

Constitution and By-laws



Revised

NMLRA MISSION STATEMENT

The National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association exists to promote, support, nurture, and preserve NMLRA's and our nation's rich historical heritage in the sport of muzzleloading through recreational, educational, historical, and cultural venues such as match competition, hunting, gun making and safety, historical re-enactments, exhibits, museums, libraries, and other related programs.

NMLRA PLATFORM

As an association founded upon our heritage of early American firearms, we declare our support of the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

We are dedicated to:

1. The understanding of, and the ability in, marksmanship with early American muzzleloading firearms.

2. Match and promotion for the purpose of advancing fine accuracy with these arms and the establishment of standard practices for competition.

3. The recognition and support for the continuing and growing interest in the added challenge of hunting with a muzzleloading firearm.

4. Greater safety with all firearms, especially with muzzleloading rifles, pistols, and shotguns.

5. The collecting, preservation, and recreation of antique firearms and related accoutrements, and the recognition of the value of living history re-enactments.

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ARTICLE I-NAME

The name of this corporation shall be the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association, Inc. (NMLRA).

ARTICLE II-OBJECT

The object of this corporation shall be to encourage and advance organized shooting of muzzle-loading firearms and to promote higher standards of sportsmanship, safety, and good fellowship among those who participate in such sport. It shall further be the object of this corporation to promote education and awareness of historical aspects of said sport.

ARTICLE III-MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility - (a) Any citizen of the United States who is and while he or she remains of good repute, who subscribes to the objectives and purposes of the Association , or any other organization as hereinafter described, shall be eligible to be a member of the NMLRA, provided that citizens of foreign nations and organizations composed in whole or in major part of citizens of foreign nations may be admitted to membership as provided in Sections 3 and 4 of this Article.

(b) No individual who is a member of, and no organization composed in whole or in part of individuals who are members of, any organization or group having as its purpose or one of its purposes the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States or any of its political subdivisions shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Certificates of Membership. The cor-

poration shall issue cards or certificates evidencing membership in the corporation to each member.

Section 3. Dues and Contributions. The dues and contributions of each class of membership shall be established by the Board of Directors. All members of all classes with addresses not within the domestic United States may be required to pay the additional postage costs necessary for Association mailings to their stated addresses. The imposition of such requirements and the amount of such costs shall be determined by the Board of Directors from time to time.

Section 4. Classes of Membership. The corporation shall have the following classes of membership. The designation of such classes and the qualifications and rights of the members of such classes shall be as follows:

(a) Annual Members - Persons who meet the eligibility requirements and who have paid dues for one year are annual members.

(b) Life Members - Benefactor, Patron, and Endowment members fall under this category. Upon full payment of life member dues, the individual shall be entitled to membership for the remainder of his/her life.

(c) Associate Members - Subject to payment of dues, the spouse and all minor children of an NMLRA member in good standing, may become an associate member with the same rights and privileges of a full member except he or she shall not receive the official publication of the Association.

(d) Associate Life Members - Subject to payment of dues the spouse of a life member may

become an associate life member and shall be entitled to membership for the remainder of their life with the same privileges of a full life member except he or she shall not receive the official publication of the Association. Upon the death of the sponsoring life member, the associate life member may receive the official publication for the remainder of his/her life.

(e) Junior Members - Subject to payment of annual dues, persons under the age of eighteen (18) may become junior members of the NMLRA. The individual's date of birth is required. Junior members enjoy all privileges except for voting and camping, and may receive the official publications.

(f) Annual Business Members - Upon payment of annual business dues, the business member receives the monthly publication and membership privileges, the use of the NMLRA business member logo, advertising and exhibit discounts, and the right to rent the direct mail list.

(g) Non-Citizen Members - A citizen of a nation other than the United States, whether resident within or without the United States, who is interested in the pursuit of the purposes and objectives of the NMLRA, may become a member of the Association in any of the categories listed in this Section, upon the fulfillment of any condition for membership within a said category.

(h) Family Membership - Upon payment of proper dues, a family, defined as parents and chil-

dren under the age of eighteen (18), living at the same address may be members of the Association. The Family membership is entitled to one vote and will receive one copy of the official publication of the Association.

Section 5. Upgrading Class of Membership - An individual member of one class may become a member of a different class if qualified, by paying the dues specified for the membership class desired, less the dues for his or her current membership.

Section 6. Termination of Membership. Any member in default of dues payment shall be barred from the rights and privileges of membership:

Section 7. Suspension and Expulsion. Any member may be suspended or expelled from membership by a three-fourths vote of the members of the Board of Directors present at any regular or special meeting, for any cause deemed sufficient; provided that such member shall have been served with written notice by registered mail of the accusations against him/her and of the time and place of the meeting at which such member shall be given an opportunity to produce his/her witnesses, if any, and to be heard. All Directors will be notified within the same time period. Such notice shall be served at least fifteen (15) days prior to the time of the meeting. All proceedings under this section shall be confidential.

ARTICLE IV-MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meetings. An annual meeting of the members shall be held at a time and place to be designated by the Board of Directors, which will be during the period of and at the place of (whether within or without the State of Ohio) the NMLRA National Championships, for the transaction of such business as may come before the meeting. Notice of the time and place of such meeting shall be conspicuously displayed in the program of the NMLRA National Championships. If no Championships are held, the annual meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Board of Directors may designate. Notice of the time and place of the annual meeting shall be published in the official publication of the corporation not less than twice prior to the holding of such meetings.

Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the President or the Board of Directors or upon written demand, stating the object of the proposed meeting and signed by not fewer than one-hundred (100) of the members entitled to vote. Notice of the time, place and object of special meetings shall be published in the official publication of the Association not less than twice prior to the holding of such meetings.

Section 3. Voting. Each member in good standing shall have one vote to be cast in person and not by proxy. Cumulative voting shall not be permitted. All members shall have the right to attend all meetings and be heard.

Section 4. Quorum. Presence of twenty-five (25) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the membership.

Section 5. Order of Business. The order of business at all meetings of the members and the Board of Directors shall be as follows:

- (a) Roll call of officers,
- (b) Reading of minutes of last preceding meeting,
- (c) Filling of vacancies (Board of Directors Meeting only),
- (d) Reports of officers,
- (e) Reports of committees,
- (f) Election of officers (Board of Directors Meeting only),
- (g) Unfinished business,
- (h) New business,
- (i) Adjournment.

Section 6. Rules of Order to Govern at Meetings. The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order (current edition) shall govern all meetings of the Association where they are not inconsistent with these by-laws.

ARTICLE V-BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number, Tenure and Qualification. The business, property and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors composed of twenty-one (21) persons who shall be members of the corporation and who shall hold office for a term of three (3) years. Annually, seven (7) Directors shall be elected for three-year terms by a plurality vote of the members eligible and voting. Board members shall attend all membership meetings and meetings of the Board of Directors.

Absence must be excused by the President. Board members will be assigned duties by the President on approval of the Executive Committee based on the needs of the Association. Minutes from all board of directors, excom, and special meetings will be published in Muzzle Blasts or on the NMLRA website within thirty days of approval by the NMLRA board of directors. Minutes will include all financial actions and expenditures, including costs incurred by any elected officer activities.

Section 2. Voting Procedure. Nomination shall be made by written petition of the members. All candidates' nomination petitions shall be in writing, signed and having the valid membership number of not fewer than twenty-five (25) members whose membership shall not have expired on or before October 1 of the year proceeding the election. All nominees whose petitions meet the above requirements shall be included in the slate of candidates. The election of Directors shall be by a secret mail ballot. The term of each Director shall commence immediately upon the call to order of the annual meeting of the members or the regular annual meeting of the Board of Directors, whichever occurs first, immediately following his/her election. Should the petition process fail to produce eight (8) candidates, the Board of Directors will nominate candidates to fill the slate of candidates not to exceed nine (9).

Section 3. Regular Annual Board Meetings. At the place of holding the annual meeting of members, the Board of Directors, as constituted upon

completion of the annual election of Directors, shall convene for its regular annual meeting. At this time the Board shall elect the officers of the corporation and transact any other business properly brought before it; provided that the regular annual meeting of the Board of Directors in any year may be held at a different time and/or place than that herein provided, by consent of a majority of the Directors of such new Board.

Section 4. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board may be called by or at the request of the President or any seven (7) Directors. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board may fix any time and place, either within or without the State of Ohio, for holding such special meetings of the Board called by them. Written notice of the time, place, and purpose of such special meetings shall be mailed to each Director at least fifteen days before the date of the holding of such meetings, but action taken at any such meeting shall not be invalidated for want of notice if such notice shall be waived in writing by all of the Directors either before or after such meeting has been held.

Section 5. Action by Unanimous Written Consent. If and when the Directors shall severally or collectively consent in writing to any action to be taken by the corporation, such action shall be valid as though it had been authorized at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Vacancies. Vacancies in the Board shall be filled by a majority vote of the Directors at any meeting of the Board.

Section 7. Quorum. Presence of fourteen (14) Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Executive Committee. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Directors composed of the President, Vice President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. Such committee shall not have the authority of the Board in reference to electing, appointing, or removing any Director or officer of the corporation; or authorizing the sale, lease, exchange, or mortgage of the property of the corporation. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held from time to time upon the call of the President, reasonable notice having been given. All members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. If any of the regular members of the Executive Committee are not present, the President shall appoint available Directors as acting members of the Executive Committee in order for there to be a quorum.

Section 9. Executive Vice President. The Executive Vice President shall attend all meetings of the Board of Directors as a non-voting resource.

ARTICLE VI-OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the corporation shall be a President, Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as may be elected in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

Section 2. Election and Tenure. The officers of the corporation shall be elected annually by, and from the membership of the Board of Directors at

the regular annual meeting of the Board. Elections will be by ballot and only one office can be held at a time. If the election of the officers shall not be held at such meeting, such election shall be held as soon thereafter as conveniently may be. New offices maybe created and filled at any meeting of the Board. Each officer shall hold office until his or her successor shall have been duly elected and shall have qualified. The President shall not serve more than four (4) one-year terms consecutively.

Section 3. Removal. Any officer elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed for any cause deemed sufficient by the Board by a three fourths vote of the members of the Board; provided that such officer and all Directors shall have been served, with written notice of the accusations against him or her and of the time and place of the meeting at which such officer shall be given an opportunity to produce his or her witnesses, if any, and to be heard, such notice shall be served at least fifteen (15) days prior to the time of the meeting. All proceedings under this section shall be confidential.

Section 4. Vacancies. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, will be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 5. President. The President shall be the principal executive officer of the corporation and shall in general supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the corporation. He or she shall preside at all meetings of the members, the

Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. He or she shall be an ex officio member of all regular and special committees; and in general he or she shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

Section 6. Vice President. In the absence of the President or in the event of his or her inability or refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President, and when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. Secretary. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the members, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee, and shall preserve in books of the corporation true minutes of the proceedings of all such meetings. He or she shall give all notices required by statute, by-laws or resolution. He or she shall keep a correct roll of all members and affiliated organizations with their addresses; attend to the proper publication of all reports; conduct official correspondence; attest documents; and in general perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him or her by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Section 8. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall have custody of all corporation funds and securities and shall keep in books belonging to the corporation full and

accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements; he or she shall deposit all money, securities and other valuable effects in the name of the corporation in such manner as the Board may prescribe. He or she shall render to the President and Directors at the regular meeting of the Board and whenever requested by them an account of all his or her transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the corporation.

Section 9. Executive Vice President. The Executive Vice President shall be hired by majority vote of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will be apprised of all functions of the Executive Vice President in a timely manner. The position may be filled or vacated as necessary, at the discretion of the Board. At all times, the actions of the Executive Vice President shall be in keeping with the best interest of the Association.

Section 10. Bond. All officers and employees handling money of the corporation shall be bonded for the faithful discharge of their duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Board of Directors may determine. The expense of such bonds shall be paid by the corporation.

ARTICLE VII-AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be amended at any annual or special meeting of the members by a 2/3 vote of the members present and voting, provided the said amendment is presented in the official Association publication to the members 60 days in advance of the meeting at which it is to be considered. Any

proposed amendment to the by-laws must be delivered in writing to the Secretary of the corporation 120 days prior to said meeting.

ARTICLE VIII- STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees. The President shall have the authority to appoint standing committees as he or she sees necessary. At least once per year, each standing committee shall submit a written report to the Board of Directors at the regular meeting of the Board, and at such other time as may be requested by the President. It may also make written reports and recommendations to the Board or to the Executive Committee at any regular or special meeting.

Section 2. Special Committees. The Board of Directors or a Committee consisting of the President and Executive Committee may establish such special committees of the Association as may be deemed necessary from time to time to fulfill the objectives of the Association. Each special committee will report at such time and place as may be specified by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Responsibilities of Committees. The Board of Directors or the committee consisting of the President and Vice Presidents shall assign responsibilities to the committees relating to the administration, conduct, regulation, or oversight of particular activities or special areas or endeavors of the Association, except that no corporate

authority may be delegated to any committee unless all members of such committee are members of the Board of Directors, and unless such committee has been delegated such authority by a resolution adopted by a majority of the entire Board of Directors. No special or standing committee shall exercise more authority than the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Electronic Communication Meetings. Members of any committee of the NMLRA may participate in a meeting of such committee conducted by means of electronic communication. The President and officers of the Association may use electronic communication as a regular means of their Association responsibilities. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a meeting. Meetings of the full Board of Directors may be conducted by electronic communications.

ARTICLE IX- CORPORATE SEAL

The Association shall have a corporate seal bearing the words, "National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association; Founded 1933." The seal which is impressed on the title page of these By-Laws is the corporate seal of this Association.

NMLRA Code of Ethics

The members of the National Muzzleloading Rifle Association expect of each other unfailing honesty and respect for the dignity and individuality of human beings. To this end, the members of this Association subscribe to the following principles: *Each Member Shall Endeavor to:*

- a. Respect the authority and follow the directives of the Board of Directors, and Rules and Regulations of the NMLRA recognizing at all times that each member is an extension of the Association;
- b. Respect the civil and legal rights of all members;
- c. Serve each task with the good of the Association in mind, with no purpose of personal gain;
- d. Encourage relationships with associates of such character to promote mutual respect within the black powder shooting sports environment and improvement of its quality of service;
- e. Respect the importance of all elements of black powder shooting sports and cultivate a professional cooperation with each segment;
- f. Share information with the public with openness and candor;
- g. Be diligent in his/her responsibility to record and make available for review any and all information which could contribute to sound decisions affecting the Association or the public safety;
- h. Report without reservation any corrupt or unethical behavior which could affect either a member or the integrity of the NMLRA;
- i. Maintain the integrity of private information;
- j. Clearly distinguish between those public statements that are personal views and those that are statements and positions on behalf of the NMLRA;
- k. Not discriminate against any member, prospective member, or employee

- l. Always handle guns in a safe and responsible manner and convey that message to new shooters and prospective members.

Members In Positions of Trust Shall Not:

- a. Use official position to secure privileges or advantages;
- b. Make statements critical of members or their committees unless these are constructive in purpose;
- c. Permit personal interest to impair in the least degree the objectivity which is to be maintained in their official capacity;
- d. Use official position to promote any partisan political purposes;
- e. Accept any gift or favor of a nature which implies an obligation that is inconsistent with the free and objective exercise of responsibilities;
- f. Make all appointments, promotions or dismissals only on the basis of merit and not in furtherance of partisan political or personal interest.

Enforcement Procedures:

- a. The Parliamentarian or other officer appointed by the President as Chairman of the ethics committee will investigate reports of violations of the code of ethics. A written report with the results of the investigation shall be given to the Secretary and the member accused of the violation of the code of ethics. Any discrepancy will be resolved as specified in the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order;
- b. The Board of Directors shall make any appropriate disposition including, but not limited to, dismissal of the charges, discipline, or termination of membership;
- c. All members shall be subject to the Code of Ethics, as adopted by the Board of Directors.
- d. The By-Laws of the Association shall supersede the code of ethics if any conflict between them occurs.

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”
Second Amendment to the Constitution

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