

# **By-Laws of the O'Fallon Sportsmen's Club**

Effective Date: August 2018

## **Conservation Pledge**

I give my pledge to save and faithfully conserve the natural resources and wildlife of my country.

### **Article I** **Name**

Section 1. The name of this organization is:

"The O'Fallon Sportsmen's Club, Inc."

Section 2. The mailing address of this organization is:

P.O. Box 1531

O'Fallon, IL 62269

The physical address of this organization is:

1024 Scott Troy Road

Lebanon, IL 62254

Section 3. The website for this organization is:

<http://www.ofallonsportsmensclub.com>

### **Article II** **Purpose**

Section 1. The conservation, propagation and restoration of all forms of wildlife and natural resources.

Section 2. To promote and uphold high standards of sportsmanship in hunting, fishing and general outdoor activities amongst our members and community.

Section 3. To cooperate with all duly constituted authorities in the enforcement of the Illinois Fish and Aquatic Life Code and the Illinois Wildlife Code.

### **Article III** **Membership**

Section 1. Any person 18 years of age or older interested in hunting, fishing or the conservation and restoration of our natural resources, wishing to become a member of The O'Fallon Sportsmen's Club Inc., will request an application from any member or from the Club website. Membership initiation will be conducted at regular general membership meetings with initiation fee and membership dues. The initiation fee is \$25.00. Dues are \$50.00 per year. Those wishing to join at or after the annual meat shoot in October can pay the \$25.00 initiation fee and \$50.00 dues and will become a member for the remainder of that year as well as dues paid in full for the whole next year. A member that leaves the Club in good standing and decides to return at a later date will not be charged the initiation fee.

Section 2. A spouse of a member shall have all of the privileges of a member, except the right to vote. Membership includes member, spouse, and children or grandchildren under 18 years old. The spouse must carry the member's card while using the Club grounds when unaccompanied by the member.

Section 3. Membership dues are due and payable by February 15<sup>th</sup> each year. Those not renewed by this date will receive a reminder card and have a grace period until March 31<sup>st</sup>. Any member in arrears of dues or assessments shall be dropped from the organization.

Section 4. Current members in good standing for the five consecutive years previous to becoming the age of 65

years old or older, will, upon notification to the Club be issued a lifetime membership card (Gold Card, no dues required). Members joining after January 1, 2011, shall be a member in good standing for the ten (10) consecutive years previous to becoming the age of 65 years old or older before being issued a lifetime membership card (Gold Card, no dues required). The spouse of a deceased Gold Card member will become the primary member. The spouse of a Regular member will become the primary member for the remainder of the current calendar year.

Section 5. Membership shall be limited to five hundred (500) members, excluding lifetime members.

Section 6. Officers shall receive free membership while they serve.

Section 7. New members will be required to work in support of the annual Meat Shoot or chili cook-off (a minimum of 8 hours) and one other Club function during the first year of membership. Those who can't work the meat shoot or chili cook-off have to work two work parties and one other Club function. If this is not done, and if the new member desires to stay a member, that member will be charged annual dues and be required to work the same as a brand-new member the next year and pay the \$25 initiation fee.

Section 8. No member shall be suspended for non-payment while deployed in the military service of the United States of America. All dues of any member deployed in the military service are to be automatically waived. Upon that person's return from military service, he/she shall be given a paid-up membership card to the end of the current year.

Section 9. Members must carry their membership card while on Club property.

#### **Article IV** **Officers**

Section 1. The Officers of this organization shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and six (6) Directors.

Section 2. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Secretary shall be elected annually to hold office during the following calendar year. No person, except the treasurer, shall hold any single afore mentioned office for more than 4 consecutive years. Due to the duties of the treasurer and expertise required the treasurer can hold the position as long as elected. Two (2) Directors shall be elected annually for three (3) year terms. No person shall hold more than one elected office at the same time. Any elected official, except the President, after serving five completed elected terms will receive a Gold membership.

Section 3. Elections will be held at the December general membership meeting with installation in January.

Section 4. All Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present.

Section 5. The President shall preside over all regular and special meetings. The President shall only vote in case of a tie vote. The President shall perform such duties as are usually incident to the office. Any vacancy of any office from death, resignation or removal shall be filled by appointment of the President to serve until the next regular election for that office. If the office of President is vacated, then the Vice President will become President and appoint a new Vice President. If the President completes his or her full four-year term shall receive a Gold Membership card.

Section 6. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the President.

Section 7. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all regular and special general membership meetings. The secretary shall be responsible for publicizing all special meetings and all special events. Additionally, the Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence of the Club and shall ensure that all notices are given in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws.

Section 8. The Membership Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the membership. The Membership Secretary shall receive dues, initiation fees and assessments. All monies received shall either be turned over to the Treasurer or deposited into the Club account within seven (7) days of receipt and reported to the Treasurer within twenty-one (21) days.

Section 9. The Treasurer shall keep a full and accurate account of all receipts, disbursements and deposits of all monies. The Treasurer shall pay all bills when due, but only when such bills are approved at a general membership meeting, except recurring expenses for meetings, correspondence, utilities, which shall be paid without a vote of the membership. At each general membership meeting, the Treasurer shall make a detailed written report of receipts and disbursements incurred since the previous report. The majority of the membership shall approve such reports. All Club checks written shall be signed by two (2) of the following Officers: President; Vice President; Treasurer, or Secretary.

Section 10. Appointed Officers:

Lake Chairman: The purpose of the Lake Chairman is to maintain the lakes and surrounding areas and to keep the lakes stocked.

Archery Range Chairman: The purpose of the Archery Range Chairman is to maintain the archery

range, it's procedures and surrounding area.

Section 11. The Officers shall be the custodians of all Club property.

Section 12. If an Officer misses more than three (3) general membership and/or Officers meetings during one (1) calendar year without an excused absence, that Officer will forfeit his/her office. The other Officers shall determine if the absences are excused or not at the Board meeting following the absences. The Board will make a recommendation to the membership to decide, by majority vote, if the Office shall be vacated.

### **Article V** **Meetings**

Section 1. This Club shall hold its regular general membership meeting at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month.

Section 2. Officers meetings shall be held at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month.

Section 3. All general meetings and Officers meetings shall be held at the clubhouse unless authorized by a majority of Officers.

Section 4. Twenty-five (25) members shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special general membership meeting. Five (5) Officers shall constitute a quorum for any Officers meeting.

Section 5. The President of the Club may call a special general membership meeting or special board meeting any time he/she deems necessary.

Section 6. All notices required to be sent to the members shall be sent by regular mail to the members' latest mailing address on record with the Club or e-mail address, if available, and posted on the Club website and Facebook.

### **Article VI** **Management**

Section 1. The management of this Club shall be entrusted to the Officers.

Section 2. The fiscal year of the Club shall begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> and end December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Section 3. The President shall appoint all committee chairpersons. The chairperson shall select members to serve on a committee. No committee shall have the authority to take final action upon any matter without reporting to the board.

Section 4. All Club books and records shall be available for inspection by any member upon ten (10) days written or e-mail request to the President.

### **Article VII** **Club Rules**

Section 1. Swimming, skating, ice fishing, boating, kayaking, the use of waders and float tubes, and sledding are prohibited on the Club grounds.

Section 2. No dogs, except service dogs, are allowed at the Club grounds.

Section 3. Firearms are prohibited on the Club grounds unless authorized by the Officers.

Section 4. Primitive camping is only allowed at the designated camp sites.

Section 5. Conservation and control of wildlife populations on the Club grounds will be controlled at the direction of and as determined by a majority of the Officers.

Section 6. Before a permit to use the Club grounds can be issued to a club or organization, they shall send a representative to a regular Club meeting and must be approved by the majority of the membership present. No club or organization shall be issued permits for legal holidays for use of the Club grounds to include holiday weekends at the discretion of the board members and officers (subject to availability to unlock/lock the clubhouse). A charge may be made to the organization for the use of the grounds and will be determined by the Officers. The President will issue all permits.

Section 7. The Club grounds may be reserved by members only on a first-come first-serve basis by requesting this at an Officers meeting prior to date requested. This then must be approved by majority vote of those present at the next general membership meeting. If a member and an outside organization request use of

- the grounds at the same meeting, the member shall receive the permit.
- Section 8. No club member may use the Club for personal monetary benefits.
- Section 9. There shall be no smoking in the clubhouse.
- Section 10. All maintenance equipment has right of way at all times.
- Section 11. No planting or removing trees or shrubs without board approval.
- Section 12. No club rental on holiday weekends when the legal holiday is a Friday or Monday.
- Section 13. Anyone caught tampering with the fish feeders will lose fishing privileges for the remainder of the calendar year.
- Section 14. Adding Christmas trees, brush or fish attracting devices to lakes or cutting trees/brush to the lakes by the general membership is prohibited.

## **Article VIII** **Fishing**

- Section 1. Fishing licenses are required in accordance with State of Illinois regulations.
- Section 2. Fishing is permitted only with rod and reel, or pole and line. Each combination shall not exceed two (2) hooks. Only two (2) rods or poles may be used.
- Section 3. The use of goldfish as bait and all illegal devices (traps, nets, etc.) are prohibited.
- Section 4. No cleaning of fish on the Club grounds.
- Section 5. No fishing is allowed during general membership meetings between 7:00 – 8:30 PM. No fishing is permitted while Meat Shoot and special event activities, approved by the membership, are in progress.
- Section 6. Members may purchase 1 day guest tickets for one time use at general membership meeting or officer at a price to be determined by the Club membership.
- Guests must be accompanied by a card-carrying member at all times.
  - Guest card must have the guest's name, address and the date clearly printed on the back of the card.
  - Guest must carry a picture ID.
  - Guest cards will be left in the annotated container in the fish log mailbox.
  - Only the member's limit of fish may be kept when hosting a guest.
- Section 7. **LIMITS**
- NO more than four (4) BASS (**Minimum length 14 inches**) per day.
  - NO more than four (4) CATFISH per day.
  - NO more than ten (10) CRAPPIE (**Minimum length 10 inches**) per day.
  - NO more than fifteen (15) BLUEGILL (**Minimum length 6 inches**) per day.
  - **NO CULLING**
  - **PLEASE LOG FISH CAUGHT (either in mailbox at the gate or mailbox on picnic table)**

### **NO LIMITS**

CARP, except ISRAELI GRASS CARP

- Section 8. Anyone removing and/or displacing any Israeli carp from the Club Lakes will be fined \$25.00 and subject to appropriate discipline as determined by the general membership according to Article IX herein.

## **Article IX** **Violation Procedures**

Any member observing a violation of the Club rules and regulations shall present an account of the violation in writing to the Officers at the next Officers meeting. If the Officers have reason to believe a violation of the rules has occurred, the Secretary will send a registered letter to the member committing the alleged violation requesting that he/she appear at the next Officers meeting to explain the circumstances. If after receiving the accused member's explanation, the Officers still have reason to believe a violation has occurred, the accused member will be instructed to attend the next general membership meeting. At the next general membership meeting, both the complaining member and the accused member shall present their views to the general membership. A discussion and vote by the membership present will be taken in the absence of both parties to determine the status of the accused member. A majority vote of the members present will determine if a violation has occurred. If it is determined a violation has occurred the membership shall, at the same meeting, decide the appropriate action to be taken.

**Article X**  
**O'Fallon Sportsmen's Club Dissolution**

In the event of closure of the O'Fallon Sportsmen's Club all assets will be given to the Local Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

**Article XI**  
**By-Laws Annual Review**

The By-Laws shall be reviewed each calendar year by a By-Laws Committee appointed at the general membership meeting in April. Members shall submit amendment proposals in writing to the committee by May 31<sup>st</sup> if they wish to change or add a By-Law. All motions to change the amendments or to make additions to these By-Laws will be read at two separate meetings before the Chair will make a motion for approval of any changes during the July general membership meeting. The By-Laws may be amended by no less than two-thirds vote of the members present at the meeting. All By-Law changes become effective upon adjournment of the August general membership meeting. Changes will be posted to the OFSC website and Facebook.

**Article XII**  
**Farm Contract**

The farm contract shall be renewed in October in the year the contract expires. Sealed bids will be accepted and opened at the Board meeting in October. A recommendation will be made to the membership and then a contract will be awarded by vote of the membership. A new contract will be awarded every 2 years.

**Article XIII**  
**Hall Rental**

With the approval of the membership the Sportsmen's Hall may be rented by a member for a fee set by the Board. A contract detailing the expectations of the renter will be signed by the member reserving the hall.

**Article XIV**  
**Archery Range**

- Section 1. The archery range (here after referred to as the “range”) is for the use of active members of the O’Fallon Sportsmen’s Club.
- Section 2. Range use procedures will be provided to members at the time they complete their safety and usage briefing.
- Section 3. Prior to using the range for the purpose of shooting, a member must complete the range safety and usage briefing, sign and date indicating completion and understanding of the briefing. The record of completion will be maintained on file. Any future updates to the range safety and usage briefing will be at the discretion of the Range Committee.
- Section 4. The Range Committee Chairman will solicit volunteers from the general membership to serve on the Range Committee.
- Section 5. The range building may be used as a pavilion for activities other than shooting. The procedures for reserving the range building for activities other than shooting will be the same used to reserve other pavilions on the Sportsmen’s Club grounds.

**Article XV**

## **Scouts**

- Section 1. Every scout group must have at least one scout parent join as a club member and have a club member from their group present during any scout activity.
- Section 2. All fishing done at scout activities must be catch and release and within the reserved time.
- Section 3. All scout activities must be pre-approved and documented on the club reservation board.
- Section 4. Any scout activities must include a pre-planned club improvement activity (i.e. pick up sticks, grounds maintenance, etc.).