

# Bylaws of the New Paltz Rod & Gun Club

## **1. NAME**

1. This organization shall be named and known as the NEW PALTZ ROD AND GUN CLUB, INC.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

1. The Club's objectives are to conserve and protect the fish and game of the country, to advocate the making, and to observe, and to insist upon the enforcement of reasonable laws and regulations therefore; to oppose the enactment and secure the real of measures antagonistic thereto; to publish and distribute among its members information relative to the matters embraced by its objectives that may be of common interest; generally to encourage the true sporting spirit and to secure for sportspeople the rights and privileges to which they should be entitled, as well as to insist upon the performance of duties imposed upon them, not only by law, but by the ethics of the sport; to cooperate with the farmer and landowner, help them in protecting their rights and property against the unscrupulous hunter, and to individually and collectively incorporate with any persons or organizations to accomplish these ends.

## **3. OFFICERS**

1. The Officers of the Club shall consist of a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and six (6) Directors, all to be elected at the Annual Meeting (in September) for a term of one year, except the Directors, who shall be elected, two, each year for a term of three years.
2. All Officers and Directors should attend at least six (6) of the ten regular meetings per year, and all special meetings called by the President or the Board of Directors, or by members of the Club. Any Director who misses three(3) Board of Directors meetings in a year shall forfeit their position. Exceptions to the above article are sickness or emergency.
3. The President shall be the executive head of the Club. They shall preside at all meetings, appoint all committees, unless otherwise ordered by vote of the Club, and appoint the Chairpersons of the various committees. The Chairpersons of the respective committees shall select their own members of such committees. The President shall be an Ex-Officio member of all committees. The President, with the consent of the Board of Directors, shall be empowered to fill any vacancies which occur through the loss or resignation of an officer or director. In the event of a tied vote by the Board of Directors, the president shall cast the deciding vote.
4. The First Vice President and in turn, the Second Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in their absence or at their request.
5. The Secretary shall keep the records of the meetings and conduct all correspondence of the Club, call all meetings and perform other duties at the request of the President.
6. The Membership Secretary shall keep the records of the accounts between the Club and its members, send out statements of arrears after the August and September meetings, pay all moneys to the Treasurer, receiving a receipt for the same and be ready to render a report at any time.
7. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys from dues, assessments and revenues collected from fund raising activities. The Treasurer shall pay all bills when approved by the Directors and by the membership at the regular monthly meeting, following the receipt of the bill and submit a report of same.
8. The Board of Directors shall consist of six (6) elected members who shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Club and perform the duties usually assigned such a body. Officers of the club shall not be eligible to be elected to the Board. The Directors shall have full charge of all Club property and shall grant permission for the use of such property so long as such use falls within the written guidelines contained in sections of Article Four.
9. The Auditing Committee shall consist of any two (2) duly appointed members, and shall conduct an annual audit of the records and accounts of the Club after the close of the calendar year and present a report to the membership following the completion of the audit at the March meeting
10. The Directors, Officers, or Committees of the Club who hold meetings shall disclose fully the text of said meetings. This report shall be read to the membership at the next regular meeting of the Club. Any changes to buildings, property, or policy, excluding issues of maintenance or safety, shall be in effect only after a confirming vote by the membership at the next general meeting. Exceptions will be made in the event of emergencies.
11. All check disbursements shall require one signature, Electronic/Online payments are permitted. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for naming and maintaining a list of authorized signatories, which will minimally consist of the President, First Vice President, and Treasurer.
12. The fiscal year for the club shall coincide with the calendar year.

## **4. MEMBERSHIP**

1. The Membership Secretary shall prepare membership application forms, which will require a candidate for admission into the Club to furnish detailed information about themselves and their reasons for wishing to join the Club.
  - a. Membership applications can be presented by the Committee to the Club during any open meeting, potential members paying full initiation and prorated dues based on the nearest half year.
  - b. Upon receiving a supporting majority vote of the members present at the meeting and paying full initiation and prorated dues, the Applicant becomes a Probationary Member.
2. The sponsor of an individual applying for sponsored membership shall meet the following criteria:

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- a. The sponsor shall be present at the meeting when the application is submitted.
  - b. A completed application must be signed by the sponsor and presented to the Club.
  - c. The initiation fee and annual dues must be paid at the time of application.
  - d. Should any of these conditions not be met, the application will be rejected and reconsidered at the next monthly meeting. All moneys will be returned to an applicant upon rejection.
  - e. A person seeking membership in the Club who cannot find the appropriate sponsors may apply for Non sponsored Probationary Membership. Upon submission of a completed Non sponsored Probationary Membership Application form and the payment of the annual dues and initiation fee, the applicant may be accepted at the Club's discretion.
3. A Resident Member shall be defined as a person making their permanent, legal residence in Ulster County, with voting privileges in Ulster County. The provision applies to and is retroactive for all Ulster County residents taken into the Club after February 12, 1969.
4. Any member who is inducted or volunteers for active service in any branch of the Armed Forces shall have their membership continued with full privileges without being required to pay annual dues, attend meetings, or perform work hours while in service. If Honorable Discharge or Medical Discharge is on or after July 1, dues shall be considered automatically paid for the remainder of the year. Membership will be automatically terminated if discharge is dishonorable.
5. A nonresident may apply for membership in the Club on a nonresident application form, which shall include the following provisions:
  - a. Nonresident applicants shall be 16 years of age or older.
  - b. A nonresident applicant must be known personally, recommended and unequivocally endorsed by a regular member in good standing. Said regular member may endorse or sponsor one and only one nonresident applicant each 12 months. Both the nonresident member and their sponsor shall be liable together under Article Four, Section 8.
6. Junior Members shall be defined as those of New York State legal age to carry firearms (12 years of age).
  - a. They may not sponsor members or have the privilege of voting at meetings.
  - b. Junior members must be accompanied by a responsible adult member of the Club when on Club grounds.
  - c. Junior members shall become Senior Members on their 16th birthday.
7. All landowners with ten or more posted acres are entitled to free membership with full privileges. They may grant hunting and fishing privileges to their friends on their own land. Such guests shall carry a written permission permit signed by the property owner on whose land they are hunting or fishing. Any landowner whose lands are removed from the posted property of the Club voluntarily or because of insufficient acreage may have their membership continued by paying regular member dues from and for the year of discontinuance as a landowner without paying the initiation fee.
8. Any member violating the laws of this Club or good sporting principles shall be brought before a meeting and if found guilty by a two-thirds vote of members present at that meeting, they shall be permanently expelled. Such person must be notified by mail of the complaint and the date of the meeting at which their case will be presented. If the person fails to appear without good reason, as determined by the Board, it is presumed they are guilty and they shall be permanently expelled from the Club.
9. If a member's dues are paid, that member's spouse will be accepted and allowed to participate in Club activities. Spouses may not exercise voting privileges.
10. A junior relative of a member in good standing will be automatically accepted as Junior Member upon submission of an application, initiation fee and annual dues. If that relative is not a child of the member, written permission from a parent or legal guardian is required.
11. The membership shall be limited to 200 members, not counting Junior Members. Junior Members who reach the age to become Senior Members shall be allowed to do so regardless of the membership count. The Membership Secretary shall maintain a waitlist of prospective members to be admitted on a first come, first served basis as slots are available.
12. All new members shall be considered on a form of probation beginning with their date of acceptance.
  - a. Resident members shall have a one year probationary period. They may not vote, act as a sponsor, or hold office.
  - b. Non-resident members shall have a three year probationary period, or 1 year for a member who is 65 years or older. They may not vote, act as a sponsor, or hold office. They shall have no guest privileges, nor sponsor a guest in the field.
  - c. During the probationary period, the member must attend a minimum of five (5) monthly meetings each probationary year and must complete the work hours as outlined in article 18. Probationary members do not have the option of paying for unfulfilled work hours. This clause is effective for members joining after the September 2016 club meeting.
  - d. After satisfactory completion of the probationary period, and upon receiving a supporting majority vote of

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those members present at the meeting, the probationary member becomes a full member with all rights and privileges, and will have their membership automatically renewed upon timely payment of normal dues, fees and assessments. If the probationary requirements above are not satisfied, or the majority of Club members vote against the probationary member, that person's association with the Club is immediately terminated..

13. Spouses of members in good standing shall be accepted into the Club the same night their application is submitted and will not be required to pay the initiation fee.
14. Any member with 25 years membership in the Club, who reaches 60 years of age; or 15 years of membership who reaches 70 years of age; or 40 years of membership; can be submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration to become a Life member. Life membership means the member has contributed significantly to the Club and will automatically have their membership renewed with no requirement for dues or work hours.
15. Any member meeting the age and tenure of membership requirements in article 4.14 shall be submitted by the Membership Secretary to the Board of Directors for approval, on the basis of their seniority, to become a life member, subject to a one-time assessment. The amount of that life membership assessment to be set annually by the Board of Directors.
16. No member shall be granted life membership at a time when 20% or more of the current membership are life members.
17. All members are required to be members of one of the organizations on a list maintained and published by the Board. Members must show proof of that membership prior to payment of dues or assessments.
18. Unless otherwise stated in these By-laws, senior members are required to perform 20 work hours per year.
  - a. Attendance at each monthly meeting counts as 1 hour towards that requirement.
  - b. This requirement is prorated when joining midyear.
  - c. The Board may waive this requirement on an individual basis.
  - d. All Club Officers and Directors shall have their work hour requirement waived while in office.
  - e. Any member aged 75 years or older shall have their work hour requirement reduced by half.
19. Unless otherwise stated in these By-laws, members may host not more than two guests, family members notwithstanding, at any one shooting event. Members may not host the same guest more than 3 times per year.
20. Members have full use of all club facilities governed by the rules and guidelines of The Club and by the rules and laws of the Town, County, State & Federal Governments.
21. No member shall use the club facilities for personal profit or the conduct of a business enterprise unless they have formally rented the facility for that purpose.

## **5. DUES & ASSESSMENTS**

1. Annual dues are due and payable at the regular August meeting. Dues not paid at the August meeting shall be considered in arrears.
  - a. Upon payment of dues to the Membership Secretary, the member shall be issued proof of membership. Land posted by the Club may not be entered upon without proof of membership. All members shall display their proof of membership when using any club facilities.
  - b. All members with dues in arrears after the regular August meeting shall have the privilege of membership with re-application until the regular October meeting. Penalty for arrears payments shall be as follows:
    - i. If paid in full by the September meeting, ten percent (10%) of the annual dues
    - ii. if paid in full by the October meeting twenty percent (20%) of the annual dues.
  - c. All persons with dues in arrears after the October meeting shall automatically be dismissed from membership. Reinstatement to membership can be accomplished only after satisfactory explanation to the membership of extenuating circumstances.
2. The annual dues for Senior Members shall be \$100.00 per year, effective August 1, 2005. Annual dues for Junior Members shall be \$5.00 per year, effective August 1, 2003. The dues are prorated when joining midyear.
3. The initiation fee shall equal the annual dues.
4. Any member who does not fulfill their work hour requirement will be billed \$10 per hour along with their dues statement.
5. Any prior member who left the Club in good standing may be resubmitted to membership without payment of the initiation fee.

## **6. MEETINGS**

1. The Annual Meeting shall be the April meeting. Regular meetings will be held the second Wednesday of each month except February. All regular meetings will start promptly at 7:00 PM.
2. Special meetings may be called by the President or by five (5) members by giving three-days notice of said meeting.
3. Meetings shall be conducted according to the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure as defined in Robert's Rules of Order.

## **7. COMMITTEES**

1. The Committees shall consist of: Traps, Rifle, Pistol, Archery, Posting, Entertainment, House and Grounds, Fish and Game, Publicity, Game Preserve and such other committees as the Club may authorize.

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2. The restocking Committee's duties shall be to secure fish and game, restock the streams and fields in the Club's vicinity and upon territory selected by them in cooperation with the Posting Committee.
3. The Posting Committee's duties shall be to cooperate with farmers and landowners to secure their permission to post the lands selected by them to the end that the farmer may be protected against unscrupulous hunters, and that Club members may enjoy the privileges of hunting and/or fishing in the territory so posted.
4. The Entertainment Committee's duties shall be to furnish entertainment and refreshments at such times as the Club may decide. This committee is to be appointed by the President at each meeting for the succeeding meeting.
5. The Board of Directors shall appoint a by-law chairperson or shall act as the by-law Committee itself.

## **8. RESIGNATION**

1. In order for a member to resign in "good standing", preserving their ability to rejoin the club in the future, they must:
  - a. Inform the Membership Secretary of their resignation and the effective date.
  - b. Have completed, or paid the fees for, work hours prorated to their resignation date as dictated by the Membership Secretary. In this case, a probationary member is allowed to pay for unworked hours.
  - c. Return their club credentials to the Membership Secretary.
2. If a member does not fulfill the above requirements, they will leave "not in good standing" and will only be eligible for readmission to the club after paying all owed fees and receiving a two-thirds majority vote of members present at a club meeting supporting their reinstatement.
3. A probationary member who resigns before completing their probation will need to repeat their probation upon rejoining the club.
4. Dues already paid are not refundable.

## **9. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. The order of business shall be:
  - a. The reading of the minutes of the last meeting, including the minutes of any Board of Directors meetings that have been held since the last monthly meeting.
  - b. Treasurer's reports
  - c. Reports of committees
  - d. Amendments
  - e. Election of officers
  - f. Unfinished business
  - g. New Business
  - h. Good and welfare of the Club and sport.
  - i. Adjournment
2. Ten members shall constitute a quorum.

## **10. AMENDMENTS**

1. Proposed amendments to the by-laws shall be made to the by-law Committee by the membership in writing at or prior to the June meeting. The Committee will review, simplify and/or consolidate similar proposals with the approval of the person who made the proposal.
2. A draft of the proposed by-law changes will be presented to the Board at the July meeting and the membership at the August meeting, where suggestions and feedback will be collected. The by-law Committee will compile this feedback and work with the amendment authors to incorporate it into the proposals.
3. The final amendments will be voted upon at the September meeting. A two-thirds majority vote of the members present is required for passage of any amendment to the by-laws.
4. The proposed amendments must be made available on the club website two weeks prior to the September meeting, and provided on request.
5. Emergency amendments may be made at any time with the approval of the Directors and must be made available on the club website immediately and announced at the next club meeting.

## **11. MEMORIALS**

1. Any member who deceases while on the active membership roll shall have their name mounted upon the Club's Memorial Plaque.

## **12. DISSOLUTION**

1. If the Board decides that the club will cease operations and be dissolved, the Board will call a special meeting of the club membership. If a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the membership present at that meeting confirms the dissolution, the club assets will be liquidated and distributed to the membership as follows.
2. The Board will appoint a dissolution committee under the leadership of the Membership Secretary. This committee will prepare a list of current members, their individual years of uninterrupted membership, and a grand total of all membership years.
3. The total remaining assets, after all liabilities have been settled, are then divided into equal shares based on the grand

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total of membership years. and distributed to each member based on their individual years of uninterrupted membership.

4. Upon completion of the distribution of the assets, the President will dissolve the club.