

# Taildraggers R/C Club ByLaws

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## **Article I. Goals**

### **Section 1.01 The club has been organized to achieve the following goals:**

- 1) To provide a common forum for the pursuit, enjoyment and betterment of the design, construction and flight of radio controlled model aircraft.
- 2) To promote the safe operation of radio controlled model aircraft.
- 3) To foster participation and continued interest in the hobby/sport of radio controlled model aviation.

## **Article II. Membership**

### **Section 2.01 Member in good standing**

- 1) A "member in good standing" shall be defined as a member who maintains a valid AMA and current FCC license (where applicable), and is not in arrears in his/her annual dues.
- 2) A member may resign at any time by notifying the Secretary of his/her intention to resign.

### **Section 2.02 There shall be two classes of membership: General Members and Junior Members:**

- 1) General Members
  - a) Must be 18 years old or greater.
  - b) Have been a member in good standing for over 6 months.
  - c) Have the right to vote at elections and meetings.
- 2) Junior Members
  - a) Must not have reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
  - b) Have been a member in good standing for over 6 months.
  - c) May not vote at elections or meetings.

### **Section 2.03 Requirements for New Members**

- 1) An applicant for membership must present:
  - a) A valid AMA card or have applied for AMA membership
  - b) A valid license of the Federal Communications Commission, where applicable, for the operation of radios transmitting on regulated "ham" frequencies.
  - c) Must be sponsored by a member in good standing.
  - d) Payment of the yearly dues.

## **Article III. Members' Rights & Responsibilities**

### **Section 3.01 All Members In Good Standing Shall Enjoy Certain Rights As Follows:**

- 1) A member who has been charged with a violation of club rules must be considered innocent until proven guilty.
- 2) Any allegation or charges involving a pilot's deliberate violation of Taildraggers RC field rules and/or his unwillingness to fly safely in accordance with the field rules must be made directly to the pilot involved at the time of the incident, preferably in the presence of witnesses.
- 3) The Field Safety Officer or the club officer in attendance must make a report of the incident with pertinent details to be given to the Field Safety Officer. A summary of the incident shall also be provided to the Executive Board, which will make a written record of the incident.

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- 4) Any officer of the club or member of the board can require a pilot to stop flying if he/she deems that the pilot to be flying in an unsafe manner.

## **Section 3.02 Members' Responsibilities**

- 1) All members are expected to contribute to the continued well-being of the organization and advance the goals of the organization as stated in Article 1 of these ByLaws.
- 2) It is the responsibility of the membership to bring any condition that is detrimental to the well-being of the Taildraggers RC Club to the attention of a member of the Executive Board for review by the entire board for the purpose of:
  - a) Determining what remedies are available and appropriate in order to resolve the offending situation.
  - b) Alleviating any dangerous situation that is perceived to exist.
  - c) Initiating sanctions when appropriate or the expulsion process if applicable in order to remove the offending member or members.
- 3) It is the responsibility of every qualified pilot to maintain his/her skills and proficiency.

## **Article IV. Membership Dues**

### **Section 4.01 General**

- 1) Dues shall be collected annually from each member of the club.
- 2) A year shall be defined as the time from March 1st of the current year to February 28th of the following year.
- 3) Member dues for the current year are due no later than March 15th.
- 4) If a candidate joins after September 1st the dues will be prorated to \$50 for the remainder of the current year. This fee to be waived until paid membership exceeds 30 members. Any new member who joins after September 1st shall pay the \$100 dues and membership shall be considering in good standing for the remainder of the year and the full term the following year.
- 5) For a member to remain in good standing, he/she must be an AMA member who has paid AMA dues in full and remains a paid in full AMA member during the Taildraggers Membership year.
  - a) If at any time during the fiscal year AMA membership lapses, all flying privileges are suspended until the AMA dues are paid.
- 6) All dues shall be paid in one lump sum payment.

### **Section 4.02 Dues**

- 1) Annual dues are \$100.00.
- 2) If dues are not received by March 15th flying privileges will be revoked until all dues are received in full. Members in arrears will not be considered a current member.
- 3) Renewal notices will be sent via e-mail to all current members in January by the Secretary.
- 4) All dues shall be waived for any member of the immediate family (spouse/children under 18 years old) of a current member in good standing.

### **Section 4.03 Junior Discount**

- 1) All individuals who will be less than 18 years old on December 31st of the current year will receive a 50% discount of the prevailing schedule (see Section 4.02 1)).

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## **Section 4.04 New Member Fees**

1. New Member Initiation fees were eliminated with the 12/31/2017 revision of the ByLaws.

## **Article V. Executive Board**

### **Section 5.01 Role of the Executive Board**

1. Any monies in excess of \$100 to be spent, for non-maintenance of the field or normal operating expenses, by the Executive Board and/or any member of the Executive Board, and/or any committees appointed by the Executive Board must be voted on by Executive Board, and approved. Field maintenance items with spending over \$200 between meetings shall be subject to board approval.
2. The Executive Board shall manage and direct the organization. All decisions of the Executive Board shall be determined by a majority vote of the board. Each voting officer shall cast one vote.
3. All decisions of the Executive Board shall be submitted to the general membership. If any general member disapproves he/she may request a vote before the general membership.
4. If, in the event a situation arises which it is not explained or covered in the current ByLaws, it will be the responsibility of the Executive Board to moderate a ruling on that incident, to present to the general membership. The ruling of the Executive Board is final.
5. Any member of the Executive Board who fails to attend both board and general meetings for three consecutive meeting shall be considered to have resigned due to an inability to serve.
6. Upon vacancy of any position on the Executive Board, the President with the majority vote of the Executive Board shall appoint a replacement to that position.

### **Section 5.02 Composition of the Executive Board**

- 1) The Executive Board shall be composed of five voting officers elected by the general membership:
  - a) President
  - b) Vice President
  - c) Treasurer
  - d) Secretary
  - e) Field Safety Officer

### **Section 5.03 Executive Officer Rights and Privileges**

1. Members of the Executive Board may not assume any additional rights, privileges, accommodations or concessions other than those explicitly stated in these ByLaws or those explicitly granted by the membership.

## **Article VI. Officer Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Section 6.01 President**

1. The President shall be a member in good standing.
2. He/she shall be the chief executive officer of the board.
3. When in attendance, he/she shall preside at all meetings of the membership, Executive Board and other organized functions of the organization.

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4. He/she shall ensure that all orders and resolutions adopted by the Executive Board are fulfilled carried into effect.
5. No such commitment made by the president binding the organization to any contract or agreement with, or any duty to any external organization or organization shall be valid unless the membership shall grant prior approval or so ratify any such binding agreement, duty, or contract.

## **Section 6.02 Vice President**

1. The Vice President shall be a member in good standing.
2. During any absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall have all the powers and functions of the President.
3. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as the Executive Board may prescribe.
4. He/she shall be entitled to be informed of any and all pending business of the organization as he/she shall request or require.
5. Vice President shall be responsible for organizing maintenance of club equipment and club grounds by means of club volunteers or use of treasury funds as approved by the board.

## **Section 6.03 Treasurer**

1. The Treasurer shall be a member in good standing.
2. The Treasurer must comply with all requirements of the banking establishment where the Taildraggers RC account is held.
3. The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all funds and securities of the organization and shall deposit said funds in the name of the organization in such bank or trust company as the officers may elect.
4. A ledger book shall be kept with entries made every month by the Treasurer. This ledger will be brought to the membership meeting every month where it will be in full view to all members. The ledger shall start and end with the fiscal year. The fiscal year is defined as April 1st through March 31st of the following year.
5. He/she shall sign and execute all contracts in the name of the organization to be countersigned by the President or Vice President.
6. He/she shall also sign all checks, drafts, notes and orders for the payment of money.
7. He/she shall at all reasonable times, exhibit his/her books and accounts to any officer or member of the organization upon application at any Executive Board or membership meeting.
8. A second officer of the club shall be named on the club account and have authority to sign checks in the event the Treasurer is unable to fulfill his/her duty.

## **Section 6.04 Secretary**

1. The Secretary shall be a member in good standing.
2. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all general membership and Executive Board meetings.
3. He/she shall attend to the giving and serving of all notices of the organization and shall have charge of such books and papers as the board may direct.
4. He/she shall be responsible for the proper maintenance of the charter and ByLaws.
5. The Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence between the organization and its membership, or any external persons or organization.

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6. He/she shall be responsible to maintain the organization as a chartered club of the Academy of Model Aeronautics.
7. He/she shall keep a membership roll containing the names alphabetically arranged of all persons who are members of the organization showing their places of residence.
8. The Secretary shall be responsible for:
  - a. Reporting the status of membership (new members, total members, and number of members who are delinquent in payment of dues) at each general meeting.
  - b. He/she shall notify in writing, all members who have not paid their dues no later than March 15th and publish a roster of members in good standing. This roster of members in good standing shall be updated to indicate all members eligible to vote in the upcoming election and be available at the March meeting.

## **Section 6.05 Field Safety Officer**

1. The Field Safety Officer shall be a member in good standing.
2. He/she shall be the chief administrative officer at the flying site and shall have primary responsibility and authority for the conduct of the safe and orderly flight operations at the flying site
3. Any decision of the Field Safety Officer made in his/her official capacity may be reviewed only by a properly convened meeting of the Executive Board.
4. He/she shall appoint one Assistant Field Safety Officer as deemed necessary; the Assistant Field Safety Officer will have the same authority as the Field Safety Officer. This position will not have Executive Board voting privileges.

## **Section 6.06 Newsletter Editor**

1. The Executive Board with the approval of the general membership shall designate the editor-in-chief. He or she shall be a non-voting officer of the Executive Board unless the person holding this position is already a member of the board.

## **Section 6.07 Webmaster**

1. A web-master shall be appointed by the Executive Board and approved by a majority vote of the general membership. He or she shall be a non-voting officer of the Executive Board unless the person holding this position is already a member of the board.
2. The web-master shall be a member in good standing whose responsibilities include the review, maintenance, and update of the official club web site.

## **Article VII. Meetings**

### **Section 7.01 Meeting Types**

- 1) There are two distinct classes of meetings which are held:
  - a) General Membership Meetings.
  - b) Executive Board Meetings.

### **Section 7.02 General Membership Meetings**

- 1) General Membership Meetings of the organization shall be held at 7pm on the second Tuesday of each month at a location to be determined by the Board. In the event the meeting cannot be held at the stated time, the board shall designate a substitute day or cancel the meeting. Notice shall be sent via email on the board's decision. It shall be the

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responsibility of the Secretary to notify all members via email. Alcoholic beverages, controlled substances shall not be allowed at any meeting of the organization.

- 2) Quorum
  - a) The presence at any membership meeting of not less than one forth members in good standing, including the Executive Board, shall constitute a quorum; and shall be necessary to conduct the business of the organization.
  - b) Should a quorum not be met, any pending vote of club business will be handled via email and reported at the following meeting.
- 3) Only members in good standing and invited guests of the Executive Board shall be permitted to sit and attend any general membership meeting. Candidates with approved application for membership shall be considered as having been invited by the board.
- 4) The order of business at all meetings of members shall be as follows:
  - a) Reading of the minutes of the last membership meeting
  - b) Treasurer's report
  - c) Reports of officers
  - d) Reports of committees
  - e) Old and unfinished business
  - f) New business
  - g) Good and welfare
  - h) Adjournment
- 5) Proxies:
  - a) Every member entitled to vote at a meeting of members or to express consent or dissent may authorize another member to act for him/her by proxy in writing.
  - b) Should any General Meeting not have a Quorum present, the Secretary shall present any motion or proposal to the membership by email. The email shall stipulate a one week return requirement. The Secretary shall inform the Board and Membership by email of the results of the vote.
  - c) No proxy shall be valid after the date upon which it was intended to be exercised.
- 6) Motions:
  - a) When the membership approves a motion, the Executive Board shall accept that motion as voted on.
  - b) The board is not empowered to discard, shelve, or change any passed motion without the consent of the membership in attendance, unless that motion creates a safety issue, violates the ByLaws or local laws and ordinances.

## **Section 7.03 Executive Meetings**

- 1) Any elected officer may convene a meeting of the Executive Board.
- 2) With the exception of time of emergency, a majority of voting members of the Executive Board (3) shall constitute a quorum.
- 3) No meeting of the Executive Board may be convened unless all officers shall have received not less than 72 hours advance notice of such meeting.

## **Article VIII. Elections**

### **Section 8.01 General**

1. Each officer shall be elected at the March meeting for a term of 1 year. Such term shall commence on April 1st at which time all pertaining material relevant to the club shall be transferred to the newly elected officers.

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2. It shall be the responsibility of the outgoing board to see that the newly elected board are informed of all pending business of the organization and immediately turn over any and all relevant documents, banking records, membership information, and any other data that will assist the new board in executing their new roles.
3. If extenuating circumstances arise so that the normal election process is unable to follow the outlines of described in the ByLaws, it is the responsibility of the President to reschedule said proceeding as timely as possible, so that elections may continue.
4. Elections are to be carried out by secret ballot at the March General Meeting.

## **Section 8.02 Nominations**

- 1) Nomination for officers shall be made by the membership one month prior to the March meeting.
- 2) Any member running for executive office must be present to accept that nomination. Should the nominee be unable to attend the nomination meeting he/she may accept the nomination in writing.

## **Section 8.03 Election Procedures**

1. The secretary shall e-mail to each General Member in good standing, an absentee ballot containing a list of candidates not later than one week following the meeting at which nominations are made.
2. Absentee ballots shall be returned to the secretary by email and received no later than one week prior to the March meeting at which elections are to be conducted. The membership in attendance at the meeting shall be allowed to submit a secret ballot to the Secretary and be tabulate along with the absentee ballots.
3. An absentee ballot must bear the name of the member voting and certified by the Secretary.
4. All ballots shall be tallied and confirmed by the Secretary, who shall publish the results in the minutes of the March Meeting.

## **Article IX. ByLaws Amendments**

### **Section 9.01**

1. The ByLaws may be amended as needed by the Executive Board.
2. All amendments shall be voted on and approved by the general membership.
3. Any motion or resolution passed by the Board or the General Membership that overrides, amends, modifies, or countermands any Article of these ByLaws shall be null and void until such time that these ByLaws are amended as stated above.

## **Article X. Expulsion, Impeachment & Sanctions**

### **Section 10.01 General**

1. Any member in good standing may bring charges against a member before the Executive Board with recommendation to suspend the member's club membership or expel him/her from the club. The Executive Board shall proceed as deemed appropriate.

### **Section 10.02 Sanctions**

1. Suspension of flying privileges or expulsion from the flying site

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- a. Any officer may expel a member from the field or suspend a member's flying privileges.
  - b. That suspension will remain in effect until reviewed by the Executive Board.
2. A member may be removed from a meeting if during the course of a regular general membership meeting a member engages in any activity, either physical or verbal that by its nature:
  - a. Creates a disturbance or disruption in the decorum of the meeting.
  - b. Fails to heed the directions of the majority of club officers present.
  - c. Can be interpreted as threatening to any other member or guest present at the meeting.
  - d. Can be interpreted as abusive behavior toward any member or guest present at the meeting.

## **Section 10.03 Expulsion Process**

1. In order to initiate the expulsion process, the Executive Board shall review the facts and issues presented to them at the next Executive Board meeting. It shall require a majority vote of the Executive Board to continue the expulsion process, with the exception of one person.
2. Once the Executive Board has moved to continue the process, the individual being charged with the offense shall be notified in writing by the secretary of the particulars of his/her situation.
3. After all the parties have had ample opportunity to state their point of view, the Executive Board will then vote to expel the offending member.
4. No monies paid by the expelled member in the form of dues or initiation fees will be refunded to the expelled member.

## **Section 10.04 Impeachment**

1. Any officer of the organization can be removed from office upon impeachment for gross breach of duty.
  - a. A petition demanding impeachment and stating all charges and bearing not less than (5) five signatures of members in good standing shall be e-mailed general membership. The petition shall be voted on at the next general meeting, which by (2/3) two thirds vote of the members voting and present and proxies, may approve such a petition and call for such impeachment.
  - b. If the membership shall vote to impeach, a committee of (3) three members shall be elected by the membership to investigate all charges and report findings of fact at the next general meeting.
  - c. The impeached officer shall have the opportunity to answer such findings, at that meeting, whereupon the membership by a vote of (3/4) three-fourths of those members present and proxies may vote to remove.
  - d. Upon conviction, the offending officer shall be removed immediately.
  - e. The Executive Board shall nominate a replacement. This replacement must be approved by a majority of members present and proxies. The replacement will serve out the remainder of the removed officer's term.



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## **Article XI. Field Rules**

### **Section 11.01 General**

1. All field rules with the exception of those imposed by the Academy of Model Aeronautics shall be determined by the Executive Board and presented to the membership for approval by majority vote.
2. The Field Safety Officer shall enforce all applicable field rules.

## **Article XII. Communications**

### **Section 12.01 The Newsletter**

1. "The Grass Strip News" shall be the official communiqué of the organization, and as such is the property of the Taildraggers RC Club.
2. Any member in good standing may contribute to it, however, it shall be apolitical and no member shall use the "The Grass Strip News" for his/her/their own personal goals within the organization.
3. Further, all columns, articles and matters submitted for print may be subject to review and approval by the Executive Board prior to publication.

## **Article XIII. Rallies and Events**

### **Section 13.01 A committee must be appointed for each event that is to be sponsored or organized by the Taildraggers RC Club**

1. The committee shall be comprised of no less than three (3) people.
2. The committee is responsible to oversee all aspects of their event, including food, prizes, etc.
3. The committee chairman or his/her designate shall give a monthly report of the committee activities at each General Membership Meeting.
4. Once the membership has voted in an event, by majority rules, they will abide, without question, to all rules and regulations as set forth by the person or persons running the event as long as it does not violate any of the Taildraggers RC Club ByLaws or field rules.