

Constitution and By-Laws of the Nebraska Balloon Club

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

- 1.1 This organization will be known as the Nebraska Balloon Club, a non-profit organization.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

- 2.1 This club is organized to provide entertainment, pleasure, and recreation to members of the Club who share common interest in ballooning, through association with one another. To encourage safety in the sport of ballooning, to increase communication, and to promote the spirit in the sport of ballooning among its members, area landowners, and the general public.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 There shall be the following classifications of membership:
- Pilot: Hold a current private commercial pilot certificate with lighter-than-air rating in accordance with applicable FAA rules and regulations.
 - Student: Holds a current student, private or commercial pilot certificate without a lighter-than-air rating and is under instruction.
 - Crew: Has an interest in ballooning, but does not hold a pilot certification with lighter-than-air, and is at least 14 years of age.
 - Family: Any combination of, pilot, student, and/or crew, being members of an immediate family living at the same address.
- 3.2 Termination Procedure
Prior to consideration of membership termination at a general meeting, the charges shall be submitted to and considered by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall determine whether the charges in any case are substantial enough to warrant consideration by the Club. These charges could include: (1) operation of a balloon or related equipment in an unsafe manner or in violation of the FAA Rules, (2) acting in a disrespectful and unreasonable manner toward landowners with disregard for their rights of property or unnecessarily causing damage, or (3) violation of any rules or regulation of the Club in effect from time to time.
- 3.3 Dues
Dues will be established by the membership depending on need. All dues are payable on an annual basis. Dues for applications received during the year will be prorated by months. Any member of the Executive Committee may, at their discretion, have their membership dues waived during their term of office.
- 3.4 Membership
Elected officers and the newsletter editor's family dues are waived for their term of office.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

- 4.1 Election of Officers
There will be elected, each calendar year, by the majority vote of the voting membership a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Committee Member-at-Large.
- 4.2 Candidate Qualifications
All candidates for offices shall be Nebraska Balloon Club members in good standing.

Constitution and By-Laws of the Nebraska Balloon Club

4.3 Editor

The Newsletter Editor will be appointed annually by the Executive Committee.

4.4 Removal of Officers

Any officer may be removed with or without cause upon recommendation by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Committee and approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members of the Nebraska Balloon Club.

4.5 Vacancies

Vacancies in officer positions shall be filled by an interim replacement, elected from the then current membership of the Club by a simple majority of the quorum; the interim replacement to serve out the unexpired term of the office.

4.6 Duties of the President

The President will preside at all meetings of the Club and will act as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee. The President will appoint chairpersons of the various standing committees, and other committees as necessary. It is the duty of the President to attend all general and Executive Committee meetings, or to notify the Vice-President if unable to attend. The President will act as spokesperson for keeping members informed of Club business and for bringing matters to the various committees as appropriate.

The President shall turn over all records to the successor at the end of the term.

4.7 Duties of the Vice-President

In the absences of the President or inability or refusal to act, the Vice-President shall assume all duties of the President. The Vice-President shall be the Chairperson of the Program Committee and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the President or Executive Committee.

4.8 Duties of the Secretary

The Secretary will keep a permanent record of the proceeding of each meeting, conduct Committees correspondence as needed, keep extra copies of the By-Laws, and other data sheets or books for the Club.

The Secretary will turn over all records to the successor at the end of the term.

4.9 Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer will be responsible for keeping a true and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements, deposit all Club moneys in the name of the Club. Publish an annual financial report. Be responsible for ensuring location for the Nebraska Balloon Club monthly meetings.

The Treasurer will turn over all records and money to the successor at the end of the term.

4.10 Duties of the Member-at-Large

The Member-at-Large shall attend all general and Executive Committee meetings and provide input and guidance as needed.

4.11 Duties of the Editor

The Editor shall publish a newsletter on a frequency prescribed by the Executive Committee containing information and articles of general interest to the ballooning community and shall maintain a roster of the Club membership which shall be published at least once a year.

Constitution and By-Laws of the Nebraska Balloon Club

ARTICLE V – COMMITTEES

5.1 Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers, chairpersons of the standing committees, newsletter editor, immediate past President and one or two elected Member(s)-at-Large. The Executive Committee shall have sufficient power to make decisions concerning day-to-day business of the Club and general policy, but must present to the general membership for vote major decisions concerning procedures, and disbursement of funds in excess of \$300.00.

5.2 Standing Committees

5.2.1 The Program Committee, chairperson is the Vice-President

5.2.1.1 Plan and arrange for entertainment or educational program at monthly Nebraska Balloon Club events.

5.2.2 The Race Committee, chairperson is the acting President.

5.2.2.1 Shall organize and conduct Club trophy races and fun rallies.

5.2.2.2 Select a safety officer who will be responsible for balloon safety at Nebraska Balloon Club events.

5.2.2.3 Tabulate Nebraska Balloon Club points scored throughout the race year, and publish results for all members.

5.2.2.4 Ensure all Nebraska Balloon Club races are conducted under NBC and FAA regulations.

5.2.2.5 Review and submit race rule change to general membership for their vote.

5.2.2.6 Assist with any group, event, or person planning a balloon race with Nebraska Balloon Club points.

5.2.3 Rural Relations Committee, chairperson appointed each year by the Nebraska Balloon Club President.

5.2.3.1 Work with balloonists and landowners to promote better understanding between both groups

5.2.3.2 Seek out landowners to become Nebraska Balloon Club members and attend meetings and functions.

5.2.3.3 Meet with any concerned landowners, investigate any problems incurred. Arrange meeting with landowner and balloonist.

5.2.3.4 Nominate rural relation award recipient(s) if appropriate.

5.2.3.5 Distribute and collect all landowner appreciation certificates for semi-annual drawing.

Constitution and By-Laws of the Nebraska Balloon Club

5.3 Temporary Committees

- 5.3.1 Other committees of a temporary nature may be appointed by the President and assigned various duties as necessary for a specified period of time for a specific task.

ARTICLE VI – VOTING

6.1 Eligibility

All pilots, student, and crew members as defined by the classification of member are eligible to vote.

6.2 Quorum

In order to take official action, except for those actions specifically delegated to the Executive Committee, the Nebraska Balloon Club must receive votes from a majority of those eligible voting members present.

6.3 Election Procedures

Election of officers shall be conducted by a mailed secret written ballot by those eligible voting members. Ballots shall be provided in sufficient time in advance of the election to enable them to be returned by U.S. Mail.

ARTICLE VII – OFFICER NOMINATIONS

- 7.1 Nominations for the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Committee Member(s)-at-Large may be received from Nomination Committee, appointed by the President and from the floor.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

- 8.1 The general membership meetings and the executive committee meetings will be held at least twice a year or more often as the executive committee may decide.
- 8.2 The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every three months or more often as the committee may decide.

ARTICLE IX – RECORDS

- 9.1 Nebraska Balloon Club records, including financial, meeting, and all others shall be open and available for inspection at any time by any member of the Club.

ARTICLE X – POLICY STATEMENT

- 10.1 Any Communication regarding a policy statement of the Nebraska Balloon Club, or any statement that may be construed as such, shall be approved by a majority of the Executive Committee present at a duly called meeting.

ARTICLE XI – DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

- 11.1 All funds must be disbursed in the form of a check with accurate records maintained.

Constitution and By-Laws of the Nebraska Balloon Club

ARTICLE XII - PROCEDURES

12.1 Parliamentary procedures as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order will be followed in conducting the meetings of the Nebraska Balloon Club. The regular order of business will be as follows:

- Call to Order
- Reading and Approval of Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Report of the Executive Committee
- Standing Committee Reports
- Temporary Committee Reports
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

12.2 Disposition

Any matter brought to a vote will be enacted by a majority vote, except for those matters provided for specifically in other paragraphs of these By-Laws.

12.3 Amendments to the By-Laws

These By-Laws may be amended upon the petition of a member(s) and enacted by the vote of two-thirds of the members present at the next regular meeting of the Nebraska Balloon Club. The petition or proposal shall serve as the second reading, provided, however, that members receive the proposed amendment in writing (through the newsletter, email, or separate mailing at the members option) at least seven (7) days prior to the second reading. By-Law amendments shall be effective upon their approval by the Nebraska Balloon Club.

Last amended March 21, 2009