

MERRILL CREEK CONSERVATION & SPORTSMEN ASSOCIATION

BY-LAWS

Article I - Name and Objectives

- A. The Association shall be known as the Merrill Creek Conservation & Sportsmen Association, referred to hereinafter as the "Association" or "MCCSA".
- B. The purpose of the Association is to organize hunting exclusively on the lands licensed to it by the Merrill Creek Owners Group (MCOG), foster sound wildlife and environmental management at Merrill Creek Reservoir through advising and assisting the reservoir staff; to seek and procure better hunting and fishing for the sportsmen; and to enhance people's knowledge and appreciation for indigenous wildlife species.
- C. The Association shall operate without profit and be nonpolitical.
- D. Lands available for use by the Association shall be those designated by the MCOG or its representative.

Article II - Membership and Dues

- A. A person accepted into the Association to enjoy full privileges and obligations under the Bylaws and the Operating Rules shall be a Regular Member (Member).
- B. Persons who under the Bylaws and Operating Rules of the Association might be expected to participate in hunting or other Association activities during a particular time period or hunting season shall be active members. This category shall include Regular Members plus Associate Members, guests of Members and sons/daughters of Members
- C. All members must be eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- D. An acceptance form for membership shall be required from all Members, Associate Members, and guests of Members.

- E. Acceptance of Members shall be by land availability; by waiting list; and by receipt of dues. The ratio of Members to lands available shall be for the fostering of safe hunting practices and shall be one (1) person per ten (10) acres of huntable land. New Members will normally be taken in during August or September.
- F. The yearly dues of each Member shall be set by the Operating Rules. Payment is due by the date specified in the Operating Rules. If a Member's dues are not postmarked or hand delivered to the Treasurer on or before the date specified in the Operating Rules, that Member is in violation of the Bylaws and shall be dropped from the membership roll without further notice.
- G. To maintain membership in good standing, a Member must abide by all rules and regulations which shall include the Point System, as adopted by the Association.

Article III - Meetings

- A. All meetings shall be conducted according to parliamentary procedure as set forth by Roberts Rules or Order.
- B. Regular meetings of the Association shall be held at such places and dates as deemed suitable by the Members and stated in the Operating Rules; but there should be not less than (4) meetings per year, with the last meeting held in the last month of the fiscal year.
- C. A special meeting of the Association may be called by the President and any other officer; however, only such business as stated in the call may be transacted.
- D. Notice of all special meetings shall be emailed by the Secretary, or the President's designee, to every Member at least ten (10) days prior to the date of such meeting.

Article IV - Quorum

- A. At membership meetings, one-third (1/3) of the Members of the Association shall constitute a full quorum. If above is not met, two or more elected officers plus two-thirds (2/3's) vote of the Members present can constitute an alternate quorum. If the alternate quorum is in effect, the vote of the officers' present must be unanimous, plus two-third (2/3's) agreement of the Members present to finalize any action on the floor.

Article V - Officers and Elections

- A. The President shall appoint a nominating committee at the November meeting.
- B. Nominations for officers will take place in November. Elections shall be held by secret ballot as the last order of business at the December meeting. All officers shall serve a two (2) year term. A full quorum must be present as described in Article IV. (the alternate quorum may not be used.) If there is not a full quorum, elections shall be held at the next regular meeting a full quorum is present.
- C. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Officer at Large of the Executive Board of the MCCSA will be elected by the majority of the votes and successors are elected.
- D. In the event of any vacancy in any office, except that of President, the Members shall elect a Member to fill the unexpired term until the next general election.

Article VI - Duties of the Officers

- A. President: The President shall preside at all meetings, enforce all rules and regulations, and appoint all committees.
- B. Vice President: In the absence of the President, his/her duties shall be performed by the Vice President. In the event of the death, disability or resignation of the President, the Vice President shall become President and a new Vice President shall be elected.
- C. Secretary: The Secretary shall keep the minutes and other official reports of the Association. He/she shall conduct the official correspondence of the Association and keep all records, books, documents and papers relating to the Association along with other such duties that shall be assigned to him/her.
- D. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall keep account of all monies received and deposit same in the name of the Association in such bank as shall be designated by the Members. At each meeting, he/she shall submit a statement of the financial condition of the Association; and at the first meeting of the fiscal year, a detailed report of the financial condition of the Association for the preceding fiscal year.

- E. Officer at Large to the Executive Board: This elected officer will serve on the Executive Board.
- F. The Treasurer and any other elected officer of the MCCSA acting together have the authority to pay regularly occurring operating expenses when due. When this authority is used, a full account must be given at the next regular meeting.
- G. At the next to the last meeting of the fiscal year, the President and a member of the Executive Board shall appoint a committee of two, not including the Treasurer, to review the financial records of the Association. One member of the appointed committee shall not have served in the previous year. A written report of the review will be made available to the Merrill Creek Reservoir Project, the Association Secretary and the general membership. This report shall be submitted at the first meeting of the new fiscal year.
- H. The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and a Officer at Large of the MCCSA will function as an Executive Board and president in any action necessary.
- I. Any disciplinary action taken against a Member by the Executive Board may be brought to the floor by the affected Member at the next regular meeting. A two-thirds (2/3's) vote of the full quorum (excluding the officers) can overturn or modify the decision of the Executive Board.
- J. A three-fourths (3/4's) vote of the elected officers of the MCCSA has the authority to allocate the Association's money for unforeseen emergency operating expenses. When this authority is used, a full account must be given at the next regular meeting.
- K. Upon leaving office, all officers must turn over to his/her successor all books, records, documents, and papers relating to the Association.

Article VII - Hunting Regulations

- A. Hunting rules and regulations of the State of New Jersey and MCCSA shall govern Members while hunting on lands licensed to the Association.

Article VIII - Operating Rules

- A. Operating rules, defined as rules which cover daily operation of Association procedures which are subject to change, but do not alter the purpose and intent of the Bylaws, can be established by a majority vote of a quorum.

Article IX - Amendments to the Bylaws

- A. These bylaws can be amended by submission in writing, cosigned by three (3) Members in good standing, read at two (2) regular meetings, and passed by two-thirds (2/3's) vote of a quorum at both meetings.

Rev. 11-21-02 (Article V - B & C)
Rev. 9-18-14 (Article VI)
Rev, 9-21-25