

Pointer Fish and Game Club  
Incorporated 1919



Constitution, By-Laws, Clauses

Revised 1939

Revised 1975

Revised 1999

Revised 2000

Revised 2001

Revised 2003

Revised 2004

Revised 2005

Revised 2006

All male references should be read as and deemed to be considered  
gender neutral. (12/1996)

## PROLOGUE

The Pointer's Fish and game Club was organized in 1919 therefore making it one of the oldest sportsman's clubs of New Hampshire. At the present time the Pointer Fish and game Club has a membership over 300 limited by quota, with a lengthy waiting list.

The Pointers presently own thirty-three acres of wooded land complete with buildings, rifle ranges, skeet and trap shooting facilities, and a spring fed stream. This land is available to both scout groups and church groups. It is being used by these groups for nature studies and overnight bivouacs. The Club also owns a number of acres of land on the Goffstown-Dunbarton town line that serves as a natural wilderness area. Club members are free to use these facilities at any time.

The Pointers have always been in the forefront in conservation measures, pollution abatement, securing rights of ways, and improving relationships between landowner and sportsman. In 1965 the pointer Fish and Game spearheaded the fight against the filling in of valuable public waters, mainly Salmon Meadow Cove in Lake Winnepesaukee, by a private development company. The Pointers in the past have been instrumental in obtaining rights of way to Mount Williams Pond and have been working to obtain rights of ways to the Merrimack River.

The Pointer Fish and Game Club worked to secure a right of way to Ferrin Pond in Weare and members helped to reclaim and stock this pond with brown trout. We have bought and distributed posters to better relationships between landowners and sportsman. Over the years we have sponsored many youths, usually two to four, to attend Camp Barry, a conservation camp at Spruce Pond. The Pointers subscribe to a twenty-five dollar membership, to "Ducks Unlimited" which helps to provide better duck hunting in New Hampshire. We also have a club membership in the National Rifle Association, New Hampshire Wildlife Federation and the National Audubon Society. The Pointer Fish and Game Club has bought lumber and had the boy scouts build Wood Duck boxes which were put into marshes by Pointers members. The Club also bought grain for pheasant winter feed which is put out by members or anyone interested in doing so. Since its inception, the Manchester unit of the Hunter Safety Program has been predominantly staffed by members of the Pointer Fish and Game Club. These members give their time to teach young boys and girl's firearms orientation and safe use, respect for natural resources and the rights of others. Several thousands of youngsters have completed the program since its origin.

The Pointer Fish and Game Club is composed of men and women linked together by a chain of friendship and consideration of others and a common bond of love of wildlife and natural resources of this country, especially the State of New Hampshire. (12/2003)

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE I – Title**

The title of this club shall be The Pointer Fish and Game Club, Inc., herein to be referred to as the Club.

### **ARTICLE II – Purpose**

The purpose of the Club shall be to better the hunting and fishing conditions of this state, and to create a more friendly relationship between landowners and sportsmen.

### **ARTICLE III – Officers**

The officers of the Club shall consist of: President, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Corporate Secretary, Parliamentarian and the Board of Directors.

Section 1. Emeritus/Honorary Officers. Officers who are honorably discharged or retired from service shall be conferred with Honorary Membership and hold their rank and title emeritus.

### **ARTICLE IV – Standing Committees**

Standing Committees shall consist of:

1. Committee on Fish and Game
2. Committee on New Hampshire Wildlife Federation
3. Kitchen Committee
4. Committee on membership for Sickness and Death
5. Committee on Rental and Maintenance Supervision.
6. Constitution Committee
7. Finance Committee
8. Admission Committee
9. Committee on Youth Activities

### **ARTICLE V – Duties of Officers and Standing Committees**

Club Officers may serve on several committees but should not chair more than one committee. The Officers and the Board of Directors will be empowered to set basic rules and guidelines for all appropriate Club events and activities. The Club and its members are prohibited from running events without an appropriate committee and a committee head. The committee chairmen will set the rules for the event or activity within the basic set of rules and guidelines. (12/2004)

### **Section 1. President**

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club, appoint all committees, and perform such duties as usually pertain to this office.

### **Section 2. First Vice-President**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall assist the President in the discharge of his duties, and shall perform the duties of the President in case of his absence. In addition to the aforementioned duties, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall be charged with the responsibilities of coordinating all special events such as Spouses' Night, the Annual Member's banquet and other events or duties as directed by the President. Upon the inability of the President to continue his/her term in office and or in the event of the President's demise, the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President shall automatically and immediately assume the duties of the president for the remainder of the term.

### **Section 3. Second Vice-President**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President shall be charged with coordinating and assisting the chairman of the Field Day events, serve as Program Coordinator for each monthly meeting and coordinate any events or duties as directed by the President. Upon the inability of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President to continue his/her term of office and/or in the event of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President's demise, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President shall automatically and immediately assume all duties of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President. In the event the President and the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President's term in office expire simultaneously, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President shall automatically and immediately assume all duties of the President for the remainder of that term, and shall also serve as Quartermaster and account for all Club property. (12/1992)

### ***Regarding Sections 4 through 18, the following applies:***

In the case of an Officer's, Board of Director's, or Standing Committee Member's inability to continue his/her term in office, or in the event of resignation or demise, the President, with the Board of Director's approval, shall appoint a member to assume the duties of that office for the remainder of the term. (12/2006)

### **Section 4. Treasurer**

The treasurer shall keep a detailed account of all funds received or disbursed, and shall render monthly or at any time when requested by the Club, a full statement thereof. The Treasurer shall deposit in the Bank all the money in the Club's name for the benefit of said Club, giving a receipt for same, agreeing to transfer said moneys (and all property he/she may have in his/her possession belonging to the Club) to his/her successor.

**Section 5. Financial Secretary**

The Financial Secretary shall keep a detailed account of the standing of each member of the Club, receive all monies due the Club and pay same over to the Treasurer, taking the Treasurer's receipt for same. The Financial Secretary shall, on the first meeting in January give to the Club, an account of all members whose dues are in arrears.

**Section 6. Recording Secretary**

The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club, conduct all correspondence and perform all duties pertaining to this office.

**Section 7. Corporate Secretary**

The Corporate Secretary shall be elected by the Officers and Directors and shall serve at their pleasure to discharge all the duties and matters pertaining to the Club's legal requirements. The Corporate Secretary does not have to be a member of the Club.

**Section 8. Parliamentarian**

The Parliamentarian shall be appointed by the Officers and Directors. The parliamentarian's duties shall be to maintain proper parliamentary procedure according to the Club's Constitution and By-Laws and Robert's Rules of Parliamentary Procedure.

**Section 9. Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall consist of four (4) members. The immediate Past President may serve as a director in addition to the four elected members. They shall be elected by the members and they cannot be elected officers or be on the Finance Committee at the same time. They shall serve until their successors are elected. A vacancy in a directorship may be filled by a vote of the remaining directors and the newly elected director shall serve out the term of the director whose vacancy he filled. They shall have supervision of all assets of the Club, make and keep a true inventory of same, and report this inventory to the Club at the December meeting. The Board of Directors shall audit the books of the Financial Secretary and the Treasurer at the end of the year or at any time the Club may determine. They shall act as an investigating committee on all membership problems. (12/1996)

**Section 10. Unexcused Absences**

Any officer or Director who has (3) unexcused absences from Board Meetings, not excused by the President or the Board of Directors, will be deemed to have resigned and the position will be filled in accordance with the By-Laws of the Club.

**Section 11. Committee on Rental and Maintenance Supervision**

The Committee on Rental and Maintenance shall consist of one chairman and two (2) assistants whose duties are to provide rental and maintenance supervision of properties belonging to the Club.

**Section 12. Delegates and Alternates**

Two Delegate and two Alternates to the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation shall attend the monthly meetings of the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation. In the event that a delegate cannot attend a monthly meeting, it will be the delegate's duty to contact an alternate for the purpose of having the alternate attend that meeting as a substitute. Note – The Club will reimburse a Delegate or Alternate to the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation, Concord, NH in the amount of \$2.00 for transportation, if said delegate or alternate uses his car to transport delegates. Also delegates will be reimbursed for dinner meeting expenses.

**Section 13. Kitchen Committee**

The Kitchen Committee shall consist of the Chairman and three (3) assistants who shall arrange for the procurement of all food supplies and the preparation of all luncheons, banquets and food for Field Days, when it has been voted by the Club to have such functions. The Chairman of the Kitchen Committee has power to select any Club member to assist him/her.

**Section 14. Committee on Sickness or Death**

The Chairman of the Committee on membership sickness or death shall provide something appropriate to any member who is sick, or flowers in the case of a deceased member or immediate family member. In lieu of flowers, a charitable donation can be made. The amount expended shall be left to the discretion of the Chairman of this committee.

**Section 15. Constitution Committee**

The Constitution Committee shall consist of the President, a Director, and three members appointed by the President. The Chairman shall be chosen from among those appointed. The Constitution Committee shall review the Articles of the Constitution and of the By-Laws and Club Clauses to recommend possible amendments to the club. The Committee shall no later than the March General Membership Meeting, complete all revisions of the By-Laws and have available at the following general membership meeting, copies for any member requesting same. (12/1997)

## **Section 16. Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee shall consist of four (4) members elected by the membership and the elected Treasurer. An elected person on the Finance Committee cannot serve as an elected Officer (except Treasurer) or as a Director of the Club. To avoid the appearance of impropriety, the Treasurer cannot serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee, but rather serves in an advisory capacity and answers questions about the Budget. The duties of the Finance Committee shall consist of reviewing all monies spent by the Club above \$50.00. The Finance Committee votes on the matter and a majority shall govern. (12/2004)

### **Finance Committee**

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to review the financial condition of the Club and to make recommendations to the Officers, Board of Directors and the membership concerning non-routine expenditures in excess of \$50.00. It is recognized that the opinion of the Finance Committee on the Club expenditures is intended to give guidance to the Club in making decisions, and it is not the final determination as to whether or not the expenditures will be made. Final determination rests with the Club members. The Finance Committee shall be comprised of four (4) Club members and the Club Treasurer.

#### **Scope:**

The scope of the Finance Committee's involvement is as follows:

1. Review and comment on the appropriateness of all non-routine expenditures in excess of \$50.00. Non-routine expenditures are those not required for normal operation of the Club.
2. Develop a budget for each calendar year. The budget for the following year should be developed before October 1<sup>st</sup>. This will allow the proposed budget to be presented to the members at the October/November meetings.

#### **Procedure:**

1. Any non-routine expenditure above \$50.00 brought up at the Board of Directors meeting will be reviewed by the Finance Committee prior to the next general meeting.
2. At least three members of the Finance Committee will be available at the general membership meetings between 7:00 p.m. and 7:30

- p.m., to discuss non-routine expenditures above \$50.00, that Club members would like to present for vote at the meeting.
3. In general, the Finance Committee will make a motion to table any items for non-routine expenditures above \$50.00 that have not been reviewed by the Finance Committee prior to the general meeting at which the item is presented.

### **Section 17. Admission Committee**

The Admission Committee shall consist of three members: the President, a director, and a member-at-large appointed by the Officers and the Board of Directors.

The Admission Committee shall meet with both the sponsor and the membership candidate prior to a reading of applicants' names to the membership. The Admission Committee shall interview the candidate and sponsor to ensure that all of Article VI-Applications for Membership requirements are met.

The Admission Committee can recommend admissions of candidates at the readings to the membership. The Admission Committee's main function is to ensure quality membership, but cannot blackball or reject membership of a candidate.

The Admission Committee shall record and verify that new members fulfill their probationary requirements in Article VI, section 4. (12/2003)

### **Section 18. Committee on Youth Activities**

The Committee of Youth Activities shall meet, review and select candidate applications for the Club's approval of the Barry Camp Scholarships

The Committee on Youth Activities shall propose and suggest club activities to the club membership for approval, those activities which will promote and encourage youth activity programs of conservation, hunting and fishing. (12/2003)

## **Article VI – Application for Membership**

### **Section 1. Requirement for Membership**

An applicant must be 16 years of age, be of good moral character, recommended and sponsored by an active member in good standing, of the Club. Applicants must hold one of any type sporting license of the State of New Hampshire. (12/1993)

### **Section 2. Reading of Applicant's Name**

Application for membership to the Club may be made at any time. A reading of names of applicants to the Club and the names of the sponsoring members shall be read at the January, May and September meetings for induction at the next regular club meeting. Dues are not pro-rated. Applicants inducted at the October meeting are for the new membership year. The names of current members whose dues have not been paid by the end of the January meeting will be dropped from the membership. (12/2003)

### **Section 3. Applicant Selection**

Candidates for membership to the club will be selected according to the date of return of application to the Financial Secretary of the Club. Preference shall be given to offspring of members of the Club in good standing.

### **Section 4. Membership Work Requirements**

All new members must serve six hours working for the Club in some capacity. Failure to submit a report to the Admission Committee of six hours work within the probationary period will result in termination of membership from the Club. (12/2003)

### **Section 5. Field and Member Orientation**

All new members must complete a field orientation, at the field by a qualified member of the Club, before they receive access to the field. The field orientation is to cover field uses, rules and regulations; in addition the orientation may address the events, history and tradition of Pointer Fish and Game Club. A qualified member to present the orientation are those members currently on the Board and any other member as selected and voted on by the Board to be part of the Field and Member Orientation Program. (12/1996)

### **Section 6. Application Fees**

A non-refundable application fee equal to one year's dues must be submitted to the Financial Secretary with each application for membership excluding a member's offspring under the age of eighteen.

### **Section 7. Maximum Number of Members**

The membership shall have a maximum of 350 members in good standing. This number shall not include dues-free members. (12/1993)

### **Section 8. Special Selection**

Should the membership decline to numbers detrimental to the Club, the Board of Directors may at any time call for a special selection of new members to maintain the established maximum,

### **Section 9. Honorary Membership**

For exceptional and outstanding contributions exemplifying the Purpose of the Club as stated in Article II of this Constitution, the Club may award Honorary Membership to a worthy non-member.

## **Article VII – Conduct of Members**

### **Section 1. Penalties for Unbecoming Behavior**

Any member who displays conduct in a manner unbecoming a member of this Club, upon sufficient proof, shall be subject to such penalty as the Club may determine. Any member who may be expelled for conduct unbecoming a member cannot make application for membership until six months have expired or the vote in regard to such member is reconsidered.

### **Section 2. Penalties for Violation of Fish and Game Law**

Any member willfully breaking any of the State Fish and Game Laws, and if he/she be found guilty by the State, said action shall be sufficient cause for his/her automatic, permanent discharge from this Club upon recommendation of the Board of Directors.

## **Article VIII – Dues and Assessments**

### **Section 1. Dues**

The annual dues of the Club shall be determined by the membership, payable in advance between the dates of October 1<sup>st</sup> and inclusive of the January meeting. Dues may not be changed until members of record are notified of such proposed change in advance and voted on at the next following meeting. Any member not having paid his dues by or at the January meeting automatically forfeits his membership. (12/1992)

### **Section 2. Application Fee**

The annual membership fee must accompany each and every application upon acceptance for membership and no later than the Induction meeting.

### **Section 3. Assessments**

Assessments can be made upon the senior membership only, based upon recommendations of the Finance Committee, the approval of the Officers and the Board of Directors only with the final approval of the members at a general meeting vote. Waiver of assessment payment by a member can be made by the Directors for just cause, i.e. financial hardship. Hardships of any member, when presented to the Board of Directors are to be kept private and confidential.

### **Section 4. Dues Free Due to Age**

Members upon reaching age sixty-eight (68) shall be dues free if he/she has held membership for a minimum of fifteen (15) years or longer.

**Section 5. Dues Free Due to 40 Year Members**

Any member becoming a member of (40) years in good standing shall be dues free.

**Section 6. Members in Armed Forces**

A member of the Club in good standing who becomes a member of the Armed Forces shall have payment of dues waived until his/her separation from the Service.

**Section 7. Club Functions**

No member of the Pointer Fish and Game Club will be required to purchase or sell tickets, as a requirement to participate in any Club function, other than the entrance ticket for the particular function.  
(12/1997)

**By-Laws**

**Article I – Order of Business**

The Order of Business shall be as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Correspondence
4. Bills
5. Report of the Financial Secretary
6. Treasurer’s Report
7. Report of Delegates to the NH Wildlife Federation
8. Unfinished business
9. New business
10. Adjournment

**Article II- Regular and Special Meetings**

Section 1. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings shall be on the nights and at the times as specified by vote of the membership.

Section 2. Special Meetings

The President shall at any time call a Special Meeting of the Club when so requested in writing by three (3) or more members.

### **Article III – Quorum**

Forty (40) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular meeting.

### **Article IV – Election of Officers and Standing Committees**

#### **Section 1. Term**

All Officers and Directors of the Club, except for the Corporate Secretary and Parliamentarian, shall be elected for a two (2) year term at the regular meetings in December of every second year.

#### **Section 2. Assume Office – President**

The Elected President shall assume his/her office at the meeting at which he/she is elected immediately after Unfinished Business.

#### **Section 3. Assume Office – All other Officers**

Elected Officers and Directors shall assume the duties of their office at the end of the regular meeting in December following their election.

#### **Section 4 Term Limits – President**

A member shall serve as many terms as the membership re-elects him or her for. (12/2000)

#### **Section 5. Appointing Standing Committees**

The Elected President shall appoint Standing Committees at the January Meeting following his/her election.

### **Article V – Mode of Electing Officers**

#### **Section 1. Nominations**

The President of the Club shall call for nominations from the membership for each officer to be elected. A simple majority of votes shall decide the election.

#### **Section 2. Limitations**

No member shall hold more than one elected office of the Club concurrently.

## **Article VI – Yea and Nay Votes**

### **Section 1. Majority Vote**

A yea and nay vote shall be taken on any question, and the majority vote shall govern, with one exception. (See Article VI, Section 2.)

### **Section 2. Constitution/By-Law Changes**

Changes to the Constitution or in the By-Laws or Club Clauses must attain a two thirds majority of votes cast by count. Proposed changes must be submitted in writing at the regular November meeting and mailed to all members prior to being voted on. By members present at the December meeting. (12/1996)

### **Section 3. Count of Votes**

In the event a yea and nay vote does not clearly indicate a majority vote, a count shall be made.

### **Section 4. Requesting a Count**

A count may be requested on any vote by a motion from a member.

## **Article VII – Rules**

The rules of Parliamentary practice as comprised in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Club in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with its Constitution and By-Laws.

### **Club Clauses**

- A. At no time shall any member of the Club injure or destroy any signs, fences or property while fishing or hunting. Violators of this clause are liable to suspension from the Club.
- A. Members of the Club should observe anti-litter recommendations at all times, but especially when a guest of a landowner.
- B. Should any member of the Club lose his/her dog by foul play (such as poisoning, shooting, theft) the Club shall offer a suitable reward to be paid to the person or persons giving information which will lead to the arrest and conviction of the guilty party.
- C. It shall be the duty of every member of the Club to report at meetings any persons he/she may know of who are willfully breaking the Fish and Game Laws of New Hampshire.
- D. Members visiting or utilizing the Club's fields should police the areas used. Should a member discover evidence of damage or vandalism at

the fields, that member should report this to a member of the Committee on Rental and Maintenance Supervision.

- E. Any member of the Club, who at any time is using woodlands and discovers a fire, should try to extinguish it, and summon help if necessary.
- F. All members of the Club are urged to be practicing conservationists.
- G. Whenever possible, members are encouraged to take a youngster fishing or hunting.
- H. Club members are urged to wear the Club insignia which may be purchased for a nominal fee from the Treasurer. Bumper stickers are also available.
- I. Members are responsible for guests and minors under 18 years old and should practice the following ethical policies:
  - 1. Limit number of guests to a reasonable number of 2 – 3 maximum.
  - 2. Do not take up more than one bench for shooting and sighting firearms, especially during hunting season and always be courteous.
  - 3. Members must provide hands on supervision of their guests as well as any accompanying minors.
  - 4. Members are responsible for all guest and will not allow them to wander around without supervision. Members are always responsible for their guest's behavior and safety. Refer to article VII (Conduct of Members). (12/2004)