

# WEBSTER SAILING ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

## MISSION STATEMENT:

Webster Sailing Association, (established 1935) is a non-profit sailing club dedicated to the promotion and enjoyment of sailing and sailboat racing events on Webster Lake. Membership in WSA is strictly focused, first and foremost, on sailing. Members' sailboats must be in safe and sailable condition, and has all Town & State required safety equipment aboard. It is encouraged that members use their sailboat(s) at least a few times annually, although it is understood that sometimes circumstances do not permit the recommended usage. The Association's Executive Committee is charged with enforcing the Association's Mission, and if it is determined that a member has joined for any primary reason other than sailing, that member's association with W.S.A. may be terminated by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

## ARTICLE 1: Change of By-Laws

**SECTION 1.** The By-Laws may be altered, amended or repealed only at the annual meeting in the Spring or in September or a specially called meeting of the Association, provided notice has been given of the proposed amendment at least seven days before such meeting, and by vote of two-thirds of the members present at such meeting.

## ARTICLE II: Meetings

**SECTION 1.** The Words "meeting of the Association" mean a meeting of the members of the association either regular or special and a "quorum" means any ten members present at such meeting.

**SECTION 2.** There shall be two regular meetings per year:

- a. An annual awards and elections meeting in September, following the regular seasonal activities.
- b. An annual planning meeting at a time to be set by the officers during the spring months.
- c. Additional meetings shall be held at any time at the call of the Commodore or on the written request to the Commodore or any ten members in good standing of any classifications.

**SECTION 3.** At any meeting a quorum may transact business, and all questions shall be decided by a majority of those present.

## ARTICLE III: Membership - Dues

**SECTION 1.** There shall be five types of membership:

### A. PROBATIONARY MEMBERSHIP:

This shall be a membership issued to an individual and his or her immediate family for the first year of membership. All definitions and criteria are the same as defined under regular

membership. Each probationary membership will become a regular membership upon the vote of the executive committee after one year. If the executive committee does not vote a probationary member to a regular membership, that membership in WSA will cease and the member will be so informed.

**B. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP:**

1. This shall be a membership issued to an individual. Such a membership shall include the individual and his or her immediately family. Family is defined to include spouse or significant other residing within the same household, and all unmarried children living in the same household.
2. Any person sixteen years of age or over, may become a member, except that in a case of a person under (18) eighteen years of age, such membership shall be granted only to such person having obtained the written consent of either parent or legal guardian.
3. Co-owners of sailboats are eligible, provided they each have individual memberships by having paid the standard annual membership fees, and that one or the other has rendered the required boat registration and storage fees.

**C. SENIOR MEMBERSHIP:**

This shall be a membership issued to an individual who has been a member for at least five years, and who is the opinion of the Executive Board, should be granted Senior membership. In granting such membership, the Executive Board shall take into consideration the age and/or retirement status of such individual. Dues for such membership shall be determined by the Executive Board.

**D. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP:**

This shall be a membership issued to an individual who has evinced particular interest in sailing or in the affairs of the Association, and who may not necessarily then partake therein. It shall be issued only by majority vote made of a quorum of members at a regular or specially called meeting, upon recommendation of the Executive Board. Dues for such membership shall be determined by the Executive Board.

**E. LIFE MEMBERSHIP:**

This shall be a membership issued to an individual who has shown extraordinary interest in all aspects of this association. Requirements for this type of membership should meet the following criteria:

1. The individual must have been a membership in good standing of the association for a minimum of twenty years.
2. The individual must have served on a committee or Executive Committee for a minimum of five years.
3. The individual must be recommended for this type of membership by vote of the Executive Committee.

4. Upon vote of such recommendation by the Executive Committee, this membership shall be acted upon by a motion of the Executive members present.
5. Dues of this type membership shall be included in the motion by the executive Committee member making the motion.

F. All classes of membership shall have equal rights and privileges.

## **SECTION 2.**

All members (except as previously stated) shall be admitted upon the approval of a majority of the Executive board, and upon payment of initiation fee, annual dues, boat enrollment fees, as and if such apply.

## **SECTION 3.**

All members shall have a vote and a voice in the affairs of the Association.

## **SECTION 4.**

An admitted member may be removed by two-thirds vote of the Executive Board, for non-payment of annual dues or enrollment fees, or conduct and behavior inconsistent with the purpose of the association.

# **ARTICLE IV: DUES AND FEES**

## **SECTION 1.**

A new member shall pay an initiation fee in accordance with that set from time to time by the Association at any one of its regular meetings.

## **SECTION 2.**

Annual dues (except for Senior, Honorary and Life membership) shall be set from time to time by the Association at any one of its regular meetings.

## **SECTION 3.**

Rules as to boat enrollment fees shall be set from time to time by the Association at any one of its regular meetings. Payment of boat enrollment fee will entitle a member to purchase and display on all boats owned wholly or in partnership with no more than two other persons, such signal, burgee, or other device as may be adopted by the Association as its identification.

# **ARTICLE V: ELECTED OFFICERS and DUTIES**

## **SECTION 1.**

The Executive Committee is the primary governing authority for the association. The elected officers shall consist of a Commodore, Vice-Commodore (one or more), a Secretary, and a Treasurer, whose duties are herein defined:

### **A. COMMODORE**

The Commodore shall preside at all meetings of the Association and executive committee. He shall have the power to appoint all committees and such officers that are

not elective, and to act in emergencies.

**B. VICE-COMMODORE(S)**

The Vice Commodore(s) shall perform the duties of the Commodore in the event of his/hers absence or disability, in order of seniority, and shall further perform those duties specially allocated to them.

**C. SECRETARY**

The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Association, notify the membership of all meetings, receive applications for membership, notify applicants of their membership, notify committees of their appointments, keep all records of the Association, minutes of meetings and proceedings, a list of members with addresses, a record of all boats enrolled in the fleet, race records and results, and sign and distribute such membership cards as are issued by the Association.

**D. TREASURER**

The Treasurer shall collect, receive, and hold all moneys of the Association and, under the direction of the executive committee, shall pay all bills and make such other disbursements as may be required. He shall submit a full accounting of all money and financial records at meetings.

**SECTION 2.**

In addition to the above officers, an Executive Committee having the power of a Board of Directors shall be constituted as follows: The prior noted officers, the appointed chairman of the grounds committee, and not more than (13) other elected members, 3 of which are "members at large".

The Executive Committee shall transact all business of the Association and shall pass on all memberships. The Executive Committee shall be elected annually, and the meetings of the Executive Committee shall be at the call of the Commodore. Those members of the Executive Committee who shall be the three elected members at large shall also serve as Trustees for "Webster Sailing Association Trust" in accordance with a Declaration of trust so entitled. Said three elected members at large shall serve as Trustees only for such time as they are members of the Executive Committee and shall be elected annually.

**SECTION 3. COMMITTEES:**

The Commodore shall appoint a Chairman and members of the following Committees:

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

RACE COMMITTEE

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

**A. NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The nominating committee shall submit the annual elections meeting, a slate of candidates for elective office, and shall secure acceptance of all candidates subject to election, and shall nominate such officers as may be required in event of the registration or absence of any elected officer.

**B. RACE COMMITTEE:**

The race committee shall establish all conditions under which all racing shall be conducted, including local adaptation of current I. S. A. F. (International Sailing Authority Federation) racing rules, supervision of all racing conducted under the auspices of this association as set out by the Race Committee establishment of courses, conduct of all races, decision in all cases of protests and general supervision of all racing conducted under the auspices of this association as set out by the executive committee.

**C. COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE:**

The communication committee will consist of three regular members to be appointed annually by the Commodore. The committee shall be responsible for the management and upkeep of the WSA web site, WSA email account and Facebook account.. Members will also assist in the publication of newsletters and announcements.

**D. PROGRAM COMMITTEE:**

The committee shall, early in the year, set up a schedule for approval at the spring Association meeting. It shall be the function of this committee to establish, promote and carry out such special meeting programs, events, or activities as will be in the best interest of the association in the field of fun, fellowship, education and better understanding.

**E. GROUNDS COMMITTEE:**

This committee shall be responsible for the orderly operation and maintenance of the Associations premises at the "Anchorage". It shall open and close the premises and be responsible for its cleanliness. It shall in charge of docking, mooring, and parking of vehicles and trailers. All mooring equipment used shall be subject to the approval of this committee.

In general, this committee shall be held to the safe and orderly operation of the Association premises. In the course of its duties, this committee may call on other members for assistant. In the events of infraction of rules of conduct, by any member, this committee may recommend such

members to the Executive Board for possible dismissal or such other action as the Executive Board deem best. Although appointed, the Chairman of the Grounds Committee shall sit with and be a member of the Executive Board with the voting power of an elected member.

**F. OTHER COMMITTEES:**

The Commodore shall appoint all other committees as may be desired for either permanent service or special events, activities or purposes.

## **ARTICLE VI - GENERAL**

### **SECTION 1.**

Boats of members of the Association will be restricted by the association. This restriction may be changed from time to time in the best interest of the majority of the membership and within the capabilities of the facilities. No member in good standing will be excluded when new restrictions are voted.

### **SECTION 2.**

General rules will be established by the Executive Committee from time to time for the operation and use of W.S.A. and its facilities. These rules can be changed by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

### **SECTION 3.**

The Executive Board and Executive Committee are one and the same body.