

# **Auburn Planesmen RC Club By-Laws**

*12 January 2023*

## ARTICLE 1: DUTIES

1. The management of the affairs of the Auburn Planesmen R/C Club between the yearly meeting shall be vested in an Executive Committee composed of the Club President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Safety Officer, who shall have the authority to establish and administer its policies. For Executive Committee matters, a quorum shall consist of 3 of the 5 members of the Executive Committee. Decisions requiring Membership input may be made by a two-thirds majority vote, solicited by called meeting or online polling, to the general Membership. All Club matters and official decisions shall be consistent with the stated purposes and objectives of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) as set forth in its bylaws.
2. President: The President shall preside at all meetings and events of the Club and shall act as spokesperson in all matters pertaining to it. The President should be an active member of the Club and available to serve as an initial contact for Club matters. The President shall be responsible for the calling for, and with the Secretary the counting of, votes from the Membership as needed.
3. Vice President: The Vice President shall preside over Club meetings / events / Club activities in the absence of the President.

4. Secretary: The Secretary shall record, and distribute to the Members, the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Club, any Called Meetings that may occur, and any decisions made by the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall be responsible for verifying tallies when votes are taken and retaining records of such votes.
5. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall handle all correspondence pertaining to general club activities with regard to the AMA and shall act as a primary contact person should any question, problems, or situations arise regarding AMA and AMA affiliation. In addition, this person shall collect all monies due and shall keep a record of monies dispersed by the Club. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining a Club Roster identifying all active Club Members and for updating the official AMA Club Roster. The Treasurer will distribute an accounting of all funds received and all expenses paid at the Annual Meeting of the Club.
6. Safety Officer: The Safety Officer shall be an active member of the Club and responsible for the over-all safe operating procedures at the club field. These procedures shall be defined as those that align with the officially published AMA Safety Code and any special rules defined for use of the flying field. The Safety Officer shall be responsible for ensuring the club field is properly maintained and if necessary to develop and recommend to the organization changes to the Field

Rules. Such Field Rules must be approved by the majority of the Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE 2: AUDIT

1. The current President and the Secretary shall authorize an audit of the Treasurer's books as required.

## ARTICLE 3: TERMS OF OFFICE

1. All elected officers of the Club shall serve for one (1) year from the date of election. Officers are to be elected by a vote of the simple majority of those present at the regular Annual Meeting in the month of October. New officers will take office immediately following the October meeting.
2. Nominations of Club officers shall take place at the Annual Meeting of the general Membership in the month of October. Nominations for office may be made by any active, dues paying member, and shall be recorded by the Secretary and shall be restated following the call for nominations to cease, just prior to a vote.
3. No secret ballot is required for general elections unless called for by the Membership. If other circumstances evolve such as the removal of an officer, or

the expulsion of a member, a secret ballot shall be used, unless waived by a simple majority vote or the members present at the meeting.

#### ARTICLE 4: VACANCIES

1. Vacancies in any office shall be filled by appointment by the remaining officers, such an appointment to serve until the end of the term for which its predecessor was elected.

#### ARTICLE 5: COMMITTEES

1. Committees of the Club shall be appointed by the President as needed to serve throughout the term, or less, of their tenure of office.

#### ARTICLE 6: Methods of Communication to Membership

1. Electronic mail (email) shall be the Official method of communication used by the Club for all matters of importance. Members not having, or wishing to disclose, email address may request to be contacted by phone message. To be considered Active, Members must have a current email address or phone number recorded on the Treasure's Club Roster.

## ARTICLE 7: MEETINGS

1. Regular meetings shall be held at the time and place designated by the Executive Committee. The membership shall be informed of the meeting at least one week in advance via email.
2. "Special Meetings" may be called at the request of any active, dues paid member via the Club President. Notice of said meeting shall be posted via email to all membership. The purpose of the "Special Meeting" shall be stated on the written notice.
3. At any Club meeting, a simple majority shall be over 50% of the voting members voting at the meeting.

## ARTICLE 8: DUES & WAIVERS AND MEMBERSHIP

1. The annual dues to be paid to the Club shall be determined by the Club Membership with the approval of a simple majority vote. Dues are nonrefundable, except under extraordinary circumstances, which will be determined by the Executive Committee on a case-by-case basis. Normally, dues are to be paid no later than the 31<sup>st</sup> of October in any year
2. No special assessment shall be levied upon Club Membership, unless it is approved by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present at the Annual Meeting, or at any additional called meeting during the year. Paid up

members who are not in attendance shall be informed of any assessments via email within 5 days following the passage of the measure.

3. New members who join after October 31<sup>st</sup> will pay dues on a declining scale based on the month of the year after they join the Club; each month being equal to 1/12<sup>th</sup> of a year. This will cover dues until the following October.
4. A member shall be in arrears and shall not be considered active if his/her dues have not been paid as provided in Article 8, Section 1. Any member who allows their membership to lapse beyond January 1 of any year shall be considered inactive and shall not be allowed to fly at the club field.

#### ARTICLE 9: MEMBER STANDING

1. All persons shall be eligible for membership, and shall agree to abide by the Club's bylaws, and by those of the AMA.
2. The Membership shall be divided into the following categories:
  - a. Full Member: Is 16 years old, or older, and has full privileges and voting rights. Dues: Full Member rate plus AMA Membership
  - b. Junior Membership: Is younger than sixteen (16) years old, has full privileges and voting rights. Dues: Half of Full membership rate plus AMA Membership.

- c. Associate Membership: A fully registered student in an elementary school, or institution of higher education, or is a student RC pilot, or flies only “park fliers” has full privileges and but no voting rights. Due: Associate rate plus AMA Membership.
3. Flying members will be required to hold and maintain a membership with the AMA. All members must be able to show proof of AMA membership by presenting their AMA card at the flying field, if requested to do so by Club officers  
Non-flyers do not require AMA Membership but should have some valid form of identification on their person when at the flying field.
4. Persons who are interested in membership in the Auburn Planesmen R/C Club shall express their interest, present their AMA card as proof of AMA membership, and pay their annual dues; prior to being accepted as full Club Members.
5. All fully paid and duly recognized Members shall receive the code to the field gate chain lock so that they may gain entrance to the flying field. The field gate will be secured and locked when the field closes at the end of a flying day.

#### ARTICLE 10: RESIGNATION, TERMINATION, DISCIPLINARY ACTION, EXPULSION, AND REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Any Member in good standing may resign their membership by giving written notice to the Club.

2. If any Member ceases to have the qualifications necessary for membership in the AMA, their membership in the Club shall be terminated, subject to reinstatement upon restoration of eligibility.
3. This section provides for enforcement of the Safety Rules that are related to flying activities. Any other unacceptable behavior by an individual member or members, as defined by the Executive Committee, becomes the responsibility of the Executive Committee as stated in Article 1, Section 1 of these By-laws. Any individual may be expelled from membership from the Club by a 3/5 vote of the Executive Committee if, in the Executive Committee's determination, such individual commits any act or omission which is a violation of any of the terms of these Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, or the Rules of the AMA, or which is determined by the Club, the AMA, or to model aviation.
4. Any member who is expelled from membership may be reinstated to membership only by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Auburn Planesmen R/C Club membership.
5. The Executive Committee shall have the discretionary authority to provide for and to impose disciplinary action for such acts or omissions, which do not justify expulsion from membership.

## ARTICLE 11: AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments may be made to these By-Laws at any general meeting of the Club Membership, provided the members shall have been notified in writing at least five (5) days in advance that amendments are to be considered. Copies of the proposed amendments are to be provided to all members as part of the notification. Amendments shall be approved by no less than two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Membership present at the Annual Meeting or any special called meeting. No mail-in ballots shall be considered; members shall be present at the meeting for their vote to count.

## ARTICLE 12: SPECIAL FUNDS

1. The Treasurer of the Club is authorized to receive contributions or specially obtained funds from any individual or institution, to be applied to operating expenses of the Club.
2. No officer or Club member shall have discretionary spending rights of Club funds with out first discussing said expenditures with the Executive Committee and receiving an approval of the expenditure.

## ARTICLE 13: DURATION

1. The duration of this Club shall be perpetual.

## ARTICLE 14: DISSOLUTION

1. The Auburn Planesmen R/C Club in an incorporated entity according to the laws and regulations of the State of Alabama.
2. The Corporation may be dissolved with the approval of a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the total Membership.
3. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for payment or reimbursement of all liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such manner, to the Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc. or to such other organizations or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or to such other organization with the purposes similar to the purpose of the Corporation, as the Executive shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas (or similar court) of the country in which the principal office of this Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes and to such

organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

#### ARTICLE 15: INCORPORATION

1. The incorporation of this membership shall be minimum of three (3) of the five (5) elected officers.
2. The Auburn Planesmen R/C Club was incorporated on the 10 day of December, 2002, in the City of Auburn, State of Alabama.

#### ARTICLE 16: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (Flight and Ground Safety Rules)

1. Purpose – The grievance procedure provides a mechanism to enforce existing safety rules by providing a progressive disciplinary system when needed.  
  
Although most complaints can be resolved informally, if a complaint is serious or cannot be resolved informally, the matter should be referred to the Safety Officer for its consideration by means of a Grievance Form to be filled out and turned into the Safety Officer. At least one witness is required to sign the Grievance Form.
2. The Safety Officer in conjunction with the Executive Committee shall use its judgment in carrying out action on the follow:

a. A grievance form will be filled out and turned in to the Safety Officer. At least one witness is required.

b. FIRST VIOLATION

- i. Viewpoints of both complaints and accused will be considered.
- ii. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
- iii. A verbal reprimand will be given to the accused by the Executive Committee, and this will be recorded in the Committee files.

c. SECOND VIOLATION

- i. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
- ii. The accused has the right to a written rebuttal, to be reviewed by the Committee.
- iii. If the Committee so decides, the flying privileges of the accused will be suspended for thirty (30) days. Written notice of this shall be issued and a copy posted on the field notice board.

d. THIRD VIOLATION

- i. Committee will notify the accused in writing and the Club members via a mailing that the Executive Committee will vote on the expulsion of the accused at the next meeting.

- ii. Said expulsion will last for a one-year minimum. (Longer if deemed necessary by the Executive Committee).
  - iii. A member may be expelled from the Club only upon a 3/5 majority vote of the Executive Committee.
  - iv. Voting will be by secret ballot at a meeting of the Executive Committee called by the Club President and Safety Officer.
  - v. The expelled member may reapply for membership after the expiration of the expulsion time period.
- e. The three actions will not be enforced unless they are accumulated within a two-year period of time.
- f. Any member receiving a Grievance, who directs any retaliation action against the person filing said Grievance, will be subject to immediate expulsion from the Club. This is to include threats, intimidation, physical harm, intentional equipment damage, or any other action deemed to be retaliatory by the Executive Committee.



