

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS OF THE

THREE RIVERS BIRD DOG CLUB

ARTICLE I - NAME

Sec. 1 The name of the club shall be the Three Rivers Bird Dog Club.

ARTICLE II - HEADQUARTERS

Sec. 1 The club headquarters shall be located in Benton County, Washington.

ARTICLE III - PURPOSE

Sec. 1 The objectives of the club shall be to promote and encourage the training of pointing dog breeds, to extend the enjoyment for the upland game hunter with their dogs through organized training days, field trials, to promote fellowship among the membership and promote good sportsmanship, and to conduct sanctioned and licensed hunting tests under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club. The club may hold AKC-related events under the auspices of those organizations which have been approved by The American Kennel Club's Board of Directors. Finally, the club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1 Membership in Three Rivers Bird Dog Club shall consist of members who fully support the objectives and goals as set forth in these Constitution and Bylaws.

Sec. 2 Membership in the Three Rivers Bird Dog Club shall be open to all persons 18 years of age and older expressing their interest in the objectives and purpose of the club, and must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club. The members shall further signify and express their intentions of being an active or inactive member by participation in training days, team hunts, field trials, hunt tests, membership meetings, work parties, and committees as needed to keep the club operable.

Sec. 3 Membership into the Three Rivers Bird Dog Club shall be granted to any individual meeting membership requirements including current dues payable. Eligible members are entitled to all club privileges, to vote and hold office. Each member is considered in good standing and eligible to vote at any meeting provided dues have been paid for that

club year, regardless of how many meetings or activities the individual attend during the previous year. The club, at their discretion, may offer an Associate/Newsletter membership to persons who are well removed from the club's local area or to persons who reside in the area but do not wish to be active participants. Associate members are entitled to all privileges except voting and holding office. Once accepted as a full voting member, however, their voting privileges may not be withheld as long as dues are paid. While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the club's primary purpose is to be representative of the breeders and exhibitors in its immediate area.

Sec. 4 Memberships are to include family's spouse and children (under the age of 18). Memberships carry a maximum of two (2) votes per family. The second club member in the family must register in writing annually with the club secretary to exercise the rights of a voting member. Registration may be accomplished either via email, postal mail, or delivered to the club secretary in person at a monthly or annual meeting.

Sec. 5 Termination of Membership

Membership may be terminated:

(a) By resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the club upon written notice to the Secretary; but no member may resign when in debt to the club. Obligations other than dues are considered a debt to the club and must be paid prior to resignation.

(b) By lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 90 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the board may grant an additional 90 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any club meetings whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.

(c) By expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VII of these bylaws.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Sec. 1 Officers shall consist of a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer. Officers shall be nominated and elected per Article VIII of these Bylaws.

Sec. 2 Vacancies. Any vacancies occurring on the board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote of the members of the board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a special board meeting called for that purpose; except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled by the board.

ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sec. 1 The government of the club shall be vested in a board of six (6) directors, these shall consist of the elected officers of the club and past President who will serve until the current President's term of office expires. This will not keep the past President from running for an office. One (1) director may be elected at large from the voting members and shall be elected per Article VIII of these Bylaws. The immediate past president may remain on the board in an advisory position if not re-elected to another office, but without a vote.

ARTICLE VII – DISCIPLINE

- Sec. 1 American Kennel Club Suspension. Any member who is suspended from all the privileges of The American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this club for a like period.
- Sec. 2 Charges. An individual member may prefer charges against another individual member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club. Written charges with specifications must be filed in writing. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the board or present them at a board meeting, and the board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club. If the board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the club, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date for a hearing by the board not less than three weeks nor more than six weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges and the specifications to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his/her own defense and bring witnesses if he/she wishes.
- Sec. 3 Board Hearing. Both complainant and defendant shall have the opportunity to attend the hearing and give testimony on their behalf. Should the charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the board may by a majority vote of those present reprimand or suspend the defendant from all privileges of the club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his/her fellow members at the ensuing club meeting which considers the board's recommendation. Immediately after the board has reached a decision, its finding shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the board's decision.

- Sec. 4 Expulsion. Expulsion of a member from the club may be accomplished only at a meeting of the club following a board hearing and upon the board's recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the club, to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his/her own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the board's finding and recommendation, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his/her own behalf if he/she wishes. The members shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the board's suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VIII - THE CLUB YEAR, MEETINGS AND VOTING

- Sec. 1 The Club's fiscal year shall begin on the first day of February and end on the 31st day of January. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the annual banquet and shall continue through the next annual banquet meeting.
- Sec. 2 Club meetings: shall be scheduled as determined by the officers and board of directors. Club and board meetings shall be held within the greater Kennewick area at a minimum of once in each quarter. The quorum for any meeting of the club shall be 20% of the members in good standing. The quorum for a meeting of the board shall be a majority of the board. Motions are to be carried by a majority of the voters at a scheduled meeting.
- Sec. 3 Annual Meeting: The annual meeting shall be held in the month of January at which, on even numbered years, Officers and Directors shall be elected by secret, written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the meeting and each retiring officer shall turn over to his or her successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.
- Sec. 4 Nominations: The nomination process occurs in odd numbered years in preparation for voting at the annual meeting held in even numbered years. No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. On odd numbered years, during the month of November, the Board shall select a Nominating Chairperson who is not a member of the Board. Any member in good standing may nominate themselves or any other club member for any of the Officer or Director positions by contacting the Nominating Chairperson.
- a) The Nominating Chairperson shall report their nominations to the Secretary at or prior to the December meeting.

- b) The Secretary shall in the December meeting, notify attending members of the candidates so nominated and this will be reported in the December meeting minutes distributed to members in good standing prior to the annual meeting..
- c) Additional nominations may be made at the December meeting or at any time prior to the annual meeting by contacting the Nominating Chairperson.
- d) Board members shall notify the Secretary of their intent to continue or not continue in their board positions prior to the annual meeting in which elections are to be held. The Secretary shall inform the remaining Board members and membership of any such notifications.
- e) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

Sec. 5 Elections. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The nominated candidates for other positions on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

ARTICLE IX - FINANCE

Sec. 1 The annual membership fee will be payable to the club as of February 1. The fee shall be recommended by the board of directors and approved by the voting membership.

Sec. 2 Notice shall be made before the annual banquet each year to all members that the annual dues are payable, and should a members dues remain unpaid for a period of ninety (90) days after the first day of February, he/she shall cease being a member of the club unless the board grants an additional grace period.

Sec. 3 All members shall pay annual dues for current calendar year to the club Treasurer. Annual dues for new members will be pro-rated on the number of months left in the calendar year.

ARTICLE X - DUTIES OF MEMBERS

Sec. 1 Attend club functions, serve on committees, as requested.

Sec. 2 Notify club Secretary of any change of address, phone, etc.

Sec. 3 All formal complaints as to the management of the Three Rivers Bird Dog Club must be made in writing to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- Sec. 1 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board, and shall have the duties and powers appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these by-laws.
- Sec. 2 The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in his absence, performs special duties as assigned by the President.
- Sec. 3 The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the club. He or she shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the club with their addresses and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these by-laws.
- Sec. 4 The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club. He or she shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. His or her books shall be at all time open to inspection of the Board and he or she shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not previously reported. At the annual meeting he or she shall render an accounting of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year.

ARTICLE XII - DUTIES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sec. 1 Assist in the operation and management of the club. Attend board meetings as requested, decide on grievances. From time to time make regulation in accordance with the powers herein given or on matters not herein provided.
- Sec. 2 **Web / Social Media Presence**
To protect the Three Rivers Bird Dog Club's relationship with the general public and to control its ability to promote club related information and events, all promotional and or informational Web Page, Social Media Pages and Public Advertisements and the information promoted and contained upon such Mediums shall be done so with permission and oversight of the board. Any accounts created to accomplish this shall be under control and review of the board. Furthermore, at least two board members shall have administrative rights and control of any such Web Page and Social Media Page accounts.

ARTICLE XIII - COMMITTEES

- Sec. 1 The Board may appoint standing committees to advance the work of the club in such matters as hunt tests, field trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the authority of the Board. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid it on particular projects.
- Sec. 2 Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written notice to the appointee; and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

ARTICLE XIV - CLUB DISSOLUTION

- Sec. 1 The club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing. In the event of the dissolution of the club other than for purposes of reorganization whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the club nor any proceeds thereof nor any liquid assets of the club shall be distributed to any members of the club but after payment of the debts of the club its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs selected by the board of directors.

ARTICLE XV - AMENDMENTS

- Sec. 1 Amendments to the constitution and bylaws may be proposed by the board of directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary and signed by 20% of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the board of directors and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the board by the Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.
- Sec. 2 The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 secret vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE XVI - ORDER OF BUSINESS

Sec. 1 At meetings of the Club, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of last meeting/Report of Secretary
- Report of President
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of committees
- Election of officers and board (at annual meeting)
- Recognition of new members
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

Sec. 2 At meetings of the board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- Reading of minutes of last meeting
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of committees
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Adjournment

ARTICLE XVII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Sec. 1 The rules contained in the current Edition of Robert's Rule of Order, newly revised, shall guide the club in all cases which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any other special rules the club may adopt.

Constitution & Bylaws
Amended and approved by
Three Rivers Bird Dog Club