



# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS



# CONSTITUTION OF THE ATHENS FISH & GAME CLUB INC.

## **ARTICLE I**

### NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Athens Fish & Game Club, Inc.

## **ARTICLE II**

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) To conserve, maintain, protect and restore the natural resources of the United States of America, including particularly, but not exclusively, forests, soil, waters and wildlife.
- 2) To promote means and opportunity for the education of the public with respect to such resources and the enjoyment and wholesome utilization thereof.

## **ARTICLE III**

### POWERS

The powers of the Athens Fish & Game Club, Inc. shall be to perform such acts as may be necessary or proper to carry out the objectives of the club.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### MEMBERSHIP

Any person of good character, eighteen years of age or older and a resident of Athens County, who complies with the admission requirements as set forth in the By-Laws shall be eligible to make application membership in the Athens Fish & Game Club Inc.

## **ARTICLE V**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Section 1* The Club management is hereby vested in the Board of Directors, except when the club is in session, which Board shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and six Directors. Such Directors to be elected for terms of three years; two directors are elected each year. The outgoing President automatically becomes a member of the board and will serve a two-year term or until the next outgoing president would take his place on the board. The board will adjust the number of members for any irregularities.

Section 2 Five members of the Board constitute a quorum.

Section 3 The Board of Directors by a majority vote shall have the power to fill vacancies on the Board pending the next annual election after the occurrence of such vacancy.

Section 4 Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held twice each year, in May and in November, at a time and place fixed by the Board, and the Vice-President shall serve as chairman. Special Board meetings may be called by the President or five Board members and documented by posting/announcing at a club meeting and posting on the web site. Emergency board meetings would be held as circumstances require with at least five members present.

Section 5 Appeal may be taken from any decision of the Board of Directors by the club and such appeal shall be determined by a majority of the members present at any regular meeting, a quorum must be present. Appeal from any decision of the Board of Directors shall be made in writing to the President within thirty days from the date of such decision and such appeal shall be acted upon by the club not later than the second meeting following such notice of appeal.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### OFFICERS

Section 1 The officers shall be a President, a Vice-President and a Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 2 The duties of the officers shall be as declared in the By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### BY-LAWS

By-Laws, not inconsistent with the Constitution, shall be enacted by the members.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the members or at a special meeting called for that purpose, by a majority vote, provided that the proposed changes are posted and announced at the previous club meeting and posted on the website 14 days before such meeting.

# BY-LAWS OF THE ATHENS FISH & GAME CLUB INC.

## ARTICLE I

### MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1 Any American citizen of good character, eighteen years of age or older, and a resident of Athens County or lives within a 25 mile radius (or otherwise approved by the Board), who agrees to abide by the rules of the club shall be eligible to make application for membership. Associate members are paid up members that are not from adjoining or local counties that do not have any voting rights.

Section 2 Any member desiring to propose the name of a person for member shall procure from the Secretary-Treasurer a blank application upon which he shall set forth the name, age, occupation and address of said applicant. He shall also affix his signature of a co-sponsor. The application shall then be transmitted to the Membership Committee, together with the membership and/or initiation fee. After review of the application, the Membership Committee shall present their findings to the membership for action. Applicants will be expected to attend at least one club meeting as a guest prior to application for membership. This provides for introduction to the membership by the sponsors. Following review by the Membership Committee, applications shall be presented to the membership for first reading at the next meeting following their submission. At the next regular meeting, a second reading will be made and majority vote by members present taken on said applicant.

Section 3 It shall be the duty of each member to attend the monthly meetings as regularly as possible and assist, as best he may, to support and develop the objectives for which this club stand, and to offer as much aid and assistance as possible in the development and maintenance of the club's property.

Section 4 All members whose dues are paid and are in good standing shall be deemed active members. A current list of active members shall be maintained at the cabin by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 5 Only active members shall be eligible to hold an office, vote at meetings or otherwise enjoy the privileges of the organization.

Section 6 Any member who by his conduct violates the ethics, laws or rules of this club may be expelled from the membership by majority vote of the Board of Directors at a regular or called Board meeting, provided the accused has been given at least twenty-four hours notice of the proposed action, and is given an opportunity to be heard before the Board. All charges must be supported by an affidavit.

Section 7 Any member failing to pay his dues within sixty days after the prescribed time shall be notified by the Secretary-Treasurer in writing by a letter forwarded to his last know address, and if said dues are not paid on or before thirty days of such notification, said membership shall automatically cease and the combination to the cabin shall be returned.

Section 8 Any former member who has become delinquent and has been dropped may be reinstated provided he makes application and be elected as a new member. Unless waived by the Board of Directors, the applicant for reinstatement must pay the initiation fee the same as a new member, if applicable.

Section 9 Any member whose connection with this club shall be severed by resignation, death, expulsion, or otherwise, shall forfeit all interest in any fund or property belonging to the club.

Section 10 The annual dues of all members shall be determined by the club and may be changed as warranted by majority vote of those present at a regular meeting following a fourteen day notification of the change proposal. Dues are payable in advance on or before the first day of January each year. Annual dues increases may be voted on and announced at the November meeting.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **MEETINGS**

Section 1 Regular meetings of the Athens Fish & Game Club Inc shall be held at the cabin on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The December meeting is designated for the required annual Board meeting.

Section 2 Special meetings of the club may be called at any time by the President or a majority of the Board of Directors, at not less than twenty of the active members, by mailing a written or printed notice stating the time, place, and object of such meeting, at least five days before the time of such meeting.

Section 3 The annual meeting of the Athens Fish & Game Club Inc shall be held on the third Thursday of January of each year.

Section 4 Ten active members who are in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the club.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **OFFICERS**

Section 1 The officers of this club shall be elected to hold office for the term of one year and until their respective successors are elected and qualified.

Section 2 Only active members shall be eligible to hold office.

Section 3 The President It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the club, to see that all rules and regulations are strictly enforced and to perform such other duties as pertains to his office. The President shall not vote on issues before the club except that he will be permitted to cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. He shall, by and with the consent of the Board of Directors, execute all contracts for and on behalf of the club, and appoint all necessary committees and define their duties.

Section 4 The Vice-President The Vice President shall, in the absence of the President, perform the duties of the President and such further duties as shall be assigned to him by the Board of Directors or the President. The Vice-President shall serve as chairman of the Board of Directors.

Section 5 The Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the club and the Board of Directors. He shall have custody of all records, leases, money, bonds, etc. belonging to the club, conduct all correspondence of the club, collect all dues and funds due the club and give receipts therefore. He shall pay all orders when approved by the Board of Directors or by the President. He shall keep a correct account of all moneys received and disbursements made, and make a complete report of the same annually at the meeting in January of each year. The Secretary-Treasurer shall give bond in amount and form as the club may require, the cost of such bond to be paid by the club. He shall receive such compensation as the Board of Directors may fix. Upon his retirement from office, he shall turn over to his successor all funds and records in his possession belonging to the club.

Section 6 The duties of all other officers and agents shall be such as are determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 7 The Directors of the Club may at any time by a majority vote ask for, demand, receive and accept the resignation of any officer or employee of this club, and upon his or their refusal to tender such resignation or resigning, the majority of said Board may dismiss him from office, declare said office vacant and elect his successor.

Section 8 If a vacancy occurs during the year, in any one or more of the offices named, for any reason, the Board of Directors, at any regular or special meeting, may elect a successor or successors, who shall hold for the unexpired term in respect of which such vacancy occurred.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **COMMITTEES**

The President, with the consent and approval of the Board of Directors shall appoint such standing and special committees as the Board of Directors shall direct. The President shall

annually appoint a Membership Standing Committee, composed of three members in good standing, whose function shall be to review and investigate the application of all prospective members for the purpose of forwarding the application to the membership with a recommendation for acceptance or non-acceptance.

The President shall be an ex-officio member, without vote, on all committees.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **FINANCES**

Section 1 The fiscal year of the club shall begin on the first day of January and end on the thirty-first day of December of each year.

Section 2 All funds of the club shall be deposited by the Secretary-Treasurer, or upon his order, in the name of the club, in such bank or banks as may be designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 3 All disbursements shall be by check, signed by such persons as the Board of Directors may designate.

Section 4 A thorough audit may be made each year by the Board of Directors and a report submitted at the annual meeting in January.

Section 5 The President may approve any expenditure up to \$250.00. Any expenditure of over \$250.00 for other than maintenance or current expenses shall first have the approval of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may approve expenditures up to \$500.00 without a vote of the members.

Section 6 No member shall incur indebtedness on behalf of the club without appropriate approval by the Board of the membership.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

Section 1 At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors held in May of each year, there shall be appointed a Nominating Committee of at least three members of the club, none of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors. This committee shall nominate a slate of candidates for officers and the Board of Directors to be voted on at the August meeting. The slate so nominated shall be placed in the hands of the Secretary-Treasurer so that the slate can be made known to the members at the July meeting.

Section 2 The annual election of officers and Directors shall be held at the August meeting. Nominations of candidates for any office in addition to those nominated by the Nominating Committee may be made from the floor.

Section 3 The installation of officers and directors shall take place at the September meeting.

## **ARTICLE VII**

Rules for control and governance of the club property and its members when thereon shall be appended to these By-Laws and become a part thereof. They may be altered, changed, added to, or deleted, in the same manner as the By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### RULES

Section 1 The latest edition of *Roberts' Manual of Parliamentary Rules* shall govern all proceedings of the club and all meetings of its Board and committees, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution or By-Laws.

Section 2 No contributions shall be solicited at any meeting or the club unless authorized by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the members or at a special meeting called for that purpose, by a majority vote, provided that the proposed changes are posted and announced at the previous club meeting and posted on the website 14 days before such meeting.

# RULES

## FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

1. All members and their families are entitled to the free use of the lake, grounds, Camp and facilities.
2. Each member is entitled to the Club combination which must be returned if membership is terminated.
3. There will be no intoxicating liquor or beer use on the club property.
4. There shall be no fires built outside the Camp except in regular places provided.
5. None of the regular equipment (dishes, tools, silver or cooking equipment) shall be removed from the building(s).
6. Responsible groups wishing to use the Camp may make such requests to the Secretary-Treasurer in writing as far in advance as possible. The Secretary-Treasurer shall refer all such requests for use of the Camp and grounds to the Board of Directors for final decision. Groups must be properly supervised and sponsored by a member in attendance at all times. Permission may be granted for the time period necessary to conduct the activity scheduled and approved by the Board. **Use of the lake is not included.** Building(s) and grounds are to be policed and left in good order. If possible, fire wood used shall be replaced.
7. Any member or group using the Camp shall dispose of trash and garbage and leave the kitchen and Camp in good condition. Fires should be guarded, lights turned out, and all doors, windows and the gate carefully locked.
8. If more than one group or member is using the facilities at the same time, proper consideration and courtesy shall be extended.
9. The shooting ranges may be closed down and cordoned off as safety requires when other events are being held and as designated by the President or the Board of Directors.

## **FISHING**

1. Any member of a member's immediate family may fish in the lake. Members may. Invite prospective members to fish and may take guests fishing *occasionally*. Any non-member must be accompanied by a member in good standing when fishing. It is hoped that this regulation will not be abused.
2. No license is required my members or their families to fish in the lake.
3. There is no bag limit and no size limit on bluegills. No bass or catfish under 10 inches shall be kept. No more than 10 bass or catfish may be taken in one day.
4. The use of outboard motors on the lake is prohibited.
5. In order to prevent rough fish from becoming established in the lake, no minnows are to be released in the lake.
6. For safety reasons, children must not be allowed to fish unless accompanied by a parent or responsible member of the club.

## **LAKE AND BOATS**

**For safety reasons, the following rules must be observed at all times!**

1. There will be no swimming permitted in the lake.
2. The number of persons per boat shall be limited to 3.
3. Children under 14 years of age must be accompanied by a parent of responsible adult.
4. Children under 14 should wear life jackets when in the boats. Unattended children shall not be permitted to play along the banks of the lake as the banks are steep and slippery.
5. Courtesy shall be exercised in the use of the boats. One family should not expect to have the use of more than one boat if other members are waiting to use the boats.
6. Boats must be tied up and locked when members are finished with them.
7. Oars must be kept in the Cabin or shed.

## **HUNTING AND FIREARMS**

1. Any member is permitted to hunt on club property subject to State regulations as to bag limit and open season.

## **SHOOTING RANGE RULES**

1. DO NOT SHOOT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS!
2. Belligerent violation of safety rules will be reviewed by club officers and could lead to expulsion from the club.
3. Shooters must complete all columns of the sign-in sheet.
4. Loaded firearms pointed down range at all times.
5. Actions open, unloaded or firearms cased until ready to use.
6. Red flag must be displayed while range is in use.
7. Eye and ear protection strongly recommended.
8. Do not handle firearms while others are down range.
9. Shoot into designated target area only (blue pointed lines) and only at paper targets.
10. Shooter must display or present membership ID upon request from any member.
11. Range for use by members or guests accompanied by members (members are responsible for their guests).
12. Shooters must police their targets and brass, etc.
13. No full automatic firearms.
14. Place targets as perpendicular to your shooting location as possible (no cross range shooting).
15. Hunter Education Course highly recommended prior to any shooting (children and adults).
16. Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.
17. Shooting a center fire or high powered rifle on the 25-yard pistol range at the metal targets is prohibited.

## **ARCHERY RANGE RULES**

1. DO NOT SHOOT UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS!
2. Always be sure of your target and beyond.
3. Watch for obstacles that could cause deflections.
4. Do not nock arrows until ready to shoot.
5. Never shoot an arrow straight up.
6. Blunts or broad heads should not be used in targets.
7. When looking for lost arrows behind a target leave bow leaning against target or leave one of your group standing in front of the range.
8. Stay on the paths and follow the proper layout of targets.
9. Never point a drawn bow at a person.
10. Shooters must police their targets.