

# *Delaware River Fishermen's Association*



## *Constitution and Bylaws*

### **ARTICLE I - Mission Statement**

The Delaware River Fishermen's Association has only one goal and that goal is its mission. To provide an organization that promotes enjoyment through fishing and fishing-related activities; to nurture comradeship through friendly association; to improve the skills of members through mutual sharing of information, fish catching techniques and educational programs; to provide a forum for friendly competition through Club tournaments; to provide an organizational structure that governs this body. The Delaware River Fishermen's Association, in this document, will be also referred to as the Club.

### **ARTICLE II - Officers**

In order to preserve and protect its mission, final authority and control of the Club shall be vested in its Board of Officers. This Board shall consist of five Club members. The Board of Officers shall meet as often as necessary to conduct the business of the Club.

### **ARTICLE III - Membership**

#### **Section 1: Number and Age of Members**

The Club shall consist of at least five members. Membership will be open to all, without regard to race, creed, color or gender. The minimum age for membership will be sixteen years. Any person under this age can gain membership through the Family Membership Plan. All members under the age of sixteen must fish with an adult in all Club tournaments.

#### **Section 2: Membership Plans**

The Annual membership to the Club consists of the following types:

- (a) Individual - Any person at least sixteen years old.
- (b) Family Plan - Family members will include any member of the immediate family residing at that home. This plan also includes any children, up to the age of sixteen years, no matter where they live. Grandchildren up to the age of sixteen years also qualify, no matter where they live.
- (c) Participating Club - A reciprocal agreement between the Club and another fishing association, which allows two members from each organization to participate in the

other's tournaments.

(d) Supporting Business - A sponsorship agreement that allows a business to associate with the Club for advertising purposes. Two representatives from that business may enter a Club tournament.

### **Section 3: Requirements for Membership**

To become a member, a person shall:

(a) Voluntarily express an interest in membership.

(b) Fill out a membership application and commit to the Club's mission.

(c) Agree to abide by the Constitution, By-Laws and Tournament Regulations.

### **Section 4: Continued Membership**

Membership in the Club shall continue unless said member:

(a) Fails to pay in full, all dues, assessments or other liabilities.

(b) Fails to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner or acts in a manner that would reflect dishonor on the Club.

The Board of Officers expressly reserves the right to review circumstances of any such matter brought to its attention. After appropriate investigation and/or discussion with the member(s) involved, the Board will determine the action to be taken, if any, up to and including cancellation of membership.

### **Section 5: Membership Dues - Annual**

The Board of Officers shall fix the annual membership dues. All membership dues shall be used for the benefit of the Club and support of its mission, not its individual members or Officers. Annual dues are payable by March 1 or upon being admitted to the club.

## **ARTICLE IV - Officers, Treasury, Elections, Term of Office, Vacancies and Fiscal Year**

### **Section 1: The Five Officers and Their Duties**

The Officers of the Club shall be President, Vice President /Tournament Director, Membership Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer. The Board of Officers shall determine the duties of each office. Furthermore, in the event of a vacancy caused by;

(a) the inability or choice of an Officer not to continue to serve or

(b) upon the determination that the Officer is not serving in the best interest of the Club or

(c) objectives of the Club are not being met, the vacancy shall be filled by a vote of the remaining Board of Officers with the advice of the Membership.

### **Section 2: The Club Treasury**

The Treasurer will make available the latest bank statement at least three times a year;

(a) at the January, May and September regular monthly meeting or

(b) upon request of the Membership.

### **Section 3: Nominations and Elections**

Any nominations for an elected office will be submitted at the November membership meeting. Elections will take place at the December meeting.

### **Section 4: Term of Office**

The term of office for all Officers will be one year, beginning January 1.

### **Section 5: Vacancies**

In the event an office becomes vacant, the Board of Officers, with the consent of the Membership, will appoint a member to serve the remainder of the term of said Officer.

### **Section 6: Fiscal Year**

The Fiscal year shall be the Calendar year beginning January 1 and ending on December 31.

## **ARTICLE V - Special Assessments**

From time to time, and upon review of the financial status of the club, the Board of Officers, with the consent of the membership, may levy a special assessment of the club members, to meet the goals of the club and to continue such operations of the Club, as the membership deems necessary.

## **ARTICLE VI - Policies and Procedures**

The Board of Officers, with the advice and support of the members, may establish such policies and procedures necessary to fulfill the mission of the Club.

## **ARTICLE VII - Method of Amending Constitution and By-Laws**

The Board of Officers, with the advice of the Members, may amend the Constitution, By-Laws or Tournament Rules. Member initiatives regarding changes in By-Laws or Tournament Rules will be permitted and must take the following form and procedure:

- (a) All proposals for changes to the By-Laws or Tournament Rules must be submitted to the Board of Officers at or before the November meeting,
- (b) All proposals submitted to the Board will be discussed by the Board Officers and Membership at the November monthly meeting.
- (c) If a proposal for change is acceptable to the Membership, the proposal will be posted on the Club website and published in the December newsletter in the form of a final motion, along with any other initiatives that had been previously considered and approved by the Membership.
- (d) All proposals will be voted on by the Membership at the regular monthly meeting in December.
- (e) If the proposed change or addition is accepted by the Membership, it will become part and parcel of the Club Constitution and By-Laws or Tournament Rules on January 1 of the next Calendar year