



BY-LAWS

GROTON SPORTSMEN'S
CLUB, INC.

By-Laws of The Groton Sportsmen's Club Inc. 2015 Edition

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Approved:

Paul O'Neill
President Paul O'Neill
Date 5/13/15

Frank Fox
Vice President Frank Fox
Date 5-13-15

Robert Butler
Secretary RHB
Date 5/13/2015

Change Page:

2011 edition issued October 2011

2013 edition (Addition Changes) issued January 2014

2015 edition issued April 2015

2015 edition changes:

All pages, modified header, changed "By Laws" to "By-Laws" to be consistent throughout the document

All pages, modified header "2015"

Pages i, ii, corrected page numbering in the table of contents

Page ii, added new Article XIV Membership Contact Information

Page iii, updated approval signatures

Page 2, Article II Meetings, Section 5. Voting and Voters, Proxy, Defined: deleted redundant section heading, changed "entitle" to "entitled"

Page 3, Article III Board of Directors, Section 9. Vacancies: corrected spelling error "roles" to "rolls"

Page 4, Article IV Officers, Section 2. Election: format change "**Election**" to "Election", deleted "Secret", changed "Election Committee" to "Nomination Committee" (2 places), deleted "and" in writing "and" shall be

Page 4, Article IV Officers, Section 3. Casting of Ballots: deleted "way of the US", added "(members may print ballots received via email)", deleted "separate sealed", deleted, "marked "ELECTION BALLOT" and placed in a second envelope", changed "Ballot Instructions" to "election procedures"

Page 5, Article IV Officers, Section 3. Casting of Ballots: complete rewrite from "The envelope containing the mail in SECRET" to "will result in a "void" ballot." to add clarification for members to vote with an open/non-secret ballot or to continue with a secret ballot if desired

Page 5, Article IV Officers, Section 4. Tie Vote: added "In the event that there is a tie vote, the current office holders will remain in office until the election results are final"

Page 5, Article IV Officers, Section 5. Appeal: replaced "nominee" with "member" (4 places), added clarification in the event that the Election Committees' report is rejected, added "In the event that there is an appeal, the current office holders will remain in office until the election results are final"

Page 6, Article IV Officers, Section 6. Election Committee: added "." to the end of the first sentence, added "three (3) to", changed "Membership Director(s)" to "Membership Chairmen", added "it is recommended that", deleted "shall", added "unless the President is stepping down; in which case his/her address is the first order of business in order to present a report of the condition of the business of the Club per Article IV, Section 7. Duties of Officers. In the event that there is a tie vote or an appeal to the election results, the newly elected Members of the Board shall be installed after the election results are final."

Page 7, Article IV Officers, Section 7. Duties of Officers: TREASURER: added "in excess of \$3,000" to reflect changes made to the 2011 edition of the By-Laws at the June 2013 Special Meeting as approved in the 2013 By-Law Addition Changes dated 8 January 2014

Page 9, Article V Committees, Section 4. added "chairmen,"

Page 10, Article VI Qualifications for Membership Classifications and Privileges, Section 2. Life Members: corrected spelling errors, "fourth" to "forth", "eight" to "eighth"

Page 11, Article VII Membership Dues and Fees, Section 4. Absentee Membership Status: added "." to the end of the first sentence, changed "partition" to "petition", corrected typographical error "A annual fee" to "An annual fee"

Page 12, Article X Expenditure of Club Funds, Section 1. added, "Expenditures are permitted by the Board of Directors to address emergency repairs to the Club property and facilities critical to the normal operation of the Club or to overcome any immediate safety hazard. All such expenditures shall be reported to the membership at the general membership meeting immediately following the expenditure."
To reflect changes made to the 2011 edition of the By-Laws at the June 2013 Special Meeting and as approved in the 2013 By-Law Addition Changes dated 8 January 2014

Page 14, added new Article XIV Membership Contact Information to officially incorporate an interpretation of the By-Laws as recommended by the Board and approved by the floor at the 15 May 2013 membership meeting

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ARTICLE I: PRINCIPAL OFFICES

The principal office of the Club in the State of Connecticut shall be located in the Town of Stonington, County of New London. The Club may have such offices within the State of Connecticut, as the Board of Directors may designate, or as the proper fulfillment of the purposes of the Club may require, from time to time.

ARTICLE II: MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting of the members of the Association shall be held on the premises known as the Groton Sportsmen's Club within the Town of Stonington during the regular September meeting. The Secretary shall give written notice of such meetings by mailing same to each member's address as it appears on the membership rolls of the club at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting.

Section 2. Regular Monthly Meetings: Regular monthly meetings of the Club shall be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., but if the day so designated is a legal holiday, then the meeting shall be held the following day.

Section 3. Quorum: The presence in person of twenty (20) members entitled to vote as hereinafter defined shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn to some future date not less than thirty (30) days nor more than sixty (60) days later, and the Secretary shall thereupon give at least ten (10) days notice by mail to each member entitled to vote who was absent from such meeting.

Section 4. Special Meetings: Special meetings of the Club may be called at any time by the President, or by a majority of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall give written notice of the date, time, place and purpose for such meetings by mailing same to each member's address as it appears on the membership rolls of the club at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting.

The Board of Directors shall also, in like manner, call a special meeting of the members representing not less than twenty (20) members of the Club. No business other than that specified in the call for the meeting shall be transacted at any special meeting of the Club, except to the extent permitted by the Connecticut Nonstock Corporation Act.

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Section 5. Voting and Voters, Proxy, Defined: Except as hereinafter provided, each member of the Club of the age of eighteen (18) years, or more, shall be entitled to vote in person or by proxy at any meeting of the Club, provided, however, that such member's name must appear on the membership rolls of the Club at least thirty (30) days prior to such meeting of the Club. All proxies are to be recorded with the Secretary before the meeting. The casting of proxy votes shall be restricted to voting on motions that have been posted in the Club Newsletter or in a Special Written Notice to the membership in accordance with Article II, Section 4, Special Meetings.

At all meetings of the Club, all questions the manner of deciding which is not specifically regulated by some other provision of these By-Laws or by the Nonstock Corporation Act of the State of Connecticut, shall be determined by a majority vote of the members present in person or by proxy; provided, however, that any qualified voter may demand a roll call vote, in which case each member present, in person or by proxy, shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote. All voting shall be by voice and by counting proxy votes. Any member may immediately challenge the result of a vote in which case the vote will be by the show of hands and the counting of proxy votes. The casting of all votes at a special meeting of members shall be governed by the provisions of these By-Laws. All proxies shall be in writing, dated, and executed by the member entitled to vote, shall designate the person who is to exercise such proxy; and shall specify, by date, time and place, the particular meeting of the Club, not yet held at the date of execution of such proxy, at which such proxy may be exercised. Except where specifically exempted by these By-Laws, the meetings of the Groton Sportsmen's Club, Inc. shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order (Revised).

Section 6. Order of Business: The order of business at all meetings of the membership shall be as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Reading of the minutes of preceding meeting.
3. Reports of Officers.
4. Reports of Committees.
5. Election of Board of Directors (Annual August Election).
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.

ARTICLE III BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number: The affairs and business of the Club shall be managed by a Board of Ten (10) Directors, who shall be regular or life members of the Club, entitled to vote.

Section 2. How Elected: All officers of the Club, elected as herein after provided, shall be deemed to be elected members of the Board of Directors. Three additional Directors-At-Large shall be elected to serve three-year staggered terms. One Director-At-Large will be elected at the Annual August Election Meeting and together with the Officer-Directors shall constitute the Board of Directors for the ensuing year.

Section 3. Term of Office: The term of office of each of the Directors-At-Large shall be three (3) years and thereafter until a successor has been elected. Directors-At-Large shall be nominated and

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elected in accordance with all procedures applicable to the Election of Officers and Directors as defined in these By-Laws.

Section 4. Duties of the Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall have the control and general management of the affairs and business of the Club. Such Board of Directors shall in all cases act as a Board, regularly convened and by a majority vote of the members present; and they may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of their meetings and the management of the Club, as they deem proper not inconsistent with these By-Laws and the Laws of the State of Connecticut.

Section 5. Board of Director's Meetings: Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held the second Wednesday of the month and at such other times as the Board of Directors may determine. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President at any time, and shall be called, by the President or the Secretary upon the written request of three (3) or more members of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Notice of Meeting: The Secretary shall give written notice of the date, time, place and purpose for such meetings by mailing same to each member's address as it appears on the membership rolls of the club at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting. No business other than that specified in such notice shall be transacted at any special meeting. At any meeting at which every member of the Board of Directors shall be present, or of which the Board of Directors shall have waived notice in writing, although held without notice, any business may be transacted which might have been transacted if the meeting has been duly called.

Section 7. Quorum: At any meeting of the Board of Directors, a majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; but in the event of a quorum not being present, a lesser number may adjourn the meeting to some future time, not less than five (5), nor more than thirty (30) days.

Section 8. Voting: At all meetings of the Board of Directors, each Director is to have one (1) vote. No proxy votes shall be allowed.

Section 9. Vacancies: Vacancies in the Board occurring between Annual Elections shall be filled, for the unexpired portion of the term, by majority vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting of the membership following the creation of such vacancy. Notice of such vacancy shall be given by written notice, by the Secretary mailing to each member's address as it appears on the membership rolls of the Club. This notice will be served at least ten (10) days before the meeting.

Section 10. Removal of the Members of the Board of Directors: Any one or more of the members of the Board of Directors may be removed, either with or without cause, at any time, by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the members of the Club present, at any meeting called for the purpose in the manner prescribed in ARTICLE II, Section 4. The Secretary shall give written notice of such meeting by mailing same to each member's address as it appears on the membership rolls of the club at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting.

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Section 11. Allowance and Compensation: No member of the Board of Directors shall be paid any salary, or be entitled to any compensation, or account for services rendered to the Club as a Director or Officer.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section 1. Number:

The Officers and Directors of the Club shall be:

Officers

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Financial Secretary
6. Membership Directors (2)

Directors

1. Directors at Large (3)

Section 2. Election: All Officers and Directors of the Club shall be elected at the Annual Election Meeting by the membership entitled to vote by way of Ballot. The term of office will be for one (1) year, (3) years Director-At-Large or until successors are duly elected.

It shall be the responsibility of the Nomination Committee to submit a list of candidate nominations for each Office and the Director-At-Large at the Regular Membership Meeting held in June. At the same meeting, nominations from any member eligible to vote, either from the floor or received in writing shall be accepted as additional candidate nominees. Such nominations shall not require seconding from the floor. Candidates must accept their nomination orally or in writing at the meeting. Nominations will be closed at this meeting.

The Nomination Committee will be responsible for certifying that all nominees duly presented will be eligible, according to Article VI Section 1 & 2, to hold office subsequent to the first Wednesday in July.

Section 3. Casting of Ballots: Official Club Ballots Shall be provided to each member eligible to vote, by mail in the month of July. Ballots shall also be made available at the polling place by the Election Committee at the Annual Election Meeting. Ballots may be mailed or cast in person at the designated polling place. Only those votes cast on the Official Club Election Ballot forms will be accepted as valid (members may print ballots received via email).

All Mailed-in Ballots must be filled out by the voting member and placed in an envelope addressed to the Election Committee as defined in the election procedures. All such ballots must be received by the date designated by the Election Committee to be considered valid.

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It will be the responsibility of the Election Committee to, validate and tally all mailed-in and cast in person ballots. Members casting their ballot in person will follow polling procedures determined by the Election committee. The final ballot tally shall occur after closure of the polling place as determined by the Election Committee.

The Election Committee will be responsible for certifying voter eligibility and assuring that no member who submitted a mailed ballot is also participating in the election in person during the Annual Election Meeting. The names of the members who submitted a mailed ballot can be divulged at the Annual Election Meeting for this purpose. Any member who submits more than one (1) ballot shall forfeit all votes cast for the election. The reporting of election results shall be the responsibility of the Election Committee.

Any ballot with the member's name (printed and signed) and membership number not completely filled in will result in a "void" ballot unless the member wishes to cast a secret ballot. Any member that wishes to cast a secret ballot may do so by placing their ballot in a second envelope provided that the following information is on the exterior of the second envelope.

- Name of the member (printed)
- Membership number
- Original signature of the member submitting the ballot

Section 4. Tie Vote: In the event of a tie vote, a runoff election will be held in accordance with Annual Election procedures at a Special Meeting called for that purpose, in accordance with Article II, Section 4. In the event that there is a tie vote, the current office holders will remain in office until the election results are final.

Section 5. Appeal: Election appeals/protests must be made within seven (7) days after the closing of the election. The appeal/protest must be made in writing and signed by the member, be as specific and detailed as possible and contain all pertinent information.

The Election Committee will have 31 days to investigate the appeal / protest. During the investigation, the member making the appeal / protest shall be allowed the opportunity to state their case to the election committee. The Election Committee will present their decision on the appeal / protest to the member making the appeal / protest 10 days before the October general membership meeting.

The election committee will provide a written report of their decision to the Club Secretary and the membership present at the October meeting.

If the member, making the appeal / protest disagrees with the decision of the Election Committee, they must present their protest in writing and / or orally at the October membership meeting.

The members present at the October general membership meeting will vote to accept or reject the Election Committees' report by a majority vote. The decision by the membership shall be final and binding. If the Election Committees' report is rejected, a runoff election will be held in accordance with Annual Election procedures at a Special Meeting called for that purpose, in accordance with Article II, Section 4 in the month of November.

In the event that there is an appeal, the current office holders will remain in office until the election issues are resolved.

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Section: 6 Election Committee: Beginning with the January General Membership Meeting and concluding at the February General Membership Meeting an Election Committee shall be established for the purpose of facilitating the Annual Election of Officers / Director-At Large. The Committee shall consist of three (3) to five (5) members in good standing as approved of by way of majority vote from those members present at the meeting. Members serving on the Board of Directors or running for office may not participate on the Committee.

The Election Procedures shall be established by the Election Committee as required by Article IV and approved by the membership at the April meeting. The Committee shall have complete charge of the Elections including the Election Day procedures.

The Election Committee shall conduct the Election. Only the Election Committee members shall handle the ballots and the election records. Voter validation shall be determined by way of an up to date copy of the membership list as provided by the Membership Chairmen.

For purpose of conducting elections in keeping with the best possible methodology and procedures, it is recommended that a minimum of two (2) members of the current year's Election Committee be carried over to the next year's Election Committee when possible.

The Election Committee shall establish the following procedures:

- Address for mail in ballots
- Location for the polling place
- Time of operation for the polling place
- Deadline for the processing of the mail in Ballots
- Procedure for casting of ballots in person
- Procedure for securing the Ballot Box
- Ballot instructions
- Ballot structure

The Election Committee shall, upon determining the election results, submit in writing the following tallies to the Club Secretary who shall announce said results to the membership prior to the conclusion of the Election Meeting.

- Total Number ballots cast
- Total Number of invalid ballots
- Total Number votes cast for each nominee
- Total Number of Votes Voided

Procedures either developed or modified by the Election Committee shall, subsequent to the election, be provided to the Club Secretary for preservation and delivery to the next Election Committee.

When events indicate no Board Members are being challenged for office and the current Board Members have indicated their decision to continue, the Election Committee can eliminate the requirements to hold an election. This declaration shall be the responsibility of the Committee Chairman and can only occur after the time for members announcing their desire to challenge for office has expired.

The newly elected Members of the Board shall be installed as the first order of business at the Annual Meeting in September unless the President is stepping down; in which case his/her address is the first order of business in order to present a report of the condition of the business of the Club per Article IV, Section 7. Duties of Officers. In the event that there is a tie vote or an appeal to the election results, the newly elected Members of the Board shall be installed after the election results are final.

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Section 7. Duties of Officers: The duties and powers of the officers of the Association shall be as follows:

PRESIDENT: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and of the membership. The President shall present at each annual meeting of the members and the Board of Directors, a report of the condition of the business of the Club. The President shall execute all contracts and agreements in the name of the Club, shall see that the books, reports, statements and certificates required by any statute are properly kept, made and filed according to law, shall sign all certificates, notes, drafts, or bills of exchange, warrants or other orders for the payment of money duly drawn by the Treasurer, except as these By-Laws otherwise provide. The President shall enforce the By-Laws and perform all the duties incident to the position and office, and which are required by law.

VICE-PRESIDENT: During the absence and inability of the President to render and perform the duties, or exercise the powers, as set forth in these By-Laws, or in the laws under which the Club is organized, the same shall be performed and exercised by the Vice-President; and so acting, shall have all the powers, and be subject to all responsibilities, hereby given to, or imposed upon the President.

SECRETARY: The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the membership in appropriate books, be custodian of the records, and of the seal, and affix the latter when required. The Secretary shall present to the Board of Directors, at their stated meetings, all communications addressed to the office officially by the President or any officer or member of the Club. The Secretary shall attend to all correspondence, and perform all the duties incident to, the office of Secretary. During the absence and inability of the President or the Vice-President to render and perform their duties or exercise their powers as set forth in these By-Laws, the same shall be performed and exercised by the Secretary; and when so acting shall have all the powers and be subject to all the responsibilities hereby given to, or imposed upon, the President or Vice-President. The Secretary shall draft calls of meetings and be responsible for giving of notice thereof as required by these By-Laws.

TREASURER: The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of and be responsible for the funds and securities of the Club and deposit all such funds in the name of the Club in such bank or banks, trust company or trust companies, or safe deposit vaults as the Board of Directors may designate. The Treasurer shall sign, make and endorse in the name of the GROTON SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, INCORPORATED, all checks, drafts, warrants and orders for the payment of money, and pay out and dispose of the same and receipt therefore, under the direction of the President and the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall exhibit at all reasonable times, the books and accounts to any member of the Board of Directors or any member of the GROTON SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, INCORPORATED, at each regular meeting of the Board of Directors and of the membership, and at such other times as shall be required, and shall render a full financial report at the annual meeting of the members. The Treasurer shall keep at such place as the Board of Directors shall designate, correct books of account of all the business of the Club and its transactions and shall do and perform all duties pertaining to the office of Treasurer. Two signatures are required to withdraw funds in excess of \$3,000 from any accounts, the President or Vice-President and the Treasurer's.

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY: The Financial Secretary shall collect budget submissions from all committee chairs and prepare annual budgets, negotiate contracts with tenants and all others, conducting business with the Groton Sportsmen's club, and shall do and perform all duties pertaining to the office of Financial Secretary as defined by the board of Directors.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMEN: They shall keep the membership rolls in the manner prescribed by the Board of Directors so as to show at all times the names of the members, alphabetically arranged; their ages, their addresses, residences and date of joining the Club. They shall be responsible for the waiting list as directed by the Board of Directors. They shall collect all dues and issue membership cards. They shall be responsible for the mailing of the Annual Dues Notices. They shall maintain a list of trial members.

Section 8. Vacancies, How Filled: All vacancies in any office shall be filled by the membership, in the manner, and upon such notice, as herein before required in filling vacancies arising on the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Removal of Officers: The membership may remove any officers, by a three-fourths (3/4) vote, at any time with or without cause at a constituted meeting of the membership and upon the notice and in the manner provided herein before for the removal of members of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

Section 1. Nomination: The President shall, on or before the date fixed for the next regular meeting following the annual meeting, nominate, from among the members of the Club entitled to vote, the chairmen and committeemen of the following standing committees, to serve for a term of one year:

1. Fish
2. Game
3. House (Stonington)
4. Sunshine
5. Field Day and Recreation
6. Grounds (Stonington)
7. Finance
8. North Stonington/Voluntown - House and Grounds
9. Skeet/Sporting Clays
10. Legislative Action
11. Outdoor Range
12. Indoor Range
13. Kitchen Committee
14. Archery
15. Education/Instruction
16. Scholarship Committee
17. Work Hour Committee

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Section 2. The President shall, at such time, nominate two delegates and two alternate delegates to the New London County League of Sportsmen's Clubs and the Connecticut Wildlife Federation. The delegates of this Club shall have the power to vote for the Groton Sportsmen's Club, Inc., on all matters which pertain to, and are consistent with, the objectives and the established policies of this Club.

Section 3. No one member shall be confirmed to serve as chairman of more than one (1) standing committee.

Section 4. All members nominated by the President as chairmen, delegates or members of the standing committees must be in good standing in the Club, and be confirmed by a majority of the members present and voting at such regular meeting.

Section 5. All committee chairmen are required to operate within the budget for that fiscal year.

Section 6. Nominations Committee: Prior to or at the Regular Meeting in May, the President shall appoint a Chairman for Nominations Committee for the purpose of developing a slate of Nominees for all Offices and Board of Directors for the next year. The Chairman of the Nominations Committee can add one or more members to the committee to aid in developing a slate of nominees and certify their eligibility for office for the up-coming year.

ARTICLE VI QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS AND PRIVILEGES

Section 1. Regular Members: Regular members shall consist of those people over the age of eighteen (18) years of age who pay the required initiation fee and thereafter pay the required Club dues. They shall have all rights and privileges of the Club, including the right to vote and shall be considered members in good standing if they are without specific encumbrances resulting from Article XII actions. The regular membership total may be established by the majority of voting members present at each annual meeting. The minimum total number of members shall be 250. The membership cannot be raised at the annual meeting by more than 10% of the last approved membership number. The maximum number of regular members may be exceeded to the extent that sons and daughters (birth, adopted and step children) of active or deceased members may become members at any time.

Section 2. Life Members: For members inducted into the Club (have membership dates) on or before June 30, 2011 the criteria for life membership is: A member who reaches the age of sixty-two (62) and has been a member for ten (10) or more consecutive years and is without specific encumbrances resulting from Article XII actions, shall be entitled to life membership. For members inducted into the Club (have membership dates) on or after July 1, 2011 the criteria for life membership is: A member who reaches the age of sixty-two (62) and has been a member for twenty (20) or more consecutive years and is without specific encumbrances resulting from Article XII actions, shall be entitled to life membership. Life membership may also be awarded to any member for long and outstanding service to the Club. These memberships may be proposed to the Board of

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Directors by any member and voted upon at a meeting called for this purpose. Life Members shall have all rights and privileges of the Club including the right to vote.

All Life Members having met the criterion set forth in ARTICLE VI Section 2 and ARTICLE VII shall receive a prorated refund as per the following schedule:

Having meet criterion within the first month after the first Wednesday of July dues deadline will receive a 100% dues refund.

Having meet criterion within second and third month will receive a 75% dues refund.

Having meet criterion within the fourth, fifth, and sixth month will receive a 50% dues refund.

Having meet criterion within seventh, eighth and ninth month will receive a 25% dues refund.

All other Life Members must pay full dues amount.

Section 3. Honorary Members: Honorary members shall consist of those individuals deemed worthy and accepted by a majority vote of the members present at a Special Meeting called for that purpose. The length of this membership and specific rights and privileges accorded shall be stated in the motion of acceptance. Honorary members shall not be entitled to vote.

Section 4. All applications for membership in the Club shall be signed by the applicant and properly endorsed by two voting members in good standing.

Section 5. All proposed applications for membership shall be forwarded to the Club properly endorsed and shall be maintained on a waiting list. The method of maintaining the waiting list will be decided and voted on at any regular meeting (including the Annual Meeting) of the Club throughout the year.

When a person on the waiting list becomes eligible for membership, the person shall present and be accompanied by at least one sponsor, before the Board of Directors for an interview. The applicant shall be notified by mail of the time and place of the interview. The Board shall accept the application, dues and initiation fees at the interview and then the application shall be read to the Club at the next regular meeting and posted on the bulletin board.

The application will again be presented at a regular meeting and voted on for trial membership. A majority vote of voting members present shall be required for acceptance. By written request presented to the executive board a trial members suitability may be challenged at any time during this one (1) year period. At a subsequent meeting the trial membership may be terminated by a 2/3 majority of those voting at that meeting. Up on completion of the 1 year trial membership an applicant shall become a regular member.

All new members shall be made a member of a Club committee and be required to participate in Club/Committee Activities.

Section 6. Sons and daughters (birth, adopted and step children) of active or deceased members who are eligible and apply for membership may immediately embark on the membership process the first time they apply for membership. They will be offered an indoctrination meeting as soon as an agreeable date can be set. They will be read at the first available membership meeting, be posted, and be voted upon at the following regular membership meeting. They may be granted

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membership even if their membership puts the club regular membership over the maximum number set at the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII MEMBERSHIP DUES AND FEES

Section 1. Dues are due and payable on the first day of April. Any member failing to pay dues within sixty (60) days from this day shall be notified in writing at the member's last known address. If dues are not paid as of the first Wednesday in July, the member shall be terminated from membership. Failure to pay a valid assessment shall be deemed a failure to pay dues.

Section 2. An assessment against the membership of this Club, or a dues increase, may be initiated by passage of a motion proposing same at a regular club meeting. The President shall set a date for a regular or special meeting to be held not sooner than the next regular meeting after the passage of the proposal. The Secretary shall give notice of such meeting by mailing a copy of the proposed motion to each member's address as it appears on the membership rolls of the Club at least ten (10) days before the date of such meeting. A three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the members present shall be required to pass or approve the motion to establish an assessment or dues increase against the entire membership.

Section 3. Prorated Dues: The date a person is elected to membership, as defined in Article VI Section 5, shall establish the DUES amount required for the first year of membership as follows;

July, August, September =	100%
October, November, December =	75%
January, February, March =	50%
April, May, June =	25%

This feature applies to the DUES only and all other assessments and fees will be paid in full.

Section 4. Absentee Membership Status: If a member is required to move from the area due to job reassignment, military duty, education purposes, etc. the member may petition the Club "in writing" to be placed on "Absentee Member Status". Furthermore: the Board of Directors is authorized to petition the club on behalf of members where extenuating circumstances may prohibit the members from doing so themselves. Such status shall reduce the member's privileges to that of an Honorary member. An annual fee of \$25 is required to maintain this status. Absentee status shall be maintained by remitting the appropriate fee annually thereafter. Any initiation fees or assessments shall fully apply during absentee membership. Requests for Absentee Membership may be granted by vote at any regular membership meeting by simple majority.

Upon resuming residence in the general area, the member must notify the Club "in writing" within 60 days, at which time the member will be restored to Regular Membership. At this time a prorated adjustment to annual dues will be issued, Payment is required prior to the 1st of the following month. Furthermore: the Board of Directors is authorized to petition the club on behalf of members where extenuating circumstances may prohibit the members from doing so themselves.

ARTICLE VIII CLUB PROPERTY

Section 1. Club property shall be used for Club sponsored events only.

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Exception (1): Section 1 may be waived for any Scouting, Youth Conservation Groups or Hunter Safety Instructions under the direct supervision of a member of the Groton Sportsmen's Club, Incorporated.

Exception (2): The Groton Junior Rifle Club shall have the use of Club property under the direct supervision of a member of the GROTON SPORTSMEN'S CLUB, INCORPORATED.

Section 2. All members in good standing shall be entitled to make use of all the facilities of the Club unless otherwise restricted by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of the members of the Club entitled to vote at any meeting specially called for this purpose.

Section 3. The Board of Directors may close any portion of the Club for safety reasons at any time not to exceed thirty (30) days.

Section 4. Disposition of Club Property: Without the affirmative vote of at least three-fourths (3/4) of the members present at any meeting called for this purpose, the Club may not sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of or encumber any of its property other than surplus or obsolete property from any Club activity or project.

ARTICLE IX FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. The fiscal year shall start July 1 each year and end June 30th. the following year. The Club will operate during this time in accordance with a budget approved the June general membership meeting that precedes each fiscal year.

ARTICLE X EXPENDITURE OF CLUB FUNDS

Section 1. Any proposed expenditures not previously approved in the annual budget for that fiscal year shall be presented to the Board of Directors for review and voted upon at a special meeting called for that purpose. Expenditures are permitted by the Board of Directors to address emergency repairs to the Club property and facilities critical to the normal operation of the Club or to overcome any immediate safety hazard. All such expenditures shall be reported to the membership at the general membership meeting immediately following the expenditure.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present and voting at any meeting specially called for that purpose. No amendment shall be construed to have retroactive effect.

Section 2. Proposed amendments to the By-Laws shall be detailed in a written notice and forwarded to the Club membership as required by Article II, Section 4 "Special Meetings". The notice shall delineate each of the specific proposed amendments. Only those portions of the By-Laws defined in the notice may be amended at the called Special Meeting.

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ARTICLE XII JURISDICTION

Section 1. Jurisdiction: The Club has penal jurisdiction for offenses committed on its property by any member.

Section 2. Proceeding: The Club has penal jurisdiction to receive and entertain proceedings against any member thereof. All charges, or accusations, against any Club member for any offense which, if proved, may subject said member to expulsion or suspension from the rights and privileges of the Club, shall be in writing, specifying with reasonable certainty the nature of the offense, together with the facts and circumstances essential to constitute the same and time and place it was committed. This communication shall be presented to the Club President.

Section 3. Procedure Upon Receipt of Charges: Upon receipt of the charges by the Club President, the President shall call a meeting of the Board of Directors, the substance of the same shall be entered upon its records and if the Board by a majority vote of its members present determines that the charges require an investigation, it shall order the accused to appear at a Board of Directors meeting to show cause, if any, why he or she should not be presented before the floor at a Special Meeting called for the purpose in the manner prescribed in Article II, Section 4, for trial upon the charges preferred against them.

Section 4. Procedure for Determining Punishment: If the Board of Directors by a majority vote agrees on the charges, the accused will be brought before the floor at a Special Meeting called for the purpose in the manner prescribed in Article II, Section 4. If the floor by a majority vote, adopts the findings of the Board of Directors, it shall proceed to determine by ballot the punishment to be inflicted. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of members present shall be necessary for expulsion or suspension/duration, a majority for reprimand or fine. A ballot shall be taken in the following order until the requisite number of votes be given to pass the sentence:

- A. Expulsion
- B. Suspension /duration
- C. Reprimand
- D. Fine

ARTICLE XIII MEMBERSHIP WORK-HOURS

Section 1. In order to maintain membership in the Groton Sportsmen's Club, members must perform a prescribed number of service hours in the following manner;

- Committee functions or work parties
- General work parties or projects approved by either a Committee Chairman or the Board of Directors
- Committee Chairmen and Board of Directors shall be given credit for service hours based upon their administrative duties
- Special donations by members as approved by the Board of Directors

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- General Membership Meetings shall count toward service requirements at a rate of ½ hour per meeting, with a total of 2 hours maximum credit per year.

Section 2. The following members shall be exempt from the requirements of this By-Law:

- Life Members
- Handicapped members or members suffering from severe illness. Work Hour relief requires the approval of the Board of Directors each work hour year.
- Members living “Out Of The Area” due to Military Duty, School Requirements or Job Assignments
- Absentee Members

All exemptions must be approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. If a member does not complete the prescribed hours they may “Buy Out” the balance or the “Total” number of hours at the defined rate. The number of hours and dollar value shall be set at the Club’s Annual Meeting as determined by a ¾ majority vote of the members present.

Section 4. Members who fail to complete their hours prior to March 1st of each year shall have the dollar value of the remaining hours added to their Club Dues invoice. Service hours shall be recorded from March 1, through the month of February.

Section 5. The hour requirements for New Members shall be pro-rated by monthly quarters.

ARTICLE XIV MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Section 1. Where “address”, “mail”, “mailing”, “notice”, “notice by mail”, “notified by mail”, “notified in writing”, “special written notice”, or “written notice” are used throughout these By-Laws, it shall be acceptable to use email for any notification if the member has submitted their email address. It shall be the member’s responsibility to keep their contact information current with the Club.