11. Members will make every effort to ensure that their actions do not adversely affect another person's fishing pleasure and remain professional and courteous in their demeanor.

#### **4. Membership Renewal**

4.1. Membership renewal is only an option for those members in good standing from the previous year. Any other applicants (that is, new applicants, resigned, expelled or suspended members as per 3.4, 3.5 in the bylaws. must fulfill the requirements for membership outlined in 3 of the Bylaws of the AOGAA).

#### **5. Membership Transfer**

- 5.1. Transfer of membership from fraternal organizations will not be accepted.
- 5.2. Those outfitters and guides wishing to become members of the AOGAA must complete the application process.

#### **6. Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year for the AOGAA shall be from January 1st to December 31st of the calendar year.

#### **7. Regular Meetings**

7.1. Regular meetings shall be held between November and May as determined by the Board of Directors.

#### **8. Committees**

##### **1. Standing Committees**

##### 1.1. Nominating Committee

1.1.1. The Nominating committee shall consist of two members of the AOGAA plus the President of the AOGAA.

1.1.2. It shall be ratified annually at the November meeting.

1.1.3. It shall present a slate of nominations to the Annual meeting.

1.1.4. It shall fill a vacant seat on the Board of Directors in the event that a member of the Board of Directors is unable to complete a term of office.

##### 1.2. River Access Committee

##### 1.3. Government Liaison Committee

##### 1.4. Public Education/ Social Media Committee

##### 1.5. Membership (River) Activities Committee

##### 1.6. Invasives/Whirling Disease (Science)

## 1.7. Mentorship