



The Radio Control Club of Detroit

Constitution and By-Laws

January 20, 2022

Radio Control Club of Detroit

Affiliated with the Academy of Model Aeronautics
Chapter #368, since 1953

Constitution

Article 1 - Name:

The name of this organization shall be the Radio Control Club of Detroit.

Article 2 - Purpose:

The Club shall be non-profit, non-partisan and incorporated as such under the laws in the State of Michigan and shall be organized for the pleasure and recreation and other non-profitable purposes of its' membership. The Club shall be chartered by the *Academy of Model Aeronautics*, AMA, and organized for the purpose of:

- Building and operating model aircraft;
- Promoting good sportsmanship among its' members and members of other organizations,
- Promoting the modeling hobby to the community at large through public demonstrations, displays and other means of communication.

Article 3 - Membership:

All persons shall be eligible for membership providing:

- A. The applicant is a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics. Note: The AMA requirement is waived when the person is covered by a reciprocal agreement (e.g. Canadian MAAC). This reciprocal agreement is applicable where ever the AMA requirement is specified in the Constitution, the Bylaws, and the Safety and Field Rules.
- B. The applicant has attended one regular club meeting.
- C. The applicant is 18 years of age or older, or a parent or legal guardian is a member of the club. If the applicant is under 18 years of age, then the parent or legal guardian must sign a consent form to assume full responsibility for the applicant. The consent form will also allow the applicant to participate in all club activities.
- D. The applicant must understand and abide by the RCCD constitution, RCCD Safety & Field Rules, and all AMA (Academy of Model Aeronautics) regulations.
- E. Any waiver of the above requirements must be obtained from the membership committee.

To become a member an applicant must:

- A. Make an application in writing to the membership.
- B. Be approved by two-thirds vote at a regularly scheduled club meeting.
- C. Remit the initiation fee and other financial obligations to the club treasurer.

Types of membership:

- A. Senior active members are those 18 years or older, duly elected into membership in good standing, with club financial obligations not in arrears.
- B. Junior members are those under 18 years of age, duly elected into membership in good standing, with club financial obligations not in arrears. All junior members must have a parent or legal guardian and a senior member from RCCD with a pilot status present while flying at the RCCD field.
- C. Honorary members are those so appointed by the membership. They shall have no financial obligations or voting privileges. Honorary members using the club flying facilities must be a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics.
- D. Life members are those who, because of outstanding service to the club, are nominated by the president or membership committee and approved by the membership. Life members shall be exempt from paying dues however, they will remain responsible for any special assessments. Any life members wanting to use the fly facilities will need to fill out a current application form and have it approved to be able to use the facilities. Any Life members using the flying facilities must be a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics.
As of 2022 all life members that will be using the flying facilities are being requested to contribute the current yearly dues to allow the club to operate, they will be under no obligation to pay yearly due to use the facilities.
- E. Temporary members are those who seek a place to fly for a limited time. Members are duly elected into membership and in good standing, with club financial obligations not in arrears, and must be a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics. Temporary membership will only be allowed once for a period of 30 days. After 30 days the member may seek a permanent membership with RCCD. For permanent membership application the member must follow all of the procedures for a new applicant. Note: see Bylaws article 3, section 9.

Article 4 - Termination of membership:

Membership may be terminated by;

- A. The member's own request.
- B. Allowing club financial obligations to become in arrears.
- C. Request of the club, as a result of a two-thirds vote at a regularly scheduled meeting, provided subject member has had an opportunity to plead their case.

Article 5 - Reinstatement of membership:

A member whose membership has lapsed or been terminated for any reason must be voted into the club as a new member, with full payment of obligations.

Article 6 – Officers:

The officers of the club shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. The term of office shall be one year. Any vacancy in office will be filled by election at the regular meeting following the occurrence of such vacancy.

The duties of the office shall be:

- A. **President:** The President is the senior officer of the club and shall preside at all club meetings and functions. The President shall establish and appoint all committees. The President shall have the power to convene special meetings of the club at such times as the President deems necessary. Only the President shall have the power to make legal contracts in the name of the club, subject to the approval of a two-thirds vote at a regularly scheduled meeting of the club. In the event the President, because of circumstance, cannot legally sign contracts, the assignment of power shall fall on the next officer in line who meets the legal requirements. If none of the elected officers meet these qualifications, the membership may elect a qualified member to act in their stead.
- B. **Vice-President:** The Vice-President shall act in the capacity of an assistant President, and shall assume the duties of any club officer during an absence. He shall maintain a program for the education and training of new members in flight proficiency.
- C. **Secretary:** The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the attendance and minutes of each meeting. The Secretary shall be responsible for all club correspondence, and for club contest records.
- D. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting and recording all dues, fees and assessments levied by the club. The Treasurer shall have the sole authority to write checks (countersigned by an authorized club officer) and make bank deposits for the club. The Treasurer is authorized to receive contributions, grants, donations, or bequests from any individuals, institutions or estates, and hold same in the name of the club, to be used for either endowment purposes or operating expenses. The Treasurer is responsible for meeting all financial obligations of the club from club funds. The Treasurer shall make a financial report to the membership at least once per month. The Treasurer is responsible for notifying members of delinquent dues. The Treasurer shall be bonded and the bonding fee paid for by the club.

Article 7 - Election of officers:

Nominees for office must have been a member for a period of one year preceding the date of the election.

The election of officers shall take place at the first regularly scheduled meeting in December.

The club officers shall officially assume office the first meeting in January.

The election shall be by a plurality vote. In case of a tie, a run-off election shall be held.

Election of officers will be by written ballot.

Nominations will commence three months prior to election.

In the event of only one nominee per office, the chair may declare those nominees are thereby elected by acclamation.

Article 8 - Committees:

The club shall have the following committees:

The **Executive Committee** is composed of the officers of the club. It shall meet as needed to plan policies and make recommendations to the membership. It can also rule upon applications for membership that request a waiver of eligibility requirements and make recommendations to the membership. It shall investigate and recommend action on delinquent members.

The **Audit Committee** shall review and audit the treasurer's books and records each year and report to the membership. This audit shall take place as soon after elections as possible. The committee shall consist of the incoming and outgoing treasurer and at least two members other than officers. The audit shall be announced to the general membership, and any members who wish to attend this audit may do so.

The **Membership Committee** shall consist of two club members. They shall be responsible for the collection of dues and for confirmation that prospective members have a current AMA card. They will submit the completed paperwork and monies collected to the treasurer at the end of the meeting.

Article 9- Voting:

Only active and life members are permitted to vote.

Voting on all club business (including financial matters) shall require a simple majority at a regular scheduled meeting, except for constitutional amendments.

Article 10 - Amendments:

Amendments to the constitution may be made at any regularly scheduled meeting, provided that a reasonable attempt has been made by written notice to notify all members one month in advance. A two-thirds vote of the members present at the meeting is required for ratification of the amendment.

Article 11 - Business:

The recommended order of business shall be:

- A. Reading of the minutes.
- B. Treasurer's report.
- C. Introduction and the voting of new applicants for membership.
- D. Committee reports.
- E. Old business.
- F. New business.
- G. Showing of projects of members.
- H. Adjournment.

Business once acted upon is considered final. A two-thirds vote of the members present is required to re-open a previous item of business.

Collection of funds where possible, shall be made before the meeting opens or after adjournment.

Bylaws

Article 1 - Policies:

- A. The Bylaws listed herein are considered to be items of major policy. Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regularly scheduled meeting, provided that a reasonable attempt has been made to notify all members, one meeting prior of the pending vote to amend the Bylaws. A majority vote of the members present is required for ratification of the amendment.
- B. Changes to the club safety and field rules may be made at any regularly scheduled meeting, provided that a reasonable attempt has been made to notify all members, one meeting prior of the pending vote to amend the rules. A majority vote of the members present is required for ratification of the rule changes.
- C. The club shall develop, operate and maintain the flying field located within the Wetzel State Recreation Area in accordance with the lease agreement between the State of Michigan (DNR) and the club, during the time this lease is in effect.
- D. Grievance & Corrective Action – Policy and Procedures:
This four-tier policy is a response to blatant and/or repetitive violations of club rules. Any club member can report a violation (in writing) to the Executive Committee of the club (or appointed Committee). The Executive Committee will investigate all complaints and determine what or if any corrective action is warranted, including retraining and/or utilizing tiers one through four. This is a formal, constructive tool for the club to use in order to avoid escalating and dangerous situations that could lead to serious problems, injuries and/or the loss of our flying field.

Tier One

A member of the Executive Committee will speak to the individual member and identify strategies to remedy the issue.

Tier Two

If a further complaint is reported to the Executive Committee within a year, the individual member's flying privileges may be suspended for up to a month.

Tier Three

If a third complaint is reported to the Executive Committee within a year from the date of the last incident, the individual member's flying privileges may be suspended for up to a year.

Tier Four

If an individual violates the suspensions in either tier two or tier three, the individual may be expelled from the club.

A written letter documenting violation of any tier of the disciplinary procedure will be sent to the individual member after verbal notification.

Any member receiving a Grievance, who directs any retaliation, will be subject to immediate expulsion from the club. This is to include threats, intimidations, physical harm, intentional equipment damage or any other action deemed retaliatory by the club.

Article 2 - Meetings:

Regular meetings of the club shall be held at least once a month.

Quorum: 10% of the membership counted on March 31 shall constitute a quorum.

The parliamentary authority shall be the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order and shall be the reference for anything not covered in the constitution or bylaws.

Article 3 - Financial obligations:

Section 1.

Initiation fee *as defined on the current Application Form* will be assessed to all new members joining the club. *As of this amendment the initiation fee is \$50.*

1. Any former members, upon rejoining the club, will be subject to the initiation fee and article 5 of the constitution.
2. Any “Junior members” not covered by a Senior member will not be subject to the initiation fee.

Section 2.

Regular dues *as defined on the Current Application Form* will be assessed yearly. *As of the date of this amendment the dues are \$100/yr.*

1. All members are requested to perform 10 (ten) hours of work for the benefit of the club. Exemptions may be made by a member of the membership committee, or any member of the Executive Board.
2. During the year any person holding an officer position will have the benefit of 50% dues reduction, if requested.
3. “Junior members” not covered by a Senior member, shall pay the reduced rate of 25% of the Regular Dues Rate rounded to the nearest \$5 increment until they reach the age of 18. All other financial obligations will still apply.
4. At the first meeting in November, the membership will determine the dues structure for the following year with a 2/3 vote of a quorum in attendance. An attempt will be made to give notice of this meeting to allow members to be present for discussion, but is not required.

Section 3.

Special Assessments shall only be assessed for expenses for a specific reason or item, unexpected and/or emergency in nature, for a specified length of time, and not covered in the projected budget. If during the year the expenses outweighs revenue a “Special Dues Assessment” may be required, it will be handled under this section. A vote for a special assessment shall be made at any regularly scheduled meeting, provided that a reasonable attempt has been made to notify all members, one meeting prior of the pending vote of the assessment. A majority vote of the members present is required for ratification of the assessment.

All financial obligations are assessed on a per family basis. If more than one person in a family household belongs to the club, the financial obligations fall only on the senior member of the household. If the only member of a household is a junior member, then this member is responsible for all of the financial obligations.

All Special assessments obligation will be due within 30 days or as defined in the special assessment. Special assessment as will need to be paid as required to be able to fly.

Section 4.

Financial obligations are due on the first meeting on November of each year, and are payable through January 31. A member is considered delinquent if their obligations are not paid by January 31 and their membership is automatically suspended. A member has until March 1 to meet their financial obligations. After March 1, membership is automatically terminated.

Section 5.

Members must show proof of their current membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics before their membership can take effect. Members paying financial obligations without proof of such membership will not be presented with their club membership card until such proof is presented to the club treasurer. No person shall fly an aircraft at the club facilities without a current membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics. No club member shall use facilities unless all current financial obligations are met.

Section 6.

New members joining prior to the first meeting in August shall pay the full years dues. Those joining at the first meeting in August or any time during the balance of the year shall pay one half of the dues for that year. Dues paid on or after the first meeting in November will be applied to the following year's dues.

Section 7.

The officers of the club still be liable for all special assessments.

Section 8. Empty

Section 9.

Temporary members will be assessed \$30.00 for a onetime period of 30 days. After which, if the temporary member decides to have a one-year membership, then this member will be obligated to pay all initiation fees, regular dues, and any other financial obligations as stated above in article 3 (financial obligations).

Section 10.

Guests are limited to three (3) visits per year to use the facilities and must be accompanied by a current member of RCCD. Exceptions to this limitation may be made by any member of the Membership Committee or Executive Board.

Article 4 - Disbursements:

The club's officers may, at their discretion, spend up to \$50.00 each, of club funds in the interim between meetings for the benefit of the club. Any expenditure over this amount must be voted on at a regular club meeting.

Article 5 - Disbandment:

In the event of the disbandment of the club, all assets of the club will be given to a local charity. That charity will be determined at the last club meeting.

Revision History

7-22-2008 Field rules revised regarding quiet flyers.

8-18-2009 Bylaws Article 2:- Wording regarding meetings changed.

5-6-2010 Revised wording stating purpose of the club.

5-6-2010 Added reciprocal agreement.

5-6-2010 Clarified wording in various statements.

5-6-2010 Clarified voting procedure.

5-6-2010 Added requirement for the Treasurer to be bonded.

5-6-2010 Revised procedure to make changes to constitution and bylaws and field and safety rules.

5-6-2010 Added grievance & corrective action policy.

5-6-2010 Clarified special assessment policy.

5-6-2010 Revised dissolution of club assets.

5-6-2010 Renamed RCCD Field Rules to RCCD Safety & Field Rules

5-6-2010 Added emergency procedure to safety & field rules.

5-6-2010 Added chemical impairment policy to safety & field rules.

01-20-2022 Revamped the Bylaws Financial Obligation Section 1&2. Removed life membership after 5 years of being club officer. Added members who serve as an officer of the club shall have their dues reduce by 50% for the year, they are officers. Added the first meeting in November, the membership will decide the dues structure for the following year with a 2/3 vote of a quorum in attendance. Removed the \$5 penalty late fee. Senior discounts removed. Junior are not required to pay initiation fee added.