

Standish Fish & Game Club

By-Laws



Standish Fish & Game Club

BY-LAWS

Article I This organization shall be known as Standish Fish & Game Club (“the Club”, or “SF&G”) and is incorporated under the State of Maine Laws as a nonprofit organization.

Article II Objectives:

It shall be the purpose of this Association

- A. To promote and preserve our area natural resources with emphasis on game animals, birds and fish.
- B. To improve habitat of such animals, birds and fish.
- C. To further the interest in out-of-door activities with special emphasis on hunting and fishing and promote landowner relations.
- D. To cooperate with law enforcement agencies in creating and maintaining respect for game and firearm laws.
- E. To promote and encourage safety education in all outdoor sports.
- F. Encourage fish and wildlife conservation and ethics.
- G. Promote the club and fish and wildlife through community service.

Article III Membership:

To maintain a membership, a member must be in good standing within the bounds of Maine Fish & Wildlife Laws and in sympathy with the purpose of the Club upon application to the Club and payment of one year’s dues.

Junior membership shall be open to any person 10 years to 18 years and must be accompanied by a member 18 years or older. Upon reaching the age of 18, a member will then be eligible to vote. All members in good standing and age eligible may vote at regular monthly meetings and are urged to volunteer where needed.

Any new member is considered a probationary member for a period of twelve (12) months after which time the club members will vote on the approval of the new member to determine full membership. Probationary members do not have unrestricted access to club property.

All members are requested to donate at least twelve (12) hours a year for projects and work sessions held by the Club.

The committee chairperson of each event will update the Secretary with hours worked and the Secretary will maintain records of hours. However, it is up each member to ensure the committee chairperson accurately records their hours.

Members will earn hours by attending committee meetings and volunteering at club events.

Article IV Dues:

Members shall pay an annual fee of \$25.00 covering the calendar year, to be due and payable the first day of January for each year. Junior members are free until the age of 18.

Household memberships are available for an annual fee of \$40.00, which includes a spouse and their dependent children (under 18 years of age) living within the same household.

Membership dues for members over the age of 65 and whom have paid a minimum of 10 consecutive years annual dues shall be considered life-members. There shall be no monetary dues for life-members. A one-time fee for lifetime membership can be evaluated on a case by case basis as needed.

For members that are age 65 or older, a one time purchase can be made to attain a lifetime membership. The calculation is the current membership times 10 years, less years in the club.

For example:

John Doe is age 67 and has been a member for two years. Current club dues are \$25. $10 \text{ years} \times \$25 = \$250$. Less the two years in the club of \$50 ($2 \times \25), his buy in is \$200.

John Smith is age 70 and has been a member for five years. Current club dues are \$25. $10 \text{ years} \times \$25 = \$250$. Less the five years in the club of \$125 ($5 \times \25), his buy in is \$125.

If the annual dues present a hardship to anyone, reduced memberships can be evaluated by The Executive Committee on a case by case basis.

Article V Meetings:

Board of directors meetings: The Board of Directors shall meet as deemed necessary to discuss business of the Club to take actions deemed to be in the best interest of the club, to commit funds, or to make decisions between monthly meetings and may be called upon with due notice by the President, Officers or Board members. An annual meeting shall be determined annually by the board of directors.

Regular meetings: Regular meetings including all members shall be held on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30pm.

Article VI Quorum

A quorum shall constitute any legal body of voting club members at said meeting as long as that body is at least ten (10) members in good standing including a minimum of three (3) Officers or two (2) Officers and one (1) Officer proxy notified in writing.

Article VII Officers and Elections:

Eligibility to be elected to the Executive Committee is limited to members in good standing that have been members for three (3) consecutive years, including the probationary year. This applies to new members after February 1, 2020.

The Officers of the Club shall be:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

To be elected by written popular vote at the annual meeting for a term of one year. Nominations will occur by ballot during the December meeting and the election will occur by ballot during the annual meeting in January.

There are no term limits.

Board of Directors (5)

Board of Directors shall be elected by written popular vote for a term of 2 years, with 3 of the 5 Directors being elected at one annual meeting and the other 2 Directors elected at the following annual meeting. Nominations will occur by ballot during the December meeting and the election will occur by ballot during the annual meeting in January.

There are no term limits.

Together, these nine members comprise the Executive Committee.

Article VIII Duties of Officers:

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings and to assume overall direction of and responsibility for all activities of the Club and its various committees. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Club and will be responsible to execute all contracts, negotiations, & agreements in accordance with the Club's best interest(s). The President can authorize expenditures on behalf of the Standish Fish and Game club up to \$150.00 without prior authorization of the Board of Directors. The President and Treasurer will have access to the Club's account by debit card and must report any expenditures to the Treasurer, with other Officers having the same right by proxy. All receipts must be turned in to the Treasurer on a timely basis.

The Vice President shall assist the President in all matters and in the absence of the President, shall discharge the duties of said office.

The Secretary shall make and keep records of all meetings including a record of members present at each meeting. The Secretary will be responsible for all outgoing and incoming correspondence and maintain files of same. Also responsible for maintaining the club roster and recording the name, address, email addresses and other information pertaining to the members. Updated roster will be made available to any officer upon request and one roster (with limited personal information) will be posted in the clubhouse. The Secretary will communicate the minutes of each monthly meeting to all members electronically via email within 10 days of the meeting. The Secretary will perform any other duties pertaining to the office. The Secretary will receive dues and membership

applications (renewals) for record keeping and turn dues over to the Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall receive all money obtained by the association, make disbursements as directed by vote of the membership, and maintain all financial records of the Association and/or its committees. Records shall be kept current so that a report may be made at each regular meeting and an audit shall be made within 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Said audit shall be made by a committee of non-officer members appointed by the President. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys or other collateral secured, donated or paid by all prospective candidates for membership. Each year an audit shall be made of all records of the Treasurer that the truth and verity of this record may be ascertained.

Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall oversee all aspects of the Club. The Board of Directors shall authorize disbursements on behalf of the club. Two (2) Directors (Officers) shall be voted by the Board to sign disbursement payments on behalf of the Standish Fish and Game club. The Board of Directors shall be made up of the 4 elected officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) and 5 Directors, all to be elected at the annual meeting. The Board of Directors

Committees shall be established as necessary by the Board of Directors and charged with specific tasks as deemed appropriate by the Board. There shall be five (5) standing committees as follows:

Nomination / Election Committee

Education and Safety Committee

Scholarship Committee

Building/Land Committee

Special Events

Each standing committee shall be responsible for and oversee the responsibilities of that committee. Each of these committees shall be co-chaired by a member and one of the 5 elected Board Members. The Committee Chair shall provide information and report to the full membership concerning the work, actions, progress and status of the committee.

The Board of Directors may be called into session by the President at any time with due notice to act for the association for urgent or financial matters that cannot be properly delayed until a regular meeting of the membership. Any five (5) directors shall constitute a quorum. Work on planning or research may be assigned to the Board of Directors by the Club at a regular session. Records shall be kept and reports thereon made to the membership at the next regular meeting. The Board of Directors will meet annually and board members are required to attend both meetings.

Actions taken by the Board of Directors that are thought to be contrary to or not in tune with the thinking of the general membership may be overturned by motion made and seconded by members in good standing at a regularly scheduled membership meeting. Motion will pass with 3/4 members in good standing voting in favor of the motion

Article IX Vacancies and Successions:

Should a vacancy occur in the office of the President, the Vice President shall then be moved to the President's position, and a new Vice President shall be temporarily appointed by the Board of Directors to fill the vacant seat and elected at the next regular meeting. In the case of any other vacancy, the office shall be filled temporarily by a member of the Board of Directors until a new officer can be elected as above at the next regular meeting.

Article X Rules

To expedite Club business and ensure an orderly flow to fit within time constraints, the following rules shall apply to all membership, directors and committee meetings:

- a) Call the meeting to order, Pledge of Allegiance
- b) Recognize guests and/or make opening remarks
- c) Ask for any comments on prior month's minutes that were distributed via email, motion to accept, if there are no changes.
- d) The Treasurer to present the financial report, open floor for discussion, motion to accept, if there are no changes.
- e) The Committee chair person to provide updates from any prior committee meetings.

- f) Open the floor for discussion of any old business. Old business is defined as any open items from the minutes of previous meetings. Any items in previous minutes that were voted as accepted are considered complete and need no further discussion at this time.
- g) Once old business is finalized, the President will open the floor for any new business. New business can include any previous items that were considered closed under previous minutes or any new item members wish to discuss.
- h) Once all action is taken on any business matter, including votes on any motions, the President may then close the meeting.

Article XI Amendments and/or Alterations:

Any member may, at any regular meeting of the Club, introduce proposals for change or amendment to the By-Laws in writing to the President. After due discussion by the membership, a request shall be made to table the measure for one month until the next regular meeting so the entire membership has the ability to vote on the measure. Should the proposed by-law change be negative, the proposed change or amendment shall be dropped. In the case of an affirmative vote, the Secretary shall be instructed to inform the membership in writing at least 10 (ten) days prior to the next regular meeting the proposed amendment or alteration. At said next regular meeting the proposal under consideration shall be put to the vote as long as a legal quorum of members in good standing are present. Any contingency not specifically provided for in these By-Laws or its amendments shall be referred to the Board of Directors for Disposition.

The By-Laws will be reviewed annually at the November meeting for any updates, including a review of the dues.

In order to approve By-Laws changes, they must be approved by two-thirds of the members present.

Article XII Termination of Membership

Any member convicted of violating game laws of this or any other state may lose their right to vote or utilize the club facilities for a period of up to six months. Any member convicted of a serious crime may also be suspended indefinitely by the Executive Committee.

Any member who repeatedly or blatantly disregards the rules and regulations of the Club will Forfeit their membership. This includes but is

not limited to vandalizing or destroying club assets or any other act that is not deemed in the best interest of the Club.

Article XIII Club Termination

If the Standish Fish & Game Club is no longer functional or is inactive, the Association assets shall be forwarded first to any creditors of the Club, then to the Maine Wildlife Park, formally known as Gray Animal Farm, in Gray, Maine or as directed by the Board of Directors.

Dated: June 30, 2020