

ELLWOOD/WAMPUM ROD & GUN CLUB
2406 Wampum Road, Route 288
Wampum, PA 16157
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 442, Ellwood City, PA 16117

BY-LAWS

Amended 01/24

These by-laws will be the rules that direct and govern the club. They will be adhered to and stand until changed by the By-Laws Committee and voted on by the membership. Any action outside these by-laws shall be considered void and unenforceable.

ARTICLE I - Name

The club shall be known as: Ellwood/Wampum Rod & Gun Club

ARTICLE II - Purpose

The purpose of the club shall be:

- A. To promote conservation of our natural resources through legal/ethical hunting, trapping, and fishing. To be stewards of our resources and maintain the property owned by the club as proper habitat for flora and fauna, indigenous to the western part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- B. To promote education through activities of hunting and trapping; including but not limited to:
 - 1. Making our buildings and ground available to the proper agencies for educational programs such as Hunter/Trapper Education.
 - 2. Safe firearm practices and activities.
 - 3. Activities promoting youth participation in hunting, trapping and fishing.
 - 4. Conservation as well as forest & wildlife management.
- C. To support the 2nd Amendment, ensuring the right to keep and bear arms. These rights, as listed in the United States Constitution and the Pennsylvania Constitution, Article 1, shall not be infringed or questioned.
- D. *Mission Statement: Ellwood/Wampum Rod & Gun Club is dedicated to the safe use of firearms, while conserving our natural resources by promoting the wholesome practice of hunting, fishing and shooting sports, and the education of children and adults in the law-abiding, responsible enjoyment of outdoor sporting activities.*

ARTICLE III - Membership

The Ellwood/Wampum Rod & Gun Club does not discriminate against membership based on race, sex, religion or orientation. All members agree to follow club by-laws when joining. If the rules are against their beliefs, they will make their own choice to proceed with membership, fully understanding what membership entails:

- A. All members shall be citizens of the United States of America, may not be prohibited from owning a firearm, 18 years of age or older and an active member of the NRA. Members who have held NRA membership prior to January 1, 2009 and have maintained active club membership with no lapses are exempt from the N.R.A. membership rule.
- B. Applicants for membership shall attend a regular membership meeting with a sponsor who has been an active member in good standing with continuous membership for at least 1 year. The applicant and sponsor shall address those present and answer any questions concerning the applicant's character and standing in the community. If the applicant meets all conditions of membership and is voted in by a majority, they shall be accepted for membership and dues shall be paid. It shall be the sponsor's responsibility to provide the new member a guided tour, a new membership packet and explain club range rules. The first year of membership will be a probationary year. Renewal may be declined if there is any violation of club rules or if proof is presented of any falsified/incorrect information that was provided to gain membership.
- C. Membership is not guaranteed and should be in the best interest of the club. By accepting membership, the applicant accepts the findings of the Board of Directors to be final and just. The Board of Directors holds the right to vote and remove any member at any time. Reasons are, but not limited to, violation of club by-laws, unsafe or illegal acts, damage to buildings/grounds and threatening behavior.
- D. There shall be 5 classes of membership:
 - 1. Regular membership - any person 18 years of age or older and meets all requirements for membership.
 - 2. Senior member- any person 65 years of age or older and meets all requirements for membership.
 - 3. Life member - any person 55 years of age or older who has been an active member for 10 consecutive years. They may become a life member for 10 times the cost of the current annual dues.
 - 4. Senior Life member - any person 65 years of age or older who has been an active member for 10 consecutive years. They may become a life member for 10 times the cost of the current Senior annual dues.
 - 5. Family membership - any class of membership may add a family membership to their existing membership. This allows a spouse and any children under the age of 18 who meet membership requirements, access to the club and activities; however, they can't hold a position of recognition at meetings and may not vote or hold office. The cost will be 50% of existing member's age bracket.
- E. A Complimentary membership may be awarded at the discretion of the board of directors. A nominee may be brought to the board for discussion and a vote must be taken.
- F. All memberships, except "Life", expire December 31 of the following calendar year. Dues should be paid by January 31 of the calendar year. After March 31st, membership is considered to have lapsed. That person shall now be considered a lapsed member who must pay the additional "lapsed membership fee" if they wish to continue their club membership as well as the applicant showing proof of current NRA membership.

- G. Current members who are on active duty military will be considered to have all privileges of continued membership. Annual dues will be suspended.

ARTICLE IV - Officers

All officers are to be voted on annually for a term of 1 year. Officers at the club consist of:

- A. President -shall act as the executive officer, preside over meetings and public events and enter agreements/contracts approved by a club vote. He/she shall also act as the public relations officer, preside over all committees and cast deciding votes in ties. He/she shall appoint committees and fill open offices as needed when a vote for that office is more than 3 months away. The president shall be on all bank accounts as the 2nd signature (1st in the chain of command).
- B. 1st Vice President - shall perform all duties of the president in cases where the President is unable to perform duties. He/she shall be the replacing officer in the event the presidency is vacant. The 1st Vice President shall be the 3rd signature for all bank accounts (2nd in the chain of command).
- C. 2nd Vice President - shall perform all duties of the previous offices if assigned officers are unable to fulfill duties. He/she may be involved with contracts and negotiations to be brought before the officers and Board of Directors for a vote. The 2nd Vice President shall have no authority to enter deals/contracts without a vote by the Board of Directors. He/she shall be involved with at least 2 committees (3rd in the chain of command).
- D. Treasurer - Shall keep, record and deposit all monies, deposits, donations and keep all financial records. He/she shall pay all debts and taxes when due, keep track of bills and give full reports of the financial condition of the club, including all deposits and withdrawals. The treasurer will reimburse expenses when presented with a receipt or upon a vote by the Board of Directors, should the expenditure be in excess of \$500. He/she shall give a brief Treasurers report at regular meetings consisting of income and expenses. He/she will be the 1st signature on all accounts. (4th in the chain of command).
- E. Secretary - shall record all meeting minutes, read the minutes of the previous meeting and put out public information through media/social media in the form of the club's website/Facebook and local newspapers concerning club events. He/she shall track and update memberships, present new applicants to the membership for a vote of acceptance and distribute/collect/track all keys. (5th in the chain of command)
- F. Sergeant of Arms - shall ensure that the by-laws are read at least once annually and be aware of the rules so that they are followed through votes and actions taken by the club. Verify all votes (be sure that only those who are eligible to vote do so and are counted properly) and that a quorum is present to vote at each meeting. Ask for reviews of the by-laws and be sure that the President appoints a committee to review the by-laws every 3 years. Be prepared to call "points of order" in meetings as per "Robert's Rules of Order". (6th in the chain of command).
- G. N.R.A. Executive Officer -shall be the liaison between the club and the National Rifle Association (N.R.A.). He/she shall apply for N.R.A. grants, keep N.R.A. memberships in

order/current and verify members' affiliation to the N.R.A. prior to membership. (7th in the chain of command).

- H. Range Officer - shall be in charge of all ranges for safety and their maintenance. He/she has the authority to temporarily close any range at any time for safety/maintenance. If a range is closed, the club's secretary must be notified within 24 hours of closure with reasons why and the estimated time of closure. He/she will then notify the officers/directors/members in some form of communication.

ARTICLE V - Directors

- A. The Board of Directors shall consist of a minimum of 10 members and a maximum of 30. Terms are for 2 years and should be divided in half with half of the directors being voted for every year. The number of directors may be adjusted annual as long as it is in the minimum/maximum range for the number of candidates.
- B. All officers leaving a position for any reason other than disciplinary reasons shall automatically receive a 1 year position as a director. He/she may be voted on during the next election for future posts.
- C. Directors shall vote on and determine policies of the club, approve the payment of bills, establish the amount of dues/fees, general management and the counsel of committees.

ARTICLE VI - Elections

- A. All current officers and Directors up for election will be automatically on the election ballot unless they no longer want the position.
- B. Nominations/Eligibility for Office - all officers and directors need to be nominated by at least one member of the club. That person must then accept the nomination as well as the duties of that office if elected.
- C. Nominations will begin at the monthly membership meeting in August. Nominations will be open for 3 months and close after the October monthly membership meeting.
- D. All candidates for office shall be active members in good standing for 1 year and have attended at least 50% of meetings (membership and board meetings combined). Exceptions can be made for work schedules or reasonable situations. Eligibility will be verified by the Sergeant at Arms and the Secretary prior to being placed on the ballot.
- E. Elections will be held at the November membership meeting (2nd Monday). If situations cause the meeting to be postponed, a special meeting may be called or the election will be moved to the next membership meeting in December (2nd Monday).
- F. Removal from office - any officer or director who is removed from office for misconduct or discipline by the Board of Directors' vote shall not be eligible to run for office for 2 years. If any officer or director resigns, they may not hold any office until the next election cycle.
- G. Anyone removed from office or membership for crimes/conviction prohibiting the ownership of firearms or bonding shall be removed from the club and no longer eligible for membership.

ARTICLE VII - Meetings

- A. There shall be one meeting every month:

1. Membership/Directors meeting - held on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M.
 - a. This meeting shall be conducted by the President *or Vice President*.
 - b. The meeting information shall be recorded in the minutes
 - c. A brief financial report shall be read.
 - d. Any meeting time or day can be changed by a majority vote. Most common reasons are holidays, emergencies and weather
 - e. It shall be the Secretary's duty to notify as many members as possible of change through media/social media, phone calls or texts.
 - f. These meetings require a Quorum of Officers/Directors in attendance to conduct any votes. A quorum consists of a minimum of 11 combined Officers/Directors.
 - g. The operation of finances, rules, regulations and votes are limited to only elected officers and directors.
 - h. *A short directors meeting will be held after the members portion of the meeting to clear all finances. Only Officers and Directors can vote on changes in purpose of the club. General members can not vote on finances nor the purpose of the club.*

B. Motions and Votes

1. Any action to vote shall require a motion to vote on an issue, followed by a second. If no second is provided, the motion has failed and may be brought up at a later meeting for consideration.
2. If a motion receives a second, a vote must be conducted on the motion as stated. A majority vote is required to pass by 51% of those in attendance who are eligible to vote.
3. If a motion is made and seconded and during a debate a motion is changed, the first motion must proceed to a vote and be defeated, then the amended motion and second may be voted upon.
4. All passing votes shall be effective immediately unless dictated by the by-laws or in the motion.

C. Amendments

1. By law amendment changes will now only require the proposal to be made at meeting and the membership to be notified of said change via club website and the change to be voted on at the next general membership meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - Committees

- A. The club shall have committees to work as needed to keep the club functioning.
- B. The board of Directors or President may form committees as needed, but several should be in operation at all times. Each committee chairman should make monthly reports on activities and needs.
- C. Committees should have separate meetings to discuss needs, work schedules and any issues within that committee. The committee shall have an initial budget of \$500. Purchases in excess of the budget must be approved by vote from the Board of

Directors and an explanation shall be given as why. Receipts will be required for all expenses.

1. Building - to maintain and repair the main clubhouse, garage and any outside buildings. This committee should be headed by a director and staffed by members of any position.
2. Grounds - shall maintain grounds, cut grass, clear fallen trees, care for any roads/paths and any fields/food plots. Should be headed by a director and staffed by members of any position.
3. Range - maintain all ranges (rifle, indoor, turkey shoot, trap and archery ranges). Any additional ranges added to the club should be headed by the elected range officer and staffed by members of any position and consist of a RSO (Range Safety Officer).
4. Kitchen - provide food at regular meetings, run the kitchen during events to help raise money for the club and provide food/refreshments for Lawrence County Council meetings. This committee should be headed by a director and staffed by members of any position.
5. Banquet - shall plan/organize the club's annual banquet and picnic. Committee members will solicit/gather door prize donations. They will also secure a hall/venue for the event as well as determine the menu. This committee should be headed by a director and staffed by members of any position.

ARTICLE IX - Delegates

- A. Any delegates who represent the club in meetings or at functions and other events shall be appointed by the President with the Board of Directors' approval.

ARTICLE X - Termination of the club

- A. It shall be the primary responsibility of all officers and directors to maintain, run, and protect the clubs grounds, finances and reputation at all times.
- B. In light that the efforts could not prevent the closure of the club, the following things shall be done:
 1. All equipment and belongings, holdings and accounts shall be liquidated, except for the lands.
 2. All monies raised shall be applied to any outstanding debt.
 3. Any monies left over shall be donated to organizations dedicated to the same principles as the club.
 4. The lands shall be transferred to agencies who will continue to keep the ground open to public hunting, fishing, trapping and shooting. Preferred agencies are the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the Pennsylvania Conservancy or any nonprofit group who will meet the required rules that this land will and shall remain unchanged in the interest of conservation sports.

Amendments made to By Laws for 2024.

ARTICLE II - Purpose

D. Mission Statement: Ellwood/Wampum Rod & Gun Club is dedicated to the safe use of firearms, while conserving our natural resources by promoting the wholesome practice of hunting, fishing and shooting sports, and the education of children and adults in the law-abiding, responsible enjoyment of outdoor sporting activities.

ARTICLE III - Membership

Amended D-G

- D. There shall be 5 classes of membership:
 - a. Regular membership - any person 18 years of age or older and meets all requirements for membership.
 - b. Senior member- any person 65 years of age or older and meets all requirements for membership.
 - c. Life member - any person 55 years of age or older who has been an active member for 10 consecutive years. They may become a life member for 10 times the cost of the current annual dues.
 - d. Senior Life member - any person 65 years of age or older who has been an active member for 10 consecutive years. They may become a life member for 10 times the cost of the current Senior annual dues.**
 - e. Family membership - any class of membership may add a family membership to their existing membership. This allows a spouse and any children under the age of 18 who meet membership requirements, access to the club and activities; however, they can't hold a position of recognition at meetings and may not vote or hold office. The cost will be 50% of existing member's age bracket.
- E. **A Complimentary membership may be awarded at the discretion of the board of directors. A nominee may be brought to the board for discussion and a vote must be taken.**
- F. All memberships, except "Life", expire December 31 of the following calendar year. Dues should be paid by January 31 of the calendar year. After March 31st, membership is considered to have lapsed. That person shall now be considered a lapsed member who must pay the additional "lapsed membership fee" if they wish to continue their club membership as well as the applicant showing proof of current NRA membership.
- G. Current members who are on active duty military will be considered to have all privileges of continued membership. Annual dues will be suspended.

ARTICLE VI - Elections

Add as A.

All current officers and Directors up for election will be automatically on the election ballot unless they no longer want the position.

Article VII Meetings

Meetings to be changed to once a month and be held on the second Monday of the month.

Amended A.....

A. There shall be one meeting every month:

- 1. Membership/Directors meeting - held on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 P.M.**
 - a. This meeting shall be conducted by the President or Vice President.**
 - b. The meeting information shall be recorded in the minutes**
 - c. A brief financial report shall be read.**
 - d. Any meeting time or day can be changed by a majority vote. Most common reasons are holidays, emergencies and weather**
 - e. It shall be the Secretary's duty to notify as many members as possible of change through media/social media, phone calls or texts.**
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