

Massasoit Gun Club Inc.

Official By-Laws

Adopted: January 2006

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By-Laws of the Massasoit Gun Club Inc.

These by-laws, adopted by unanimous vote at the meeting of **10 January 2006**, are the official by-laws of the Massasoit Gun Club Inc. These by-laws supersede all prior by-laws or amendments.

Article I – Naming

Section 1 – Name

The name of this organization shall be known as the Massasoit Gun Club Inc.

Section 2 – Corporation

The Massasoit Gun Club Inc. shall be incorporated in the state of Rhode Island. If at any time the authority granted the Massasoit Gun Club Inc. by the Rhode Island Secretary of State is suspended, revoked or otherwise not in good standing, all operations of the Massasoit Gun Club Inc. shall cease until such time as the Massasoit Gun Club Inc. again is an active Rhode Island corporation.

The Massasoit Gun Club Inc. must maintain liability insurance.

Article II – Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be the encouragement of organized rifle and pistol shooting among citizens of the United States resident in our community, with a view toward a better knowledge on the part of such citizens of the safe handling and proper care of firearms, as well as improved marksmanship. It shall be our further object and purpose to forward the development of those characteristics of honesty, good fellowship, self-discipline, team play and self-reliance which are the essentials of good sportsmanship and the foundation of true patriotism.

Article III – Membership

Section 1 – Members

All members are required to meet the current Federal, State, and Local laws pertaining to the ownership and use of firearms in order to maintain their membership. Any citizen of the United States 18 years or over may become a member of the organization after first providing proof of age and positive identification in the form of a current government issued photo ID, then having his application passed by the Executive Committee and after having his background checked by the proper authorities within 90 days of the application for membership. The only acceptable background checks are:

- Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) check from the Attorney General's office.
- A receipt showing gun purchase within 90 days along with matching gun.
- A valid license to carry (LTC) from MA, RI, CT or the United States Government.

Section 2 – Junior Members

Any person may become a Junior member of the organization up until December 31st of the year in which they turn 21 years of age, pending approval of the Executive Committee and provided full approval is given in writing and in person by their parent or guardian if the prospective member is under age 18. Prospective Junior members age 18 and over must also submit a background check by BCI.

Section 3 – Paid Life Members

Life memberships are only available for purchase if the current number of paid life memberships does not exceed five percent (5%) of the total number of members in the club. All Life members prior to October 2004 and all Gifted Life Memberships do not count towards the quota of paid life memberships in the club. The following rules apply to any prospective purchased life membership:

- The prospective life member must be a member in good standing for 10 years.
- The prospective life member must be presented to the body at the annual meeting.
- The prospective life member must have majority Executive Committee approval.
- The prospective life member must be accepted by a majority vote of the membership body at the annual meeting.
- Life members are NOT exempt from any additional assessed fees.
- Life membership dues must be paid in full.
- Life membership dues are non-refundable.
- The cost of a life membership is as follows based on age of prospective life member:
 - Age 31 to 39 = Eighteen (18) times the current annual dues.
 - Age 40 to 49 = Fifteen (15) times the current annual dues.
 - Age 50 + = Twelve (12) times the current annual dues.

Section 4 – Gifted Life Members

The requirements for a Gifted Life Membership are:

- The maximum number of gifted Life Memberships the Executive Committee can grant in any one year is two.
- Gifted life memberships require a majority vote of both the Executive Committee and the membership body at the annual meeting.
- The current Executive Committee members can not be gifted a life membership while serving on the board.

Article IV – Fees

Section 1 – Dues

The annual dues for the next calendar year for members, spouses, and junior members will be set at the annual meeting by the existing Executive Committee and must be approved by a majority vote of the body present at the meeting. Dues shall be due and payable by the first monthly meeting of the new calendar year.

Section 2 – Assessments

Assessments in the event of need can be proposed by the Executive Committee at the annual meeting or a special meeting and must be approved by a majority vote of the members present.

Article V – Meetings

Section 1 – Regular monthly meetings.

The Massasoit Gun Club Inc. shall meet at 8:00 p.m. on the first non-holiday Monday of each month. Meetings will be held at the Massasoit Gun Club.

Section 2 – Executive Committee meetings.

The Executive Committee must meet monthly at the Massasoit Gun Club. The meeting must be separate from the regular monthly meeting of the club. The Recording Secretary will record the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting which will be read to the members at the next regular monthly meeting of the club. Executive Committee meetings are for Executive Committee members and invited guests only.

Section 3 – Annual meetings.

The Annual Meeting of the Massasoit Gun Club Inc. shall be held on the first non-holiday Monday of October in each year. The meeting will be held at the Massasoit Gun Club at a time to be chosen by the Executive Committee. It will be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to notify each member by United States mail at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting. The notice will include a list of Executive Committee positions being contested as well as the list of candidates who have made their intentions known to the Election Chairperson before the September meeting. The notice shall also include any unusual business to come before the meeting. Voting at the Annual Meeting is restricted to members paid up through December 31st of that year.

Section 4 – Special meetings.

Special meeting requests must be submitted by petition in writing to the President of the club and must have the support of one of the following:

- One third (1/3) of the vote of the Executive Committee.
- Five percent (5%) of the membership body.

Upon receipt of a valid request for a special meeting the membership body must be notified by United States mail within fourteen (14) days and the meeting must be held no sooner than seventeen (17) days from the date of the mailing and not more than thirty (30) days from the date of the mailing. The meeting will be held at the Massasoit Gun Club and will start at 8:00 p.m. The meeting can not be held on a Holiday or weekend.

Section 5 – Quorums.

1. Regular monthly meetings:

- No quorum of members required.
- Must have a quorum of four (4) Executive Committee members present in order to conduct new business.
- All other aspects of the monthly meeting can occur without a quorum.

2. Executive Committee meetings:

- There must be a quorum of four (4) executive committee members present in order to have a meeting.

3. Annual meetings:

- There must be a quorum of ten percent (10%) of the members in the club present in order to hold elections at the annual meeting. If there is no quorum then a special meeting will be called for the following month.

4. Special meetings:

- There must be a quorum of ten percent (10%) of the members in the club present in order to conduct a special meeting for any issue with the exception of by-law issues. Any ratifications, changes, or amendments to the by-laws requires a vote consisting of one third (1/3) of the members in the club. A two thirds (2/3) majority vote is required to pass any ratifications, changes, or amendments to the by-laws. Voters need not be present as a by-law vote can be conducted by mail or other absentee method.

Section 6 – Election Procedures.

An Election Chairperson will be chosen to preside over the upcoming Executive Committee election that takes place at the Annual Meeting.

The Election Chairperson:

- Must be selected by the September monthly meeting.
- Is a volunteer.
- Must be approved by the Executive Committee.
- Can not be a member of the current Executive Committee.
- Is not eligible to be a nominee in the current election.
- May choose election committee members to assist.

Any person wishing to run for an Executive Committee position can send a letter stating their intention to the Election Chairperson, addressed to the Massasoit Gun Club. That letter must be received by the September meeting in order for the potential candidate's name to be announced in the annual meeting notification letter sent to all members. Nominations can also be made from the floor on the night of the election by notifying the Election Chairperson.

The President will turn the meeting over to the Election Chairperson to run the election. All voting will be by paper ballot with all contested Executive Committee positions being voted on at the same time with one ballot per voting member. The election committee is responsible for verifying every member's eligibility to vote. In the event of a tie the newly elected Executive Committee will decide.

Article VI – Executive Committee

The Executive Committee of this organization shall consist of:

1. President.
2. Vice President.
3. Corresponding Secretary.
4. Recording Secretary.

5. Treasurer.
6. Executive Officer.
7. Chief Range Officer.
8. Three additional Executive Committee Members.

The President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Executive Officer and three additional Executive Committee Members shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. A majority of votes shall elect. The Chief Range Officer will be nominated by the Executive Committee and approved by a majority vote of the members present at any monthly meeting. The Chief Range Officer position expires with the Executive Committee members at the Annual Meeting.

In order to be eligible for election to the Executive Committee a candidate must be a member in good standing for 2 years prior to the election. Any candidate for President or Vice President must have a minimum of 12 months time served on the Executive Committee in order to be elected.

Article VII – Duties of the Executive Committee

Section 1 – General Duties.

The management of the Massasoit Gun Club Inc. shall be vested in the Executive Committee. The authority of the Executive Committee is limited to non-capital expenses. Any capital expenses must be approved by a majority vote at the next regular monthly meeting. The Executive Committee may appoint special committees, it shall approve new members, it shall fill all vacancies, it shall have the power to suspend and recommend for removal, for cause, at the next monthly meeting any member or Executive Committee member. The Executive Committee may at any time request that a member obtain a BCI check (at the Club's expense) to verify that the member still meets the membership requirements. Failure to comply will result in suspension.

Section 2 – Disciplinary Actions.

Any member that has been suspended will be notified by certified mail that the Executive Committee will make recommendations regarding their membership status at a regular monthly meeting to be determined by the Executive Committee. All Executive Committee recommendations require a majority vote of members present to become effective. The appeal process for disciplinary action requires that a Special Meeting (Article V, Section 4) be called for that purpose.

Section 3 – Specific Duties.

President.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the Executive Committee. He shall be a member ex-officio of all committees and, in general, the liaison officer. As presiding officer of the Executive Committee meetings, the President will abstain from voting except in the event to break a tie. In all other meetings the presiding officer is a member of the assembly and may vote as such.

Vice President.

Vice President shall function in the absence of or inability of the President.

Recording Secretary.

The Recording Secretary shall keep accurate records of all proceedings of the organization and of the Executive Committee. He shall perform such other duties as generally pertain to this office. The Recording Secretary shall maintain the official up-to-date copy of the by-laws and any subsequent approved amendments.

Corresponding Secretary.

The Corresponding Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence of this organization, including electronic media that has been approved by the Executive Committee, and may be assisted by the Recording Secretary.

Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the organization, receive all monies due, make all collections and pay all bills subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. He may hire an accountant with the approval of the Executive Committee. The Treasurer will maintain the mailing list of members.

Any savings accounts of the Massasoit Gun Club Inc. shall require two Executive Committee member's signatures before any funds can be transferred.

Executive Officer.

The Executive Officer shall have immediate responsibility for the care and upkeep of the range and equipment. He may hire outside help for custodial maintenance and repair as deemed necessary, with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Elected Executive Committee Members.

The duties of the three elected Executive Committee members will be to serve on the Executive Committee. They will participate in meetings and hold an equal vote on decisions made.

Chief Range Officer.

The Chief Range Officer shall conduct safety qualifications for prospective new members. He will review and recommend range rules, hours, and use. He will recruit range officers for approval by the Executive Committee, to assist him.

Article VIII - Political Activity

Section 1 – Endorsements.

The Massasoit Gun Club Inc. shall not participate in partisan political activity by endorsing or denouncing any particular political party or candidate. This includes providing any funding to same.

Section 2 – Campaigning.

The Massasoit Gun Club Inc. may oppose and work to defeat any legislation deemed to be a “gun control” measure or any litigation which would have the effect of diminishing our second amendment right, or the legal right of an individual to keep and bear arms. Conversely, the Massasoit Gun Club Inc. may work to support legislation which advances the purpose of this organization.

Article IX – General

Section 1 – Special Rules.

A rule initiated by the Executive Committee and brought to the members at a regular monthly meeting for a vote. If approved by majority vote, it goes into affect immediately and remains in affect until one month after the annual meeting at which time it is reviewed and voted on for continuation.

Section 2 – Emergency Special Rules.

A rule implemented by the Executive Committee and brought to the members at the next regular monthly meeting for a vote. If approved by majority vote it remains in affect until the issue is resolved.

Section 3 – Roberts Rules.

Except as provided herein, Roberts Rules of Order, newly revised, shall govern all proceedings of the Massasoit Gun Club Inc.

Section 4 – Definitions & Explanations.

Non-Capital expense:

Utilities, insurance, regular operating bills. Re-occurring expenses and consumable items used by the club.

Capital expense:

Any non-consumable fixed asset, paid maintenance and repairs, landscaping and snow removal.

Section 5 – Indemnification.

The Massasoit Gun Club, Inc. grants indemnification to the Executive Committee, Officers, and volunteer committee members if made a party to any proceeding. Said indemnification shall be in accordance with Rhode Island General Law 7-6-6 & 7-6-9.