

**OFFICIAL BYLAWS OF THE
MARYLAND STATE RIFLE AND PISTOL ASSOCIATION
Revised July 8, 1989**

Preamble

The official name of this organization shall be “The Maryland State Rifle and Pistol Association”, a non-profit organization registered in the State of Maryland, and affiliated with the National Rifle Association, and shall hereinafter be referred to as “Association” or “Organization”.

In accordance with the purposes and objectives of the National Rifle Association, the objectives of this Association shall be to create a public sentiment for the encouragement of training in the use of firearms as a sport, as an essential contribution to National Security, and as maintenance of individual liberty and for personal defense.

The purpose of this Organization will be to encourage proper organization, operation and administration of member clubs; to promote and coordinate statewide activities related to the ownership and use of firearms and to cooperate with other organizations in the conservation of natural resources within the State of Maryland and throughout the United States.

The detailed objectives of this Association shall be as follow:

1. To protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, especially with reference to the inalienable right of the individual American citizen guaranteed by such Constitution to acquire, possess, transport, carry, transfer ownership of, and enjoy the right to use arms, in order that the people may always be in a position to exercise their legitimate individual rights of self-preservation and defense of family, person and property, as well as to serve effectively in the appropriate militia for the common defense of the Republic and the individual liberty of its citizens; and to promote public safety, law and order, and the national defense.
2. To act always to increase the public sentiment in this State for the encouragement of target practice both as a sport and as a vital increment of the training of our youth in a fundamental arm of national defense.
3. To promote the total shooting sports.
4. ~~To encourage and continuously promote the acceptance of marksmanship as a major scholastic and interscholastic sport in the publicly and privately endowed school systems, both collegiate and high school, within the State.~~

- ~~45. To assist the State board of education, local school board officials, and high school principals in the establishment and promotion of interscholastic gallery rifle leagues for juniors; promote marksmanship training and competition among juniors wherever possible.~~
56. To promote the sponsorship and establishment of competitive shooting leagues in every geographical area in the State of Maryland containing sufficient numbers of clubs to justify such league competitions.
67. To assist, within the ability of the Association, in the planning and acquisition of civilian-owned shooting ranges of all types, benefitting the civilian marksmanship program of the State, and to coordinate and encourage the efforts of member clubs and individuals in obtaining the cooperation and assistance of the commanders of the Defense Department installations within the State in obtaining the use of target range facilities for the common benefit of civilian and military marksmanship enthusiasts.
- ~~78. To encourage national support of the Director of Civilian Marksmanship Civilian Marksmanship Program and to encourage member clubs to enroll with the Director of Civilian Marksmanship.~~
89. To solicit the member clubs of this Association to promote the highest possible degree of sportsmanship and good fellowship, and to prevent the occurrence or tolerance of unsportsmanlike conduct throughout the jurisdiction of this Association.
949. To encourage and assist as requested, the effective organization and administration of all affiliated junior and senior clubs.
140. When called upon, to aid the ~~Citizenry of this State~~ citizens and legal residents of Maryland in the training of hunter-safety instructors for the continued existence and growth of the national hunter-safety program.
112. To encourage and assist in the activation and chartering of any organization promoting the shooting sports, and in the creation of such organizations where the individual interest exists.
123. To ~~encourage proper training of tournament officials, and to determine an equitable method of selection~~ the composition of shooting teams to represent the State of Maryland in regional and national competition.
134. To promote the conservation of our natural resources and to cooperate with conservation organizations toward this common goal.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Classes

Membership in the Association shall be composed of two classes: (a) individual, and (b) club.

(a) **INDIVIDUAL.** Individual membership shall be open to all United States citizens or legal residents, ~~aliens -of the United States-~~ who are of good reputation, have not been convicted of any ~~crime of violence~~felony, who subscribe to the purposes and objectives of the Association, and who meet the additional requirements for the type of membership for which application is made. An applicant with a felony conviction may request that the Board of Directors make exception in which case the Board will have full authority to decide the issue.

(b) **CLUB.** Club membership shall be open to all duly organized and operating clubs, associations, or non-profit corporations resident in the State of Maryland that have five or more members who subscribe to the purposes and objectives of the Association; that make application; that tender the required dues; and after investigation, that are approved by the Board of Directors of this Association. Such membership shall be for the period of one year and shall be renewable upon application. The Secretary shall issue an appropriate certificate of membership to the club.

Section 2. Types

Individual membership shall consist of seven types:

- (a) annual
- (b) five-year
- (c) life
- (d) non-resident
- (e) honorary
- (f) junior
- ~~(g) National Rifle Association Courtesy~~

(a) **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP.** Annual membership shall be open to any ~~resident~~legal resident of the State of Maryland who shall make application of the prescribed form; pay the required dues; and shall be approved by the Board of Directors of this Association, or its designated representatives. Membership in the National Rifle Association, or in other organizations approved by the Board of Directors of this Association, may be accepted in lieu of its direct approval. After approval, the Secretary shall issue a membership card which shall expire one year from the date of issue unless renewed. Annual members shall have all rights and privileges of membership including voting rights, receipt of Association publications,

the right to hold any office for which eligible, and such additional rights and privileges of membership as may hereafter accrue, except those reserved for life members.

(b) **FIVE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP.** Five-year membership shall be open to any ~~resident~~legal resident of the State of Maryland who shall make application on the prescribed form, pay the required dues, and be approved by the Board of Directors, or its designated representatives. Membership in the National Rifle Association, or in other organizations approved by the Board of Directors of this Association, may be accepted in lieu of its direct approval. After approval, the Secretary shall issue a membership card which shall expire five years from the date of issue unless renewed. Five-year members shall have all rights and privileges of membership including voting rights, receipt of Association publications, the right to hold any office for which eligible, and such additional rights and privileges of membership as may hereafter accrue, except those reserved for life members.

(c) **LIFE MEMBERSHIP.** Life membership shall be open to any person meeting the requirements of membership who shall make application, tender the required dues and who shall be approved by the Board of Directors of this Association. A life member shall be entitled to all the benefits accruing to an annual or five-year member, and in addition shall enjoy such special recognition and benefits accruing to life members as may be determined by the Association.

(d) **NON-RESIDENT MEMBERSHIP.** Non-resident membership shall be open to any ~~person~~citizen or legal resident of the United States who meets the qualifications of annual, five-year, or life membership, except residency in the State of Maryland. Such members shall receive all benefits of membership except voting and holding office.

(e) **HONORARY MEMBERSHIP.** Honorary membership for any period from one year to life may be conferred upon any individual by action of the Board of Directors of this Association. Approval by a majority of the Board shall be necessary to confer honorary membership for one year, and approval of two-thirds of the Board shall be necessary to confer such membership for any period in excess of one year. Honorary members shall be entitled to all benefits except the right to hold office and vote.

(f) **JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP.** Junior membership shall be open to any person who has not achieved his nineteenth birthday and who meets the qualifications for annual, five-year or life membership.

~~(g) **NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION COURTESY MEMBERSHIP.** National Rifle Association Courtesy Membership shall extend to all National Rifle Association members in good standing residing in the State of Maryland. Such membership shall not confer the right to vote in Association meetings, nor shall it~~

~~confer the right to hold office in the Association, nor receive the Association publication, nor compete in Association sponsored competitions.~~

Section 3. Privileges of Membership

(a) Each member club shall have the privilege of entering a team or teams in competition for Association trophies, as now established or to be established under such competitive rules as may from time to time be promulgated by the Directors of this Association.

(b) Individual members shall have the privilege of competing for individual Association trophies as now established or to be established under such competitive rules as are applied to the competitions by this Association.

(c) At all meetings of this Association, members in good standing will be privileged to attend and shall have the privilege of the floor. Only members of this Association in good standing shall have the privilege of voting and no votes shall be made by proxy.

Section 4. Voting

Each annual, five-year, or life member shall be entitled to cast one vote at any meeting of the Association. Each club shall be entitled to two votes. A club may cast its votes as a unit or separately, but they shall be cast only by the officially designated delegate or delegates of that club as certified to the Secretary of the Association prior to the call to order of the Annual Meeting by the President or Secretary of the Association. No one indebted to the Association shall have a vote, nor shall honorary members have a vote.

Section 5. Termination

Membership shall automatically terminate 90 days after expiration. A member may be expelled by the Association for cause by the Board of Directors upon affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board. A member may be suspended from the Association upon affirmative vote of a majority of the Board. No vote for expulsion shall be taken unless fifteen days notice by certified mail shall have been provided to the member by the Secretary, informing the member of the charges (including copies of all documents), of the time and place of the hearing, and of the member's right to appear and be heard, including the right to present evidence and examine witnesses. Charges may be preferred against a member by any member in good standing, but must be in writing, specific, and investigated by the Executive Committee to determine if there is sufficient cause or merit to forward the charges to the Board for a hearing. A suspended or expelled member may be reinstated by a vote of a majority of the Board.

ARTICLE II: MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section 1. Annual Meetings

During the month of October of each year, the Association shall hold annual meetings for the election of officers and transaction of such business as may properly come before the meeting. The time and place of this meeting shall be determined by the Executive Committee and no less than 30 days advance notice in writing shall be given to all member clubs and individual members, except National Rifle Association Courtesy members.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Association may be held at any time, upon the call of the President, or upon call of the Executive Committee, or upon demand in writing of any member club, stating the object of the proposed meeting and signed by no less than one-quarter (25%) of the Board of Directors. Notice of the time, place and object of such meeting shall be given to all members in good standing at least two weeks prior to such meeting date, except for National Rifle Association Courtesy members.

Section 3. Quorum

At any special or annual meeting, a quorum of this Association shall consist of eight (8) members.

ARTICLE III: GOVERNING BODIES

Section 1. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of fifteen members. Of these, five directors shall be elected each year at the Annual Meeting to serve three-year terms. Upon completion of elections at the Annual Meeting, the full Board shall elect from its membership a Chairman to serve two years or until the expiration of his term as director if earlier. Vacancies shall be filled temporarily by ~~appointment-nomination~~ of the Chairman and approval of the Board, subject to formal election at the next Annual Meeting.

Each director shall be a member in good standing of the Association and at least 18 years of age.

The Board of Directors shall rule on any decision or action of the Executive Committee when, in their opinion, it is in the best interest to the Association or the shooting fraternity. The Board shall exercise general supervision over the affairs of the Association and shall be the senior decision-making body in controversial matters

affecting the Association, to include ruling on membership termination or reinstatement.

The Board of Directors shall meet on Association business quarterly, or as frequently as matters require.

Section 2. Executive Committee

Members of the Executive Committee shall include the President, First Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and four directors selected by the Board from its membership upon completion of elections at the Annual Meeting. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision and control of all affairs and activities of the Association when the Board of Directors is not in session and may act for and in place of the Board, but in all actions shall be subject to review by the Board when it is next in session. ~~The Executive Committee shall have the additional power to name a member to act as an interim officer or director (other than the President) until the office may be filled by action of the Board or of the general membership through elections.~~

Section 3. Removal

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~~A member of the Board of Directors who fails to attend, without prior notification and approval by the Chairman or subsequent approval of absence by the Board, three or more Board meetings during his or her term, may be removed by a majority vote of the remaining Board members. Such majority will consist of half of the entire Board, not just those present, minus the individual in question.~~

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ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 1. Number

The officers of the Association shall consist of a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, whose terms shall be for one year or until their successors are elected. Officers must be members in good standing of the Association and at least 18 years of age.

Section 2. Election

The officers shall be elected by a majority of the members attending the Annual Meeting or any special meeting called for that purpose.

Section 3. Duties

(a) **PRESIDENT.** The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Association and shall exercise general executive supervision over its affairs, subject to direction and review by the Board of Directors. He shall preside over all Association meetings and those of the Executive Committee. He shall preside over Board of Directors' meetings when the Chairman is absent. He shall be an EX OFFICIO member of the Board of Directors and of all regular and special committees of the Association. He shall perform all other duties incident to the office of the President and such other specific duties as may be required or assigned to him by the Board.

(b) **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT.** In the absence of the President or in the event of his inability or refusal to act, the First Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. He shall be an EX OFFICIO member, without vote, of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and shall perform such other duties as may be required or assigned to him by the President or the Board of Directors.

(c) **SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT.** The Second Vice-President shall be in charge of legislative affairs and may select a committee to assist him in carrying out the duties incident to the office.

(d) **THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT.** The Third Vice-President shall be in charge of ways and means.

(e) **SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall attend and keep minutes of all meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors, and shall keep a record of all actions of the Executive Committee. He shall see that notices are duly given in accordance with these bylaws or as otherwise required; shall be custodian of all books, minutes and records of the Association, except financial records, and of the Corporate Seal and shall attest to all official documents and resolutions of the Association. He or his agent shall receive all applications for membership and shall be responsible for the collection of all dues, fees and assessments and shall promptly remit these to the Treasurer, taking proper receipt thereof. He shall issue such credentials and indicia of membership as may be required by these bylaws or as directed by the Board and shall be responsible for maintaining an accurate roster of all members, including their mailing addresses and such other information as the Board may require. He shall conduct all official correspondence and other duties as may be required or assigned to him by the President or by the Board of Directors. In the performance of his duties, he may employ persons and/or organizations to maintain records, to prepare and mail notices and newsletters, but terms of such employment and rates of payment shall first be approved by the Executive Committee, or members of the Board of Directors designated by the Board.

(f) **TREASURER.** The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the Association and shall deposit the same in the name of the Association in a bank approved by the Board of Directors. Monies shall be withdrawn only by check signed by the Treasurer and/or a representative appointed by the Board, and only for the payment of authorized expenditures. He shall keep accurate books of accounts and fiscal records, and all expenditures shall be supported by vouchers. He shall attend all meetings of the Board and shall make an annual report to the Association at its annual meeting. He shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office of the Treasurer, and as may be required by the President or the Board.

Section 4. Vacancies

In the event of a vacancy in any office other than President, because of death, resignation, removal or otherwise, the vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Directors or the membership. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the First Vice-President shall automatically succeed to the office of President and the office of First Vice-President shall be filled through temporary appointment by the Board.

Section 54. Removal

An officer may be removed for cause and the office declared vacant by an affirmative vote of three-quarters of the Board of Directors, provided that a fifteen day notice of the reasons therefore, and the time, place, and purpose of a meeting, the rights to appear and to be heard, present evidence and examine witnesses, shall be given such officer. In the event of death or incapacity of any officer, the office may be declared vacant by action of a majority of the Board.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Permanent

The President shall establish those committees and appoint their chairmen to effectively facilitate the activities of the Association.

ARTICLE VI: AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be altered or amended in whole or in part, or new bylaws adopted, at any regular or special meeting of the Association called for that purpose, provided notice of the intended amendment alteration or substitution shall be provided to the members in writing 60 days prior to the date of any regular meeting or special meeting set for that purpose. E-mail will be accepted for the purposes of the 60 day prior notification requirement. Adoption of any amendment, alteration, repeal or substitution shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at such meeting. The newly adopted or revised bylaws shall be sent to all members by the Secretary as soon as possible after their adoption. Any amendment to these bylaws must be submitted to the National Rifle Association for approval prior to adoption.