

**LONE STAR DOGO ARGENTINO CLUB OF TEXAS CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS  
2021-2022**

**Constitution  
Article I  
Name & Objects**

**Section 1**

The name of the club shall be THE LONE STAR DOGO CLUB OF TEXAS, INC., herein referred to as LSDC or Lone Star Dogo Club.

**Section 2**

The objects of the club shall be:

- A.** To encourage and promote the quality and breeding of the pure bred Dogo Argentino and to do all possible to bring form and function together in perfect harmony.
- B.** To encourage the membership to a lifetime responsibility for their Dogo Argentino, and the Dogo's offspring and to the education of others as necessary for the protection and advancement of the breed.
- C.** To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which Dogo Argentino shall be judged and to encourage the study of the standard by breeders, judges, dog show committees and others interested in the advancement of the breed.
- D.** To do all in its power to protect and advance the interest of the breed by encouraging sportsman like competition at dog shows, field trials and obedience trials.
- E.** To conduct sanctioned matches, specialty shows, obedience trials and other events for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club and to generate publicity on any matter affecting the welfare of the breed.
- F.** To encourage dedication to the health and welfare of the breed.
- G.** To encourage the membership to participate in, promote and support Dogo Argentino rescue.

**Section 3**

The club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to The Lone Star Dogo Club shall be inured to the benefit of any member or individual.

**Section 4**

The members of The Lone Star Dogo Club shall adapt and may from time to time revise such by-laws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

**BY-LAWS  
ARTICLE I  
MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1  
Eligibility**

There will be four (4) classes of membership to persons in good standing with the AKC who subscribe to the purposes of the LSDC club, is 18 yrs of age or older and either themselves or any member of their immediate family owns or has owned a Dogo Argentino and must have two signed references from current members in good standing of the LSDC.

**A. Individual Membership**

Any persons 18 yrs of age or older in good standing with AKC may make an application for regular membership in the LSDC, provided he/she, or any members of his/her immediate family owns or has owned a Dogo Argentino and that the applicant is interested in the welfare and advancement of the breed. Individuals have the right to enjoy club privileges which includes the right to vote and hold office after one (1) year of membership in good standing.

**B. Household Membership**

Same as above, except two adult members residing in the same household who are eligible to vote and hold office.

**C. Honorary Membership**

Honorary Membership may only be given to a person who has rendered distinctly valuable service to the LSDC or breed. Honorary members shall be exempt from dues and initiation fees, and shall enjoy all privileges of the LSDC except that they may not vote or hold office. Upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, honorary membership may be given by vote of two thirds of the regular members present and voting at any regular meeting or any special meeting called for such purpose. A member so honored may maintain active (regular) membership status by paying the appropriate yearly dues.

**D. Associate Membership**

Any regular, household, or honorary member may be offered by the Board of Directors Associate Membership which entitles the member all club privileges except voting or office holding. It may be offered to individuals that live out of state or out of country.

While membership is unrestricted to residents, the LSDC's primary purpose is to be representative of breeders and exhibitors of North and West Texas regions.

**Section 2  
Dues**

All dues are subject to change by the Board of Directors provided notice is given of such change at least (30) days prior to November 1st of any calendar year.

**A. Individual Membership**

1. Membership dues shall be determined annually by the BOD at the December meeting, payable on or before the first day of January of each year. No member may

vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of November the treasurer will send to each member a statement of his/her dues for the ensuing year.

2. Individual Membership dues start at \$35 per year.

**B. Household Membership**

1. Same as above except dues start at \$40 per year.

**C. Honorary Membership**

1. Honorary members are exempt from dues and application fees.

**D. Associate Membership**

1. The annual dues for Associate Members shall be the same as the individual members due, payable on or before the 1st day of January each year.

**Section 3**

**Election to Membership**

Application for individual or household membership shall be in writing directed to the BOD on a regular application provided by the club. Each applicant shall be sponsored by two members from different families of the LSDC, both of whom shall personally know the candidate. The application shall be accompanied by an application fee of \$5 together with the dues required for the current year.

Each applicant must attend two (2) regular meetings in person if they reside in North or West Texas. If the applicant resides outside of the region, then they may attend the meetings via zoom or phone conference.

The BOD shall determine whether or not the applicant is eligible for membership, and if the application is found to be in order, the BOD shall send the names and addresses of the applicant and the sponsors to the secretary who shall publish the approved members as speedily as possible in the next LSDC's correspondence. If unfavorable action is recommended, it shall be released back to the current membership and the applicant whose membership have been rejected by the club may not reapply within twelve (12) months after such rejection.

Each person elected to individual/household membership shall have the full membership of the LSDC, including the right to vote and hold office, providing his/her dues are paid in full, except that no member shall have the right to vote for election of officers until one year after his election to membership.

Each person elected to honorary membership shall not have the right to vote or hold office, but shall enjoy all the other privileges of the LSDC and of membership therein.

Each person elected to associate membership shall not have the right to vote or hold office, but shall enjoy all the other privileges of the LSDC and of membership therein.

Any member who has been dropped from membership shall be required to submit a new application for membership in the LSDC.

## **Section 4**

### **Termination of Membership**

Membership may be terminated:

**A.** By resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the LSDC upon written notice to the secretary.

**B.** By lapsing. Any membership may be considered lapsed and automatically terminated if such members dues remain unpaid ninety (90) days after the 1st day of the fiscal year: however, the board may grant an additional ninety(90) days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person whose dues are unpaid as of the day of the meeting be entitled to vote in any LSDC business.

**C.** By expulsion. Membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided to Article VI of this By-Laws.

## **Article II**

### **Meetings and Voting**

#### **Section 1**

##### **Club Meetings**

Meetings of the LSDC shall be held within the North and West Texas Regions at a place, date and hour designated by the BOD. Notice of each such meeting shall be sent by the secretary at least ten (10) days and not more than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting. Meeting notices, meeting minutes, and due notices may be sent by email. The quorum for such meeting shall be twenty percent (20%) of the members in good standing.

#### **Section 2**

##### **Special Club Meetings**

Special club meetings may be called by the president, or by a majority vote of the members of the board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the board, and shall be called by the secretary upon receipt of the petition signed by five (5) members of the club who are in good standing. Such meetings shall be held within the north and west Texas area at a place, date and hour designated by the BOD. Members shall be given three (3) days notice of any special meeting by the secretary. Said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other club business may be transacted therein. The quorum for such meeting shall be twenty percent (20%) members in good standing.

#### **Section 3**

##### **Board Meetings**

Board meetings of the BOD shall be held within North and West Texas in such place and such time as the Board may from time to time determine, or held via telephone conference or video conference, but at least quarterly per year. The Quorum for such meeting shall be the majority of the board.

#### **Section 4 Special Board Meetings**

Special Board Meetings may be called by the president, and shall be called by the secretary upon receipt of request signed by at least three (3) members of the board. Such special meetings shall be held within the North and West Texas Region at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Notice of such meetings shall be given by the secretary at least three (3) days and not more than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted therein. A quorum for such meeting shall be the majority of the board.

#### **Section 5 Voting**

Each individual/household member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one vote per person at any club meeting at which he/she is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club meeting or election.

### **ARTICLE III DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

#### **Section 1 Board of Directors**

The Board shall be comprised of the officers and three (3) other persons, all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for three (3) year terms at the club annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until the successors are elected. General management of the club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board.

#### **Section 2 Officers**

The officers of the club shall be: President, Vice President, Secretaries and Treasurer. Each officer shall be an individual/household member and shall be elected every three years by the individual/household members from among their own members of the club, and shall hold office for a period of three years or until their successors are duly elected.

##### **A. President**

The president, when present, shall preside in all meetings for the members and BOD. The president shall perform all duties commonly incident to his/her office and shall perform such other duties as the BOD shall from time to time designate.

##### **B. Vice President**

In the absence of the president, the VP shall preside in all meetings of the members and BOD and shall perform such other duties as are commonly incident to his/her office and have such other powers and duties as the BOD shall from time to time designate.

### **C. Secretary(s)**

There can be two secretaries of the club: there can be a recording secretary and a corresponding secretary, or one that performs both duties. At the discretion of the BOD, these offices may be combined in one person, or separated into two. The secretary(its) shall be sworn to the faithful performance of their duties.

1. The recording secretary of the LSDC shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings of members and the BOD in books provided for that purpose, which books shall be open at all reasonable times to the inspection of any regular member. In the absence of the recording secretary from any such meeting, a secretary pro tempore shall be chosen who shall record the proceedings in the aforesaid books.
2. The corresponding secretary shall perform such other duties and have such other powers as the BOD shall from time to time designate.

### **D. Treasurer**

The treasurer shall have the care and custody of the funds of the club and shall have and exercise, under the supervision of the BOD, all powers and duties commonly incident to the office. The treasurer shall pay all bills at a timely manner providing there is:

1. A document describing what is being paid.
2. Proof of performance.
3. Approval from the officer, director or committee chair person responsible for approving the bill within that committee's proposed expenses for that year.

The Treasurer shall perform such other duties and have such other powers as may be delegated by the BOD from time to time, and shall be bonded such amount as the BOD may determine, the cost of such bonding to be paid by the LSDC.

At the end of each fiscal year the books and records of the treasurer shall be audited by a committee selected by the BOD.

The treasurer shall be the custodian of all of the club's financial records. All records shall be retained for the period of time required by the IRS.

## **Section 3 Vacancies**

Any vacancies occurring on the board or among the officers during the year shall be filled until the next annual election by a majority vote by all the then members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a special board meeting called for that purpose: except that a vacancy of the president shall be filled automatically by the VP and the resulting vacancy in the office of the VP shall be filled by the board.

**ARTICLE IV**  
**THE CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS**

**Section 1**  
**Club Year**

The club's fiscal year shall begin on the 1st day of January and end of the 31st day of December.

**Section 2**  
**Annual Meeting**

Annual Meeting shall be held in conjunction with the annual specialty or supported entry. Officers and directors for ensuing elections shall be elected by secret every three (3) years, written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with section 4 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer and director shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within thirty (30) days after the election.

**Section 3**  
**Elections**

The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The nominated candidate for other positions on the board who receives the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

**Section 4**  
**Nominations**

No person may be a candidate in the LSDC election that has not been nominated. Ninety days (90) prior to the annual meeting on the election year the board shall select a nominating committee of three (3) members and one (1) alternate. The nominating committee may not nominate themselves, but they are eligible to be nominated from the floor at the monthly meeting preceding the annual meeting. The secretary shall immediately notify the committee persons of the committee, and it shall be his or her duty to call a committee meeting within two weeks of their appointment.

- A. The committee shall nominate one candidate for which office and candidate for the other positions on the board, as set forth in Article III, Section 1, and after securing consent so nominated, shall immediately report their nomination to the secretary in writing.
- B. Upon receipt of the Nominating committee report, the secretary shall notify each member in writing, no less than sixty (60) days prior to the election, of the candidates so nominated.
- C. Additional nominations shall be made at the monthly meeting, preceding the annual meeting on an election year by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline when his or her name is proposed. If the candidate is not in attendance in this meeting, a written statement from the candidate shall be presented to the secretary signifying his or her willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.

- D. No nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting of the club. If an unopposed candidate withdraws at the time of the election, then the newly elected board shall fill the vacancy.

## **ARTICLE V COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1**

The board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the LSDC in such matters as specialty shows, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, hunting trials, membership and other fields which may be well served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the board. Special committees may also be appointed by the board to aid it on particular projects. The following standing committees may be appointed as above prescribed:

- A.** Judges committee
- B.** Membership committee
- C.** Trophy committee
- D.** Show committee
- E.** Budget and auditing committee
- F.** Match Show committee
- G.** Health and welfare committee
- H.** Hunting committee
- I.** Legislation committee
- J.** Hospitality committee

The president may be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee.

### **Section 2**

Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the board upon written notice of the appointee; and the board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

## **ARTICLE VI DISCIPLINE**

### **Section 1**

#### **American Kennel Club/Lone Star Dogo Club of North and West Texas**

#### **Suspension**

Any member who has been suspended from the privileges from AKC automatically shall be suspended from the privileges from the LSDC for a like period. Furthermore, any member who is found to have been under dis-linearly or similar action by the AKC or the DACA (the parent club) shall, upon the LSDC discovery, suffer the same action for the same duration as the action taken by the AKC or the DACA. For example, if a member is suspended from twelve (12) months from AKC or DACA, then the member shall be suspended from the LSDC for twelve (12) months. If a member has his/her membership or privileges revoked, the member shall have his/her membership revoked.



## **Section 2**

### **Charges**

Any member may prefer charges against a member for misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the LSDC or the breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the secretary with a deposit of a \$100 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the board following a hearing. The secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the board or present them at the board meeting, and the board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the LSDC. If the board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which will be prejudicial to the best interest of the LSDC, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date of hearing by the board not less than three (3) weeks, and no more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his/her own defense and bring witnesses if he/she wishes.

Whenever any rescue organization certifies to the LSDC that a Dogo surrendered to that rescue organization within the most 60 days was bred by, owned by or co-owned by a current member of the LSDC, the secretary shall within ten (10) days send notification of these assertions to the member in question and shall send a copy of the notification of the BOD. Within thirty (30) days thereafter, the member so notified shall reply to the secretary in writing to acknowledge or disprove the relationship to the animal. In cases in which the relationship is acknowledged, the member shall document the steps taken personally to assist with re-homing or caring for the animal. The BOD shall have the power to decide whether the reported relationship to the animal is factual. If the relationship is not deemed factual, the matter shall be closed. In cases where the relationship is deemed factual, the secretary shall confirm with the rescue organization that the steps documented in the members replied were taken. If the rescue organization does not cooperate that the steps were taken, the member shall be dropped from membership, and for two (2) years shall not be eligible to apply for membership.

## **Section 3**

### **Board Hearing**

The board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainants and defendants shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony by the defendant and complainant, the board may by majority of those present reprimand or suspend the defendant from all privileges of the LSDC for not more than six (6) months from the day of the hearing. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his/hers fellow members at the ensuing club meeting which considers the board's recommendation. Immediately after the board has reached a decision, its finding shall be put in written form and filed with the secretary, who shall in turn, notify each of the parties of the board's decision and penalty, if any.

## **Section 4 Expulsions**

Expulsion of a member of the LSDC may be accomplished only at a meeting of the LSDC following a board hearing and upon the board's recommendation as provided in section 3 of this article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the LSDC to be held within sixty (60) days, but not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his/her own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The president shall read the charges and the board's findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his/hers own behalf if he/she wishes. The meeting shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A vote of two thirds (2/3) of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If the expulsion is not so voted, the board suspension shall stand.

## **ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS**

### **Section 1**

Amendments to the constitution and by-laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by twenty percent (20%) of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the BOD and must be submitted to members with recommendations of the Board by the secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the petition was received by the secretary.

### **Section 2**

The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) secret vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting.

### **Section 3**

No amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws that is adopted by the LSDC shall become effective until it has been approved by the LSDC BOD.

## **ARTICLE VIII DISSOLUTION**

### **Section 1**

#### **Dissolution**

The club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing. In the event of a dissolution of the LSDC other than for purposes of reorganization whether voluntary or involuntary or by the operation of law, None of the property of the LSDC nor any proceeds thereof nor any

assets of the LSDC shall be distributed to any members of the LSDC, but, after payment of the debts of the LSDC, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of Dogo Argentino selected by the BOD.

## **ARTICLE IX ORDER OF BUSINESS**

### **Section 1**

At meetings of the LSDC, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

- A. Roll Call
- B. Minutes of last meeting
- C. Report of President
- D. Report of Secretary
- E. Report of Treasurer
- F. Report of Committees
- G. Election of new officers and Board Members (at annual meeting in conjunction with LSDC Specialties or Supported entry)
- H. Election of new members
- I. Unfinished business
- J. New business
- K. Adjournment

### **Section 2**

At meeting of the board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- A. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting
- B. Report of the secretary
- C. Report of the treasurer
- D. Report of the committees
- E. Unfinished business
- F. New business
- G. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE X PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

### **Section 1**

The rules contained in the current edition of "Robert's Rule of Order, Newly Revise," shall govern the club and all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws and any other special rules of order that the LSDC may adopt.

