

FREEBURG SPORTSMAN'S CLUB ASS'N., INC.

REVISED CONSTITUTION

FINAL AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023

ARTICLE I – NAME

1.01 **NAME.** This organization shall be known as the **FREEBURG SPORTSMAN'S CLUB ASSOCIATION, INC.**

ARTICLE II – OBJECT

2.01 **PURPOSE.** The object of this Association shall be to work in cooperation with the Illinois State Federation and any other organizations in the conservation and restoration of our natural resources, in the propagation of fish and game, in the development of true sportsmanship in our citizenry, and in developing a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation between all classes and groups of our conservationists, nature-lovers, farmers, and sportsmen, to the end that the interests of each group may be served to the fullest extent, consistent with the rights and privileges of others.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

3.01 **AGE.** Membership in the Association shall be limited to citizens of the United States of America who are **twenty-one (21) years** of age or older. A member shall be entitled to **one (1) vote** on any matter brought to a vote in a regular or special meeting.

3.02 **DUES.** The dues of this Association shall be set at the annual meeting **(December)** for the upcoming calendar year as approved by the present membership. Payable in advance in the month of January, but not later than the April general membership meeting of the same calendar year. Members who have attained the age of **seventy (70)** before January 1 of that year's calendar shall be considered senior members, and there will be a **Twenty-Five Dollar (\$25.00)** discount for these members, before considering item under Section 3.07(D). Members serving active duty in the military are exempt from workdays and from paying annual dues. Proposed decreases in annual dues can only be voted on at a special meeting.

3.03 **FAILURE TO PAY DUES.** Any member who fails to pay his/her dues or meet other obligations by the April general membership meeting of each calendar year (the date of expiration of his/her present membership), shall be automatically dropped from the membership.

3.04 **NEW MEMBERS.** All new members joining the Association shall pay **one hundred percent (100%)** of the yearly dues, subject to the conditions as set forth in

this Article. New members shall attend the meeting that he/she is accepted. The Board of Directors shall rule on any exceptions.

3.05 **INHERITED MEMBERSHIP.** All new members derived from an inheritance due to death of a member shall be considered a Regular Member.

3.06 **REMOVAL OF MEMBERS: FAILURE.** The Association shall reserve the right to remove any member from the Association after it has been determined that such member is not conforming to the Constitution, By-laws, or the Rules and Regulations of the Association. The removal of a member shall be carried out through a secret ballot at any regular or special meeting. A majority vote of the members present shall be required and sufficient to drop such individual from the membership.

3.07 **MEMBERSHIP PROTOCOLS.**

(A) **Charter Members.** All members having joined prior to **May 7, 1957**, shall be charter members.

(B) **Application & Acceptance of Members.** All persons wishing to join the club, shall fill out an application form provided by the Association. That application shall be delivered to the Board of Directors to be reviewed and screened. The Board of Directors shall present the APPROVED LIST of applicants to the membership. It shall determine the method of selection of such applicants to be voted upon by the membership for acceptance or rejection. An affirmative secret vote of the majority of the members present shall be sufficient for acceptance.

The Board can add 0-5 new memberships yearly if deemed necessary. A possible new member must be sponsored by an active member with at least **four (4)** workdays per year for the last **three (3) years** and a member for at least **five (5) years**. The initial cost of a new membership would be **Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00)** (nonrefundable) and that year's dues. They must work **three (3) workdays** and attend **three (3) meetings** the first year and **two (2) workdays** and attend **two (2) meetings** the second year. If these requirements are not met the membership will be revoked.

Each active member shall be notified by phone or email that he/she has the privilege to name a prospective applicant. The Club must receive the written name of the prospect on the potential club member application, and shall include the written name of the sponsoring member by an assigned date. No prospects name shall be considered without written sponsors name and verbal names shall not be accepted. All names are to be drawn on an assigned date and as they are drawn, placed on a consecutive numbered list; listing first the sponsor, then the prospect. No names are to be changed, substituted, or added to the list after the drawing.

(C) **Active Members:** Beginning **January 1, 2016** any member who works at **two (2)** club functions and/or **two (2)** club workdays in a calendar year shall be considered an active member. In the following year, his/her dues shall be **Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00)** less than the recommended and accepted yearly dues. If an Active Member works at **three (3)** club functions and/or **three (3)** club workdays in a calendar year, then in the following year his/her dues shall be **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** less than the recommended and accepted yearly dues. If an Active Member works at **four (4)** club functions and/or **four (4)** club workdays in a calendar year, then in the following year his/her dues shall be **Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00)** less than the recommended and accepted yearly dues.

The President, Vice-president, Treasurer, Secretary, and board members' dues will be **Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00)** regardless of workdays per year while serving in that position, and each must attend a minimum of eight (8) board meetings. For active members, building rental shall be **one-half (1/2)** of the prevailing rate as set forth by the Board of Directors.

(D) **Regular Members.** Beginning **January 1, 2016** any member who does not participate in the above work program shall be considered a REGULAR MEMBER.

(E) **Days.** No workdays can be carried over to the next year and no one can work in his/her place in order to accrue **work days**. Each chairman or work committee leader is responsible for turning in those **work days** for each club function or workday, so this process may be monitored.

3.08 **USE OF FACILITIES.** Membership in the Association entitles each member and his/her immediate family or household to use the facilities and premises of the Association, subject to control of the Board of Directors. Refer to the house and ground rules for further regulation. **(See Appendix "A" & "B")**

3.09 **FISHING BY MEMBERS CHILDREN.** Any members' child **sixteen (16) to twenty-one (21) years** of age will be allowed to fish the lake subject to all rules and regulations of the Club. The member (parent) will submit an application for the child to fish to the Board of Directors.

3.10 **DESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP.** A member, prior to his or her death, must designate by letter or membership will that upon his/her death his/her membership shall be vested to anyone and submitted to the board of directors.

3.11 **TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP.** A member may give his/her membership to anyone upon recommendation of the Board of Directors and acceptance by the current members. The transfer form shall be presented to the board of directors.

3.12 **MEMBER'S CHILD JOINING; PROVIDED HOWEVER THE MEMBER IF ALIVE MAY DESIGNATE.** The child/stepchild of a member may join the club upon reaching the age of **twenty-one (21)**, and prior to the **twenty-second (22nd)** birthday by paying the annual dues.

The child/step-child of a deceased member may join the club upon reaching the age of **twenty-one (21)**, and prior to the **twenty-second (22nd)** birthday as designated by the deceased member's membership will form.

3.13 **MAXIMUM MEMBERSHIP.** The maximum membership shall be **four hundred and fifty (450)**. Members' children/stepchildren who have the potential to join under Section 3.12 are excluded.

3.14 **MINIMUM MEMBERSHIP.** The minimum number of members shall be **three hundred (300)**. The charter shall be opened, upon membership approval, if there are less than **three hundred (300) members** according to Section 3.07(B).

3.15 **SALE OF MEMBERSHIP.** A membership shall not be sold.

3.16 **DEATH OF MEMBER.** Upon the death of any member of the Association, his/her spouse, if any, shall become an honorary member with all rights and privileges of a member except voting and designation of membership. No dues shall be assessed to honorary members. If Section 3.10 was not initiated, the spouse has the option of becoming a member by paying the annual dues (one year limitation).

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS

4.01 **REGULAR TIME; ELECTION OF OFFICERS.** The Association shall hold a monthly meeting on the **third (3rd) Wednesday** of each month at **7:00 P.M.** The December meeting shall be designated as the annual meeting, which shall be held at the regular meeting place at **7:00 P.M.** The election of officers and directors shall take place at this annual meeting, by a majority vote.

4.02 **SPECIAL.** Special meetings of the Association may be called at any time by the President or the majority of the Board of Directors; **seven (7) days' notice** to be given.

4.03 **QUORUM. Four (4) Directors** shall constitute a quorum for board meetings. **Ten (10) members** shall constitute a quorum for an Association meeting.

4.04 **ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER.** The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Association in all cases in which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the By-laws or Special Rules of Order of this Association.

4.05 **VACANCIES.** The Board of Directors shall fill any vacancy that may occur from death, resignation, or otherwise. Any such appointment shall be valid until the next annual meeting when the vacant position being filled would have normally been subject to election.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

5.01 **PRESIDENT.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association and Board of Directors, and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

5.02 **VICE-PRESIDENT.** The Vice-President shall assume all duties of the President in the absence or inability of the latter to perform their duties plus any duties assigned by the President. The Vice President along with the Secretary shall keep a roll of all members and issue membership cards.

5.03 **SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall keep a full and complete record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Association and Board of Directors and all activities of the Association. He or she shall attend to all of the Association's correspondence, preserving all letters received, keep copies of all outgoing letters and perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary, subject to the review and control of the Board of Directors.

5.04 **TREASURER.** The Treasurer shall collect all dues and receipts and take charge of all disbursements and deposit all money and checks to the credit of the Association in any banking institution in Freeburg, Illinois, and shall disburse the funds of the Association in accordance with due authorization of the Board of Directors. He or she shall render a monthly statement of account and transactions whenever required by the Board of Directors; and shall provide a complete balance sheet and calendar year-to-date statement of income statements for the current year at each annual meeting of the Association. The Treasurer shall render a statement of account and transactions, and shall present a complete set of balance sheet and income statements for the prior calendar year by the January meeting following the calendar year which shall, be subject to the Audit Committee, and perform such other duties incident to the office of Treasurer. All checks drawn on the Association's account shall be signed by the Treasurer and some other officer of the Association.

5.05 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** The Board of Directors shall consist of **seven (7) members** and the Association officers. The Board shall hold a monthly meeting wherein the time and date is determined by the Board. Changes in meeting times will be announced at a prior regular meeting. The Board of Directors may require the Treasurer and any appointees of the Association to give bond for the faithful performance of their duties in such sum and in such manner as shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The premium on any such bond shall be paid by the Association, if deemed necessary.

5.06 **AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN CONTRACTS.** The President and another officer are hereby given the right to negotiate any and all legal documents that may be necessary for the welfare of the Association, subject to approval of the membership at a regular meeting.

5.07 **OFFICERS ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** All officers shall be members of the Board of Directors and shall have **one (1) vote** on matters coming before the Board of Directors.

5.08 **ATTENDANCE OF MEETINGS.** All officers and directors shall attend at least **six (6)** regular and board meetings per year to remain in office.

5.09 **SUCCESSION IN OFFICE.** The President shall not serve more than **two (2)** consecutive terms, but after **one (1)** or more years have lapsed, he/she may run again.

5.10 **DIRECTORS.** Directors shall be elected to serve for **two (2) years** as follows: **Three (3) members** to be elected in even years and **four (4) members** to be elected in odd years.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

6.01 **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.** The President shall appoint all standing and special committees, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, and shall be ex-officio, member of all such committees. Standing committees shall be appointed within **sixty (60) days** after the annual meeting. No standing or special committee shall have

authority to take final action upon any matter without approval and due concurrence of the Board of Directors.

6.02 **NOMINATING.** President shall appoint a Nominating Committee at the November meeting to nominate officers to be elected at the annual election in December.

6.03 **AUDIT.** The President shall appoint an Audit Committee at the November meeting to audit the books of the Association. They shall audit the financial statements in a manner at their discretion. The audit report shall be presented no later than at the April meeting, unless permitted by the Board of Directors.

6.04 **COMMITTEE REQUIREMENT.** Standing committee shall have a **two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2500.00)** annual budget.

ARTICLE VII - GENERALLY

7.01 **AMENDMENTS.** The interpretation of the Constitution and the House Rules and the Ground Rules shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

7.02 **MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR.** All matters not provided for in the Constitution shall be controlled by the Board of Directors.

7.03 **DONATIONS.** This association may make donations up to **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** to any charities or like causes. The power to do so shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

7.04 **AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND MAJOR EXPENDITURES.** An Amendment to the Constitution may be made only after the membership has received notice through the Freeburg Tribune at least **seven (7) days** in advance. Notice must be received by the membership of the meeting at which an amendment to the Constitution is to be considered.

All major expenditures of up to **Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00)** shall be approved by the Board of Directors and approved by the present membership without notice of a special meeting.

7.05 **EMERGENCY SPENDING.** Upon the occurrence of an emergency, defined as an unforeseen combination of circumstances or the resulting state that calls for immediate action in order to protect or sustain the assets of the Association, the Board of Directors may take action with written approval of a majority of the Board of Directors then in office and shall subsequently issue notice to the Association's membership through publication in the Freeburg Tribune within at least **ten (10) days** of approval as to the circumstances and decision made by the Board of Directors followed by presentation at the next regular meeting of the membership.

7.06 **SALE OF REAL PROPERTY.** No real property shall be transferred, sold or leased to any individual, club, group or organization.

7.07 **SPECIAL CASES.** Decisions on Special Cases brought before the

Board that involves the preexisting Constitution shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

APPENDIX "A"

House Rules

1. Any violation of Rules set out below shall be handled by the Board of Directors and a written report presented to the Association at a regular monthly meeting for such action as the Association may deem necessary.
2. Club members shall be responsible for all guests brought on Club grounds.
3. The Club building or home is to remain a private club and members are only allowed the privileges of the clubhouse. The Board of Directors reserves the right to open the grounds to the public, should it be necessary for public gatherings authorized by the Association.
4. Dogs, animals or pets shall not be allowed in the clubhouse.
5. Loud, boisterous or obscene language shall not be permitted in the clubhouse.
6. All loss or damage to property shall be paid for by the member or members causing same.
7. The clubhouse building or Club in connection with this Association shall be managed by the Board of Directors or their appointee, whose duties or actions shall at all times be subject to the control and direction of the Association. They shall be custodian of funds that may accumulate due to the sale of refreshments, etc., and shall make such necessary purchases of refreshments, etc. necessary for the operation of the Club. They shall prepare an itemized statement of all transactions on account of the Club and report to the Association at the regular meeting of each month, and shall enforce the preservation of order by members of the Club.
8. Members failing to report any violations of these Rules and Regulations (Ground Rules or House Rules) by fellow members or non-members, may be discharged from the Association, subject to board review, as provided in the Constitution of the Association. Such member may be retained only if sufficient proof or reason can be shown that failure to report such violation was reasonably impossible.
9. The use of dead wood is permitted on club grounds, except that dead trees may be cut and used only if authorized by the President or the Building and Grounds Committee Chairman.
10. Do not use the adjacent public roads for parking of vehicles.
11. **Building Reservations for Members.** Any member wishing to reserve the building may do so by contacting the caretaker not more than three (3) months in advance. Anyone wishing to reserve the building more than three (3) months in advance must be approved by the Board of Directors. The building rental fee and a required deposit fee will be set annually by the Board of Directors for ACTIVE MEMBERS and for INACTIVE MEMBERS for the reservation (not refundable). The rental fee deposit needs to be paid the Wednesday before the reservation date. The deposit shall be refunded if the Board Members find the building was left clean.

12. **Camp Ground Reservations.** Any member wishing to reserve the building may do so by contacting the caretaker. The camp grounds rental fee and a required deposit fee shall be set annually by the Board of Directors for ACTIVE MEMBERS and for REGULAR MEMBERS for the reservation (not refundable). The rental fee and deposit needs to be paid the Wednesday before the reservation date. The deposit shall be refunded if the Board Members or the caretaker find the camp grounds were left clean.
13. **Building Reservations.** Effective **January 1, 1998**, the rental fee for all Associations shall be set annually by the Board of Directors. The above rules and regulations will apply.
14. When clubhouse or camp grounds are being used, the Club member responsible must date and sign the register.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

APPENDIX "B"

CLUB GROUND RULES

1. The property as described heretofore, shall be restricted by the use of the members and their immediate families only. Members may bring guests for picnicking. Fishing cost per adult person who is not a member of the immediate family of the member shall be set annually by the Board of Directors.
2. Non-members are not permitted on Club Grounds unless they are Guests of a Club Member or a Member's Spouse; in the presence of their hosts.
3. No Picnic, Party, Meeting or Gathering shall be held on Club Grounds, at which more than **forty (40)** Non-Members in total are in attendance or present; unless prior permission has been secured at least **one (1) week** in advance from the Grounds Committee Chairman or Club President. The above number of **forty (40)** nonmembers does not include the immediate family of a Member. In order to cancel reservations, the member shall notify the caretaker.
4. No children under age **sixteen (16)** may be on Club Grounds unless supervised by an adult and/or a Member.
5. The Caretaker shall supervise the entrance gate on orders from the Board of Directors.
6. The Club property shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition.
7. Fires shall be extinguished before leaving the premises.
8. Firearms are not permitted on the grounds except by authority of Board of Directors.
9. Hunting and trapping is strictly prohibited on the property, except as designated by the Board of Directors for the control of game or disposition of undesirable game pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Illinois Compiled Statutes. The Board of Directors may authorize the use of firearms or other means of eradication to accomplish this task.
10. Fishing shall be restricted only to pole and line, rod and reel, and jug fishing. Members shall likewise be subject to the current fish and game code as set forth by the State of Illinois' statutes.
11. Fish caught shall be recorded in log book.
12. When fishing with jugs, **ten (10)** shall be the limit per member and the first initial and last name of member placed on each jug. Members shall stay at lake while jug fishing and remove jugs from lake before leaving.
13. There shall be no ice fishing or ice skating on the lake.
14. Either wife or husband of a member, or vice versa, may fish regardless of whether both are in attendance.
15. Boats may be permanently placed on the lake when authorized and shall be moored at an assigned place by the Board of Directors.
16. Members having boats on Club Grounds shall have a number **three (3) inches** high, assigned and furnished by the Chairman of the Lake Committee, and affixed to their boat.
17. Use of boat motors (except trolling motors) are prohibited on the lake.
18. Swimming or wading in the lake is prohibited.
19. The throwing of cans, bottles, sticks, wood, stones, or debris into the lake is prohibited.

20. Litter shall be placed in disposal containers before vacating the grounds. These items shall not be permitted by the lakeshore lines or fishing areas or grounds after an individual has discontinued fishing.
21. Fires are permitted in barbecue pits, burn pits and on clean-up days. All fires shall be extinguished before leaving the club grounds.
22. All electrical devices shall be turned off prior to vacating premises.
23. All signs and warnings displayed on the grounds shall be adhered to.
24. Designated roads and parking areas shall only be used for traffic and shall not be blocked.
25. Members are not permitted to construct permanent shelters on the premises.
26. The cutting or removal of green trees, shrubs, cedar trees, bittersweet vines, flowering trees, saplings, etc., is prohibited unless approved by the board of directors or grounds chairman.
27. All members reserve the right to demand display of any membership card for the purpose of identification or verification.
28. Violence (such as fighting, quarreling, molesting fellow members and their families) is strictly prohibited. Personal grievances and grudges have no place on the grounds, adjacent roads or property. Violations of this article shall be severely dealt with by the Board of Directors.
29. Any member has the right to escort an unruly person from the grounds.
30. Members are encouraged to report violations of the aforementioned rules and regulations to the President in writing so that property may be protected. Such complaint should contain name, address and license number.
31. Dogs or pets may be permitted to roam the grounds under the owner's supervision, provided they do not bring about the destruction of game or molest the members or members of their families. Ferocious animals that may cause harm to members and their families shall not be permitted on the grounds.
32. **Alcoholic Liquor.** Any underaged person found to be violating local state laws pertaining to alcoholic liquor on the club grounds may be prosecuted. The member may be suspended and/or reprimanded by the President and Board of Directors as they so desire.
33. The use or possession of Cannabis (Marijuana) and any controlled substance or narcotic found on any Member or their Guests, or any trespasser on the premises is strictly prohibited by Village or Illinois Law and violators shall be prosecuted.
34. A memorial plaque may be created to honor a deceased member instead of flowers.
35. Anyone wishing to construct a shed or boat facility shall secure permission from the Lake Committee or Board of Directors.
36. Before any member or guest begins fishing, the register (at the entrance to the lake property) shall be signed up and the subsequent catch reported before leaving.
37. Curfew for reserved parties at the Club grounds shall be **12:00 Midnight** and with all attendees exiting the grounds before **1:00 A.M.** Special permission to circumvent these rules may be obtained from the caretaker or Board of Directors.
38. Members owning boats on lake property shall adhere to all state regulations, namely titles and registration numbers.
39. The loss of Club Membership may result if the above violations apply to either a Club Member or their Guests.

Enforcement.

In all cases not herein provided for, enforcement shall be the responsibility of the President and Board of Directors in cooperation with all of the members.