

Constitution and Bylaws
of the
Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club

Article I – Preamble

Section 1: The name of the Club shall be Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club, Incorporated, also as Trailblazers.

Section 2: The purpose of this Club shall be:

- A.** To actively support the sport of sled dog racing in order to familiarize the general public with it and with the sled dog as a working animal. This we propose to do:
 - 1. On a local level working independently
 - 2. On a regional level working in co-operation with other sled dog clubs
 - 3. On a national level in conjunction with the current international organization.
- B.** To organize and execute competitive sled dog races, the primary purpose of which will be to provide an opportunity for mushers to compete openly with each other in an atmosphere of sportsmanship to determine superior skills among dogs and drivers. A secondary purpose of such races will be to encourage spectator interest and appreciation of the sport of sled dog racing.
- C.** To promote co-operation among club members to improve our mutual knowledge of the art of sled dog driving, the techniques of training, the manufacture and use of sleds, harnesses and other equipment, the practice of kennel management, and the sciences of dog breeding and canine hygiene.
- D.** To encourage legislation for the benefit and improvement of the sport of sled dog racing.

Section 3: Trailblazers will not sponsor any dog shows, including information and obedience trials, but may hold joint social functions with show clubs for educational purposes to promote interest in and knowledge of sled dogs and sled dog racing.

Section 4: Trailblazers is a non-profit organization issuing no stock. Any proceeds derived from promotions or races, or from sales of any goods connected with said promotions or races shall be used to defray the expenses of operating the Club. No officer or member may be paid for his/her services to the club other than to be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses made for official business.

Section 5: Trailblazers pledges support to the current international organization.

Article II – Membership

Section 1: Eligibility

- A. No memberships will be accepted for the current year after the end of the racing season. He/she must wait until the beginning of the next Club year, which starts on September 1st, to join.

Memberships cannot be changed to a different membership during the current year in which they first joined.

- B. Prospective members need not own a team of sled dogs to qualify for membership in the Trailblazers. Neither must he/she have any technical knowledge or experience in sled dog racing. He/She shall, however, be willing to serve the Club when asked to do so.
- C. There shall be three classes of membership:
 - 1. **Adult Membership** – Individual member over 16 years of age; may vote; may hold office; entitled to all racing privileges.
 - 2. **Junior Membership** – Individual member (ages 7-16); may not vote; may not hold office; racing privileges limited to 6-dog class (ages 12-16), 4-dog class (ages 10-16), 3-dog junior (ages 8-16), or 2 dog junior (ages 7-16).

Section 2: Clarifications

All members are expected to give freely of their time and talents to work actively for the advancement of the club and its purposes.

Section 3: Application for Membership

- A. Any person desiring membership in Trailblazers shall become a member upon payment of the appropriate dues.
- B. In the event that any member(s) in good standing can demonstrate just cause why an applicant should not be granted membership, then Article II, Section 3-A (above), shall not apply, and membership shall be determined by a majority vote of all voting members in attendance (provided a quorum is present). Naturally, the applicant has a right to defend himself (or herself), and the vote may be delayed until a future meeting is in order to weigh the facts and make a fair and equitable judgement.
- C. Any person convicted in a court of law for animal abuse or neglect will be denied membership and racing privileges.

Section 4: Termination of Membership

- A. Any member may resign from the Club at any time by serving notice in writing to the Treasurer. Dues are not refundable.
- B. Any member not paying his/her dues at the beginning of each Club year shall be considered delinquent and will forfeit his/her status as a member in good standing, and all rights and privileges thereto.
- C. Any member found guilty by two-thirds majority vote of the voting membership of willfully engaging in any act which brings disfavor or ill-repute upon the Club, or of acting with malice toward any other member, especially during a race, shall lose his/her membership status and not be allowed to compete in any other Trailblazers' races for that year. Any

person so affected may be readmitted to membership the following year upon the repayment of his/her dues and upon consent of a majority of the voting members.

Article III – Meetings

Section 1: Regularly Scheduled Club Meetings

- A. Meetings shall be scheduled throughout the year when deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
- B. All members will be notified in advance of the next meeting through the Trailblazer Newsletter.
- C. A quorum shall be present when any meeting is attended by 15 (fifteen) or more voting members.

Section 2: Executive Board Meetings

The Board of Directors, (also known as the Executive Board) shall be empowered to conduct normal Club business, with the exception of Constitutional changes, Club policy, and expenditures in excess of \$500.00

Section 3: Parliamentary Procedures

All meetings shall be guided by Parliamentary procedures based on Robert's Rules of Order, and interpreted by the President in as informal a method as possible to maintain order.

Article IV – Officers

Section 1: Officers

- A. The Officers of the Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club, Inc., shall be (1) President, (2) First Vice-President, (3) Second Vice-President, (4) Recording Secretary, (5) Corresponding Secretary, (6) Treasurer, and (7) one-year Board member which shall be the outgoing President, or if necessary, an Adult member elected at Large. These officers shall comprise the Executive Board. *(It is suggested that no two officers be from the same household.)*
- B. All officers shall be elected for a term of one year by simple majority of the ballots cast by mail prior to the May meeting of each year with exception of the Treasurer, (which will be by election of the majority of the Board). This person will stay in that position unless he/she resigns or is discharged due to misconduct in office. All candidates must submit a written resume explaining his/her qualifications. Candidates will also be interviewed by the Board.
- C. There shall be no limit to the number of terms, consecutive or otherwise, which an official may serve.
- D. Any officer may be impeached for due cause by a two-thirds majority of the full voting membership.

Section 2: President

- A. The President shall preside at all Club and Executive Board meetings and shall have all duties and powers normally delegated to that office.
- B. He/she shall vote only in case of a tie, except during election of officers.
- C. He/she shall act as Chief Race Marshall at all races unless he/she delegates this responsibility. He/she shall oversee the appointment of all race officials.
- D. He/she is the final authority in matters of Parliamentary procedure and the interpretation of the Club Constitution and Bylaws.
- E. He/she shall appoint all committees.

Section 3: Vice-President

- A. The two Vice-Presidents assist the President in his/her duties and take over in his/her absence or disability.
- B. The First Vice-President is next in line to succeed the President when the occasion demands, followed by the Second Vice-President.
- C. When replacing the President, the Vice-Presidents enjoy the full powers and responsibilities of his/her office.

Section 4: Secretaries The secretarial duties shall be:

- A. The Recording Secretary shall keep and report the minutes of all meetings.
- B. The Corresponding Secretary shall answer Club correspondence, and shall notify all members of Club functions through publication of said events in the Trailblazer, the official Club newsletter of Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club, Inc.
- C. Both the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries shall turn over all Club records, supplies and Club property in their possession, to their successors.

Section 5: Treasurer

- A. Keep and report accurate and up-to-date records of the Club's financial status.
- B. Deposit all receipts of the Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club, Inc. in its own checking account in a reputable bank.
- C. Pay all Club debts, disbursements to be contingent upon approval of the Executive Board.
- D. The Treasurer shall supply each member with a current Club roster upon request.

Section 6: Vacancies

Any vacancies, other than for the Office of President, shall be filled by appointment of the President, subject to confirmation by the Board of Directors.

Article V – Elections

Section 1: Nominations

- A. Nominations shall come from the floor at the Annual Nominations of Officers meeting in April of each year.

- B. Any person running for any position on the Board must have been a paid Adult member for 2 consecutive years prior to the nomination meeting and must have attended a majority of the Club meetings during that time. In lieu of one of the meetings, participation in at least one major volunteer position will be considered.

Section 2: Voting

- A. Voting can be accomplished by USPS postal service mail, or electronically utilizing e-mail and a confidential voting program. The email address to be used will be the member's email listed when joining the club.
- B. All officers, including the President, shall be allowed to vote during the election of Officers.
- C. The newly elected officers shall assume their official duties at the conclusion of the May meeting.

Article VI – Insurance

Section 1: Club Insurance

- A. The Club will carry a reasonable amount of term insurance at officially sanctioned races to guard against any public liability or property damage loss it might incur while acting as a Club.
- B. Further, the Club should insist that any co-sponsoring company or agency similarly seek to protect itself.

Section 2: Individual Club Member Insurance

- A. It shall be the Club's intent to encourage all members to carry their own individual public liability and property damage insurance to guard against financial loss should a spectator be injured as a result of actions by our dogs or ourselves at a race.
- B. Club members incurring a lawsuit for injury or damage done while acting alone or in a group not officially recognized as a Club function will not be protected by the Club or any of its members or by any insurance that may be owned by the Club or any of its members not present at the time of the accident.

Article VII – Races and Race Rules

Section 1: Contracts

- A. Legally executed contracts between Trailblazers and any co-sponsoring agencies and/or companies shall be affected for each and every official Club function where a co-sponsor is involved.
- B. No races shall be run in areas where a sponsor or co-sponsor has failed to live up to the terms of its contract for that year.
- C. Every effort shall be made each year to have the Club's race schedule finalized in time to be promoted in appropriate media.

Section 2: Race Rules

The Club hereby accepts and agrees to use the race rules drafted by the current international organization with any exceptions printed on the race entry form.

Article VIII – Amendments

The preceding Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a three-fourths majority vote of all current registered voting members. The proposed amendment can be either mailed using the USPS mail service or e-mailed to all current Adult members and returned to the Club as instructed. When and if amendments are approved, they will be presented to the entire membership by being printed in the Club newsletter.

Article IX – Dissolution

Wisconsin Trailblazers Sled Dog Club, Inc., may be dissolved at any time by written consent of not less than three-fourths of its registered voting members. After payment of all Club debts, its property and assets shall be donated to any non-profit organization decided upon by the membership.

Adopted this _7th_ day of May, 2023.

April 1975

Amended: May 1990

Amended: October 1995

Amended: October 2005

Amended: December 2014

Amended: May 2021

Amended : May 2023