

WADSWORTH HUNT CLUB CONSITUTION

As of February 2019

ARTICLE I

NAME:

The name of this organization shall be the "Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc."

Section 1 - The club's business/fiscal year will be from the first day of April through the last day in March.

Section 2 - The club's membership year will be from the first day of January through the last day in December.

ARTICLE II

OBJECT:

Section 1 - To correlate the ideas of all members of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. for furtherance of conservation, promote goodwill, protect property rights, propagate game, promote safety, and wise use of natural resources.

Section 2 - To serve as a clearing house and present a united front to all legislative bodies (Local, State, and Federal) and effect legislation but not participate or intervene directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any political candidate for public office.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS:

Section 1 - Farm Member: Each farmer or landowner who leases land to the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. and whose lease is accepted will automatically become a member and shall be known as a "Farm Member" and shall not be liable for the payment of any membership dues.

Section 2 - Sportsman Member: Any person whose name is submitted and accepted and pays annual membership dues as hereinafter provided shall be known as a "Sportsman Member."

Section 3 - Life Member: Any member of the age of sixty five and has been a regular member in good standing, joining the WHC after January 1, 2006, and has paid his/her dues for the previous ten consecutive years will be a member and shall be known as a "Life Member" and shall not be liable for the payment of any membership dues.

Any member in good standing joining the WHC after January 1, 2015 and has paid his/her dues for fifteen (15) consecutive years shall be known as a "Life Member" once they reach age 65 and shall not be liable for the payment of any membership dues.

Section 4 – New Members must attend an orientation prior to receiving the membership identification card and access to club grounds. Prospective members may attend a scheduled orientation prior to submitting their application for membership.

Section 5 - All members shall be considered equal. This includes, but is not limited to:

1. Equal voting rights.
2. Equal access to the Club grounds and facilities.
3. Equal opportunity to participate in all Club activities.
4. Equal right to be elected to and hold any office.

Section 6 – Those regular members 70 years of age or older, and Life Members are exempt from work time requirements.

**ARTICLE IV
DIRECTORS, ALTERNATES, AND OFFICERS:**

Section 1 -

- A. The management of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. shall be vested in a Board of Directors which shall consist of five (5) WHC Officers and six (6) other elected members in good standing. The elected positions will be held for a period of three years and shall hold office until their respective successors are installed, two of whom shall be elected by the membership at the first annual meeting for a term of three years, two for a term for two years, and two for a term of one year. Two alternate Board Members shall be elected at the annual meeting for a term of three years. Alternates may attend and participate in Board meetings but may only exercise voting rights in the absence of a regular Board Member.
- B. Thereafter, two members shall be elected at each annual meeting and shall hold office until their respective successors are elected.
- C. The board of directors shall consist of five (5) officers of the WHC (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Recording Secretary), four (4) club members in good standing, and two farm members.
- D. The board of directors shall select a "Chairman of the Board" at the first annual meeting. The Chairman of the Board shall serve a term of one year, shall preside at all board meetings, set the agenda with the input of the president of the WHC, and distribute the agenda to all board members at least seven (7) days prior to scheduled meetings.
- E. Officers shall be elected to two (2) year terms that are staggered so that only three (3) positions are filled each year. The President, Membership Secretary, and Web master shall be elected in even years; the Vice-President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer in odd numbered years.
- F. Open nominations for officers and board of directors positions will begin at the November membership meeting. Nominations will be closed on the day of the January membership meeting. All candidates must be present when being nominated, or have expressed an interest in writing to the current president. The election of all open positions shall be held at the January meeting.
- G. All voting will be done by secret ballot, and the newly elected installed at the February membership meeting.
- H. In the case of a vacancy among the officers of the club or the Board of Directors for any reason, the remaining Directors, by a vote of the majority thereof, may elect a successor to hold the office for the unexpired term from the proper classification of membership.
- I. In order for the Board of Directors meeting to be official, a quorum (6 members) must be met and a majority vote is necessary. Any decision over \$10,000 shall be decided by 2/3 rd's of the quorum.

Section 2 - The officers shall be a President, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Membership Secretary, a Webpage Administrator, and a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board of Directors from time to time may determine. One individual may serve Secretary and Treasurer. The officers shall be elected by the membership for a term of two years. Officers will be exempt from paying yearly dues.

Section 3 - Duties of the officers are as follows:

- A. The duties of the officers of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. shall be only those accredited to that of presiding officers.

B. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. He/she shall ensure that all legal orders, actions, and resolutions of the Board and membership are properly executed; appoint committee chairs as may be necessary to administer and promote the various programs offered by the club. He/she shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

C. The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President and, upon approval of the Board, schedule the use of grounds by members and/or outside groups.

D. The Recording Secretary shall make and keep a record of all meetings (Board and regular membership), keep and distribute the minutes thereof, have charge of all correspondence.

E. The Membership Secretary shall make and maintain a record of all members, supply that record for club purposes, and have charge of matters pertaining to membership.

F. The Webpage Administrator shall maintain and keep updated the website and any part thereof pertaining to the activities presented on the club website.

G. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse, with the approval of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc., all Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. funds, keep an accurate account of same, be responsible for having all reports to government bodies prepared, and will have the authority to pay all taxes.

H. At the end of each year, a committee of three, appointed by the President, shall audit the books and make a financial report to the general membership.

Section 4 - The Board of Directors shall govern the total of all members, determine the grounds operating and use rules, approve all grounds rental requests, pass upon all leases and applications for membership, and perform all and such other duties as will promote the purpose and object of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS:

Section 1 - The annual meeting for the election of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. officers and the Board of Directors shall be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each January at the hour and place to be announced by the President of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc.

Section 2 - Monthly meetings shall be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the hour and place announced by the President, except that the date of any particular monthly meeting may be changed by a vote of the membership.

Section 3 - All other meetings shall be held upon notice given by the President, or the Secretary, or upon demand made in writing to the Secretary by fifteen members in good standing.

Section 4 - Notice of any and all meetings shall be given by web posting, by the Secretary through email, by the Secretary through a group text message, or in writing by letter or postcard placed in the United States Mail addressed to each member at his last known address prior to the date/time of such meeting.

Section 5 - All members present at any duly called meeting shall constitute a quorum of the membership, and six (6) members of the Board of Directors (a majority) shall constitute a quorum of the board for the transaction of business and a majority vote shall decide all issues except:

a) Any amendments to the Constitution and By-laws, or

b) Any acquisition or disposition of club fixed assets or interest in fixed assets valued at \$10,000 or more.

In the event a quorum is not present the Board of Directors and members present are not authorized to enact new business.

Section 6 - The general description of such business covered in Article V, Section 5 (a)&(b) shall be given in the manner provided for notice of all meetings (Article V Section 4) and further, passage of any motion requires two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at such meeting voting in favor of such motion

Section 7 - The basic principles of Robert's Rules of Order will be observed at all membership meetings.

Section 8 - The Board of Directors will meet every other month {six (6) times per year} beginning with the January meeting and ending with the November meeting. Board meetings will begin 1½ hours prior to the start of the regular membership meeting. Other meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Board as need.

Section 9 - Board of Director Meetings shall be open to the membership for observation only. Members may request an audience with the board by submitting a written request to the Chairman of the Board at least seven (7) days prior to a scheduled meeting.

Section 10 - Any officer or board member that misses two meeting per year without just cause may be replaced by the board for the remainder of that officer or board member's term.

ARTICLE VI DUES:

Section 1 - Membership will be for a period of one year, January 1 through December 31. All present Sportsman Members annual dues shall be due annually on January 1st of each calendar year. The yearly dues, as well as new member initiation fee, shall be determined by the Board of Directors on an annual basis, which will be presented to the membership for approval. Any Sportsman Member not renewing his/her membership by the 3rd Tuesday of March will be dropped from the membership roll and all rights and privileges will be forfeited by the member.

Section 2 - A Sportsman Member may pay his/her dues for the succeeding five years at one time and receive a discount. The cost for five years due shall be equal to four times the then current annual dues fee.

Section 3 - A Sportsman Member may pay his/her dues for life. The cost of a Life Membership shall be equal to twelve times the then current annual dues fee.

Section 4 - A Sportsman Member who has been dropped due to non-payment of dues may be reinstated during the year he/she was dropped from membership upon the payment of the full year's dues, plus a reinstatement fee equal to the new member initiation fee. Once full payment is made, the member will be immediately reinstated and action by the Board of Directors is not required.

Section 5 - All other persons desiring to become a Sportsman Member shall tender their application, including the initiation fee, the first year's dues, and NRA dues (if the applicant is not an NRA member) with the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. Membership Secretary at any time throughout the year. Applicants will be notified in writing by the Membership Secretary of the actions of the Board of Directors. In the event that an application for membership is denied, all monies tendered by the applicant will be returned without explanation. All new members will be required to attend a mandatory orientation session. Each new applicant shall be sponsored by a member in good standing.

Section 6 - Any Sportsman Member in good standing who temporarily relocates out of the area due to military service, etc., may suspend his/her membership and not be subjected to payment of dues. They shall forfeit all rights and privileges of membership while suspended. Upon returning to the area, they may reinstate membership by paying the current year's dues. The member will be immediately reinstated and action by the Board of Directors is not required.

Section 7 - Any son or daughter, under the age of 21 and over the age of 18, who is living with a Member in good standing of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. may become a Sportsman Member by paying that year's club dues and NRA dues if the applicant is not a current NRA member. The member will be immediately instated and action by the Board of Directors is not required.

ARTICLE VII RULES:

Section 1 - Any member whose connection with the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. is severed by non-payment of dues, resignation, death, expulsion, or otherwise, shall forfeit all interest in any property or funds of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc.

Section 2 - Six Directors of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. at any meeting may ask for, receive and accept, or demand the resignation of any officer of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. and upon his/her or their refusal to tender such resignation or voluntarily resign, the Board of Directors may dismiss such officer from office, declare said office vacant, and elect his successor.

Section 3 - Six Directors of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc., at any meeting may ask for, receive, and accept, or demand the resignation of any member of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. and upon his/her or their refusal to tender such resignation or voluntarily resign, the Board of Directors may dismiss such member from the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc..

Section 4 - The President with consent and approval of the Board of Directors may appoint such standing and special committees as the Board of Directors may direct.

Section 5 - Members hunting must park their vehicle at a Farm Member's residence unless directed otherwise by the Farm Member or landowner and request a permission slip to hunt from the Farm Member or landowner before starting to hunt.

Section 6 - No member shall take a non-member carrying a gun or using a dog without the permission slip from the Farm Member.

Section 7 - No alcoholic beverages, illicit and non prescribed substances shall be carried or indulged on hunting grounds.

Section 8 - No hunting or shooting shall be permitted within 500 feet of buildings unless the Farm Member personally gives permission to do so.

Section 9 - The Board of Directors may expel any member who violates the rules of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. provided ten days notice is given such member and the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. has opportunity for hearing.

Section 10 - No member shall take more than one guest per member at any one time hunting on leased land. Hunting guests are limited to one hunting visit day per year.

Section 11 - Spouses, and other family members under the age of 21, living with a Member in good standing of the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc., and grandchildren under the age of 18, may accompany the member in any club activity and not be considered a guest. A club member must accompany all family members/guests when using any gun/archery range and all family members/guests must sign a range waiver form.

Section 12 - The officers with a majority vote may allocate up to \$1,000.00 in an emergency without bringing it before the general membership to preserve the integrity of the club grounds.

Section 13 - If a member has a complaint or grievance against the club, one of its members, officers, or Board of Directors, he/she shall first speak with the person(s) involved. If a resolve cannot be reached, the member may submit the complaint or grievance in writing to the Board of Directors. The board will adjudicate the complaint or grievance and respond to the aggrieved in a timely manner. If necessary and/or appropriate, the Board will report their findings to the membership, and if circumstances demand, request a vote of the membership for possible sanction of the offender(s).

ARTICLE VIII LIABILITY:

Persons accepting membership to the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. waive their rights for any personal injury

incurred while trespassing upon any Farm Member's land or upon property owned or leased by the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. Any member who takes a guest on a Farm Member's land or on land owned or leased by the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. shall be responsible for the acts of that guest to the Farm Member and to the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. and shall hold the Farm Member and the Wadsworth Hunt Club, Inc. free from any claims from personal injury by that guest.

**ARTICLE IX
AMENDMENTS:**

This Constitution may be amended only by giving notice to the Secretary in writing of the proposed amendment at least thirty days before such meeting and upon the further condition notice of such meeting and the text of such amendment shall be given in the manner provided for notice of all meetings and upon further condition, two-thirds (2/3) of the members present at such meeting vote in favor of such proposal.

**ARTICLE X
TERMINATION AND LIQUIDATION:**

Section 1 - The property shall be preserved as a green space and used as originally intended: to promote the furtherance of conservation and outdoor educational programs.

Section 2 - The funds from liquidation shall be disbursed to a section 501(c) (3) conservation organization as defined by the Internal Revenue Service Code.