

# **Wintonbury Flying Club**

## **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

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### **WINTONBURY FLYING CLUB PHILOSOPHY**

WFC was organized to provide a safe location for members to have fun flying their model airplanes and enjoy the camaraderie of other members.

WFC developed safety rules, not people rules. The club does not want excessive rules; just rules to protect people and property.

WFC safety rules are for guidance and safety, not for hard-handedness

WFC membership and its elected leadership will not tolerate mean-spiritedness from members to other members or guests of our club. This type of behavior will result in suspension of flying privileges and membership.

**ARTICLE 1 – NAME**

The name of this club shall be the Wintonbury Flying Club located at the Blue Hills Flood Water Retention Area, Reservoir No. 2, Bloomfield, CT.

**ARTICLE 2 – PURPOSE**

Section 1. The objective of the club shall be to promote model building and flying in Bloomfield, CT and in this town’s general locality, and to aid insofar as possible the national program of the Academy of Model Aeronautics and other AMA activities, looking toward the continual advancement of model aviation in the United States.

Section 2. All special or local enterprises of the Wintonbury Flying Club shall conform to the policies of the Academy of Model Aeronautics and to the regulations of that organization governing model aircraft contests.

**ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. All persons shall be eligible to membership in the club, provided they meet the qualifications prescribed by this club and by the Academy of Model Aeronautics and have a current AMA Open membership.

Section 2. Club membership shall be limited. The maximum number of regular members will be determined through consideration of relevant factors such as finance, safety, interest, goodwill, etc. Proposed changes to club membership shall be treated as Regular Business, Article 6 (below).

Section 3. No member in good standing shall be asked to relinquish his membership without valid reason. The membership and its elected leadership will not tolerate mean-spiritedness from its members to other members in the club. This type of behavior will result in suspension of flying privileges and membership.

Section 4. The club has established and will maintain a Junior Membership Program.

Section 5. Any member may resign his/her membership by giving written notice to the Club.

Section 6. If any member ceases to have the qualifications necessary for membership in the AMA, his/her membership in the Club shall terminate, subject to reinstatement upon restoration of eligibility.

Section 7. Any new member who joins the club after the thirty-first of August will have their membership honored and valid through December thirty-first of the following year.

**ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS**

Section 1 – Definition

The elected officers of the Wintonbury Flying Club shall be:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

#### Section 2 - Duties

1. President – The President shall preside at all meetings of the club and shall act as spokesperson for the club in all matters pertaining to it. The President shall appoint directors for various club requirements as needed.
2. Vice-President – The Vice-President shall act for the President when he is unable to serve.
3. Secretary – The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings and shall maintain an official minutes book for this purpose. In addition, the secretary shall circulate an attendance sheet at each club meeting.
4. Treasurer – The Treasurer shall collect and disburse all monies due and owed. The Treasurer shall also keep a record of all financial transactions by the club.
5. Executive Committee - The Executive Committee (consisting of the elected officers) shall have complete charge of all club affairs.

#### Section 3 – Term of Office

All officers of the Wintonbury Flying Club shall serve for one year from January first.

The election of officers shall be held annually in November and the nominations shall be made by a committee appointed beforehand for that purpose, or by individual members following the report of the Nominating Committee.

#### Section 4 - Vacancies

Vacancy in any office shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee, such appointee to serve until the end of the term for which his predecessor was elected.

### **ARTICLE 5 – MEETINGS**

Meetings shall be held once each month. The time and place shall be designated by the Executive Committee.

### **ARTICLE 6 – REGULAR BUSINESS**

All regular business affairs and enterprises conducted by the club shall be directed by the Executive Committee. At any time, the President may call a meeting of the membership to address any issues such as a problem or a business activity. Proposed changes that result from addressing these issues, unless they affect Amendments or Dues (reference Articles 7 and 8 below) will be offered as motions during the meeting which will be passed by a simple majority of those in attendance at the meeting.

**ARTICLE 7 - DUES AND FEES**

Section 1. The annual membership dues and initiation fee to this club shall be proposed by the executive committee, and are subject to the provisions of Article 7; Section 2.

Section 2. Proposed dues changes or special assessments shall be presented to the club in writing (in written correspondence or email) no later than thirty (30) days prior to any scheduled club meeting. For a dues increase or special assessment to pass, a simple majority of the active membership must vote to approve.

**ARTICLE 8 - AMENDMENTS**

Proposed amendments to this Constitution and these By-Laws shall be presented to the club in writing (via written correspondence or email) no later than 30 days prior to any scheduled club meeting. For an amendment to pass, a simple majority of the active membership must vote to approve. A *simple majority* is defined as a voting requirement of more than 50% of all ballots cast. *Active membership* is defined as any member that attends the appropriate regularly scheduled meeting to vote or casts a vote via written correspondence or email as stated earlier. Votes for members unable to attend the regularly scheduled meeting where the vote will take place, will be recorded by submitting them in writing or via email to the club Secretary to be received no later than 10 days prior to the meeting date.

*On September 6, 2012 the Club voted to add the following paragraph to ARTICLE 8.*

No amendment shall be brought before the membership for a vote that includes language that contradicts and takes precedence over Article 8. The language in Article 8 takes precedence over any existing language included in the WFC Bylaws, the WFC Flying Club Safety, the Flying Rules and the Supplemental Safety and Flying Rules for Rotary Wing Aircraft/ Helicopters and the WFC Membership Manual

**ARTICLE 9 – FINANCIALS**

Section 1. The club Treasurers books must be audited annually prior to the new calendar year. The audit shall be performed by a committee of two (2) Club members, appointed by the executive committee. None of the auditors shall be on the Executive Committee in the club.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall maintain accurate and timely records of all club financial transactions via the use of Quick Books, or equivalent financial software.

Section 3. Club dues shall be collected at, or in advance of, the regularly scheduled January club meeting. Reinstatement will be subject to available openings and payment of the initiation fee.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget. The budget shall be presented to the membership at the regularly scheduled February club meeting.

## **ARTICLE 10 – FLYING AND SAFETY RULES**

The club shall establish, maintain and regularly update a set of safety and flying rules.

## **ARTICLE 11 – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

Section 1. ROBERT’S RULES . Robert’s rules of Order shall be used for conducting Club meetings and shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are consistent with these Bylaws.

Section 2. FISCAL YEAR. Fiscal Year will be from January1 to December 31

Section 3. STANDING RULES. All AMA rules apply as do Club Rules found in the Club Bylaws.

Section 4. DISSOLUTION OF CLUB. The duration of the Wintonbury Flying Club shall be perpetual. The Club may dissolve with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership. In the event that the Club should be dissolved, the entire assets after meeting liabilities shall be distributed to another non-profit organization that has similar interests.

## **ARTICLE 12 – RECORD OF BYLAW REVISION**

**Revision “–“:** Initial Release 4/1/93

**Revision1:** Extensively Revised RN10/6/08

**Revision 2:** Revised note preceding Supplemental Helicopter Regulations RN10/15/09

**Revision 3:** Added Article 8 to Supplement Helicopter Regulations and revised note preceding Supplemental Helicopter Regulations. RN10/7/10

**Revision 4.** Added paragraph to Article 8. The purpose in making adding this paragraph is to prevent any future motions that may have language that requires a super majority rule (example: 2/3 rule). The second reason is to strengthen the language of ARTICLE 8 and restore the original purpose and intent of ARTICLE 8. Dated: 09/06/12

**Revision 5.** Revised the WFC Flying and Safety Rules under the SUPPLEMENTAL SAFETY AND FLYING RULES FOR ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT/ HELICOPTERS section to permit the flying of rotary wing aircraft. Dated: 06/13/2013.

## **GENERAL**

The flying field is located in Flood Control Reservoir #2, leased by the Town of Bloomfield from the State of Connecticut and supervised by the Bloomfield Recreation Department. The site has been designated by the Bloomfield Town Council for the flying of model aircraft and rocketry. The use of the model flying facilities is restricted to members of the Wintonbury Flying Club and their guests. In accordance with the club by-laws, all members of the Wintonbury Flying Club must belong to the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). The flying club will attempt to permit only members of the AMA to use the facilities. The latest published revision of the official AMA Safety Code will be observed by all participants utilizing the facilities for model flying.

