



# The Northeast Side Taildraggers R/C Aviation Club

## Bylaws

Revision 8 – November 11, 2023

### **ARTICLE I: CLUB NAME**

The official name of this organization shall be:

**“NORTHEAST SIDE TAILDRAGGERS R/C AVIATION CLUB CORPORATION”.**

### **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

**The purpose of this club shall be to further the sport of model aviation by:**

1. Promoting the design, construction and safe flying of radio-controlled model aircraft.
2. Promoting fellowship and free exchange of ideas among the membership and with other organizations of like purpose.
3. Enthusiastically attracting new members to the club, and by patiently and humbly teaching beginners and novices in the sport.
4. Promoting positive interaction with the local community.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

### A. QUALIFICATIONS

- A.1.** All club members must be a member in good standing of the Academy of Model Aeronautics. Evidence of AMA membership will be confirmed by the club secretary using the AMA member services web site.

### B. DUES

#### B.1. Dues schedule:

- a.** New members may join at any time. New members joining before July 1<sup>st</sup> will pay full annual dues. New members joining between July 1<sup>st</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup> will be granted a 25% discount. New members joining on or after October 1<sup>st</sup> will be granted a 75% discount.
- b.** Prior and existing members' dues are payable on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the calendar year. Dues paid on or after April 1<sup>st</sup> will incur a 20% late fee.

#### A.1. Dues classes:

- a. Open membership:** For adults who have reached the age of 18 that do not fall in category of Family or Student membership.
- b. Family membership:** For spouse and/or each child under 18 years of age in the same household as a current open member.
- c. Student membership:** For full time students under 22 years of age.
- d. Probationary membership:** For 10- to 16-year-olds without a supporting adult member. Probationary member MUST be accompanied by a parent or guardian AT ALL TIMES, and must be supervised and evaluated by one or more adult member "mentors" until the probationary member has shown sufficient skill and maturity to be released to fly solo, at which point the probationary member will be granted "student" membership status

- A.2. New members will pay a one-time field improvement fee equal to and in addition to their annual dues, regardless of date of joining. This applies to ALL new members.
  - A.1.a. Active employees of hobby shops are eligible for a waiver of the Field Improvement Fee. The employee must still pay full annual dues (for their age/class category), but are waived from paying the one-time field improvement fee. Employee can be full or part time (scheduled to work at least once per week) at an establishment whose primary business endeavor is hobby activities with a significant focus on R/C model aviation. The employee must provide proof of employment in the form of a paycheck stub from the last 30 days. The employee granted the waiver must also agree to and sign the waiver agreement form stating that the employee will appropriately and positively promote the NeST-RC club to store patrons seeking club involvement.
- A.3. There are no refunds of club dues as a result of resignation, termination or expulsion.
- A.4. Dues payment will not be accepted from anyone without proof of current AMA membership.
- A.5. Dues may be adjusted from time to time. Motion to change dues must be brought by unanimous motion agreement from the club officers, and passed by a simple majority vote in a regular club meeting.
- A.6. **Referral Rewards Program:** Any open member who refers 5 or more new members (outside of his or her family membership) in any calendar year will be granted free open membership for the following calendar year. New members must list the current member on initial membership application under “referred by:”. This program is designed to provide incentive for existing members to bring friends and acquaintances into the membership. If an individual learns about the club from another outside source and inquires without solicitation about the club, no referral is to be listed. Dishonest exploitation of this program will result in disciplinary action.

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- C. RESIGNATION** - Any member in good standing may resign his/her membership by giving written notice to the Club.
- B. TERMINATION** - If any member ceases to have the qualification necessary for membership in the AMA, his/her membership in the Club shall thereby immediately terminate, subject to reinstatement upon restoration of eligibility.
- C. EXPULSION** - Any individual may be expelled from membership from the Club by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership if in the officers' determination, such individual willfully commits any act or omission which is a violation of any of the terms of these Bylaws, or the Rules of the AMA, or which is detrimental the Club, the AMA, or to model aviation.
- D. REINSTATEMENT** - A two-thirds vote of the membership is required for reinstatement of an expelled member to the club.
- E. GUESTS** – Members in good standing with the club are permitted to bring guests to fly at the club field if:
  - E.1.** The guest flies as a student pilot under the direct supervision of a club “intro pilot” under the rules of the AMA Intro Pilot Program, or
  - E.2.** The guest is a member in good standing with the AMA, and is accompanied by a member of the club. Guests are permitted to fly at the NeST field a maximum of three (3) sessions in any calendar year. Guests are expected to join the NeST club and pay the appropriate club dues to fly in excess of three sessions.

The member bringing the guest is to be responsible for ensuring that the guest has the proper experience and equipment to fly at the field, and whether the guest requires assistance.

## **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

**A. President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Safety Officer and Community Outreach/Event Organizer.**

**A. Secretary and Treasurer can be held by the same individual, but if so held, that individual will only be allowed one ballot in officer voting matters.**

### **F. ELECTIONS**

**F.1.** Nominations for officers can be from the floor, by mail, or by email, and must be confirmed by a “second” during the election meeting.

**F.2.** Officer nominees are required to have been a club member in good standing for the last 1 calendar year.

**F.3.** Elected by a simple majority of those present at the March Club Meeting. A quorum of at least 10% of paid members in good standing must be present. Nominees and those voting must have paid club dues for the upcoming calendar year. Proxy votes are not permitted. If no quorum exists at the March meeting, the officer vote will be postponed until the next club meeting whose attendance provides a quorum. Existing officers continue to hold office until such a vote is cast.

**F.4.** If more than one candidate is nominated for an office, written secret ballots will be cast. The individual receiving more than 50% of the votes will be deemed the winner. If more than two candidates are nominated and there is no candidate with more than 50% of the votes, the two candidates receiving the most votes will compete in a run-off ballot.

**F.5.** Term of office runs from April 1 through March 31

**F.6.** There are no limits on the number of terms an individual can hold the position of any office.

### **B. DUTIES**

#### **F.7. PRESIDENT**

**A.1.a.** Prepares the agenda and presides at all meetings.

**A.1.b.** Is the executive officer and spokesperson for the club and is listed as the contact on the club web site, Facebook group and AMA club listing.

**A.1.c.** Has authority to sign club checks.

**A.1.d.** Decides outcome of any tied votes.

**A.1.e.** Appoints committees as necessary.

**F.8. VICE PRESIDENT**

- A.1.a. Assists President in all matters and assumes the duties of the President if for any reason the President is unable to perform his duties.
- A.1.b. Sets and announces the club meeting schedule.
- A.1.c. Chairs the Field Improvement and Maintenance Committee.

**F.9. SECRETARY**

- A.1.a. Retrieves and stores all meeting minutes, meeting attendance from the appointed recorder.
- A.1.b. Verifies AMA status of each member and keeps up-to-date records on membership status and contact information.
- A.1.c. Collects officer nominations, and provides the nomination list to the President.
- A.1.d. Provides, distributes, collects and counts ballots for all votes that require ballots. The counting of ballots is to be assisted by at least one other officer.

**F.10. TREASURER**

- A.1.a. Collects all club dues and fees, and deposits them into the club checking account in a timely fashion.
- A.1.b. Presides over club checking account, handles all deposits and writes all club checks.
- A.1.c. Keep adequate financial records.
- A.1.d. Presents a financial report at each monthly meeting which includes accounting of all club funds credited and debited.
- A.1.e. Authorized to disburse up to \$100.00 for club related expenses without any other authorization..
- A.1.f. Authorized to disburse up to \$500.00 for club related expenses, when approved in writing in advance by the President and at least one other officer.
- A.1.g. Authorized to disburse larger amounts for club related expenses when approved by simple majority vote in a regular or special club meeting.

**F.11. SAFETY OFFICER**

- A.1.a. Develop NeST Field Rules that are in accordance with the AMA Safety Code and ensure that these rules are posted at the field.
- A.1.b. Is empowered to order any individual to cease any unsafe operations.
- A.1.c. May prohibit the operation of any aircraft which would pose a safety threat at that time (Examples; test flights at contests or under crowded conditions, operation with obviously questionable equipment, etc.).
- A.1.d. In the event of repeated disregard of the NeST field rules, may recommend to the President that disciplinary measures be taken.

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- A.1.e. At meets or contests may conduct (and/or supervise) safety inspections of all aircraft prior to first flight at the event.
- A.1.f. May appoint deputies to assist in establishing a safe operating environment. Safety Deputies do not have officer voting privileges.
- A.1.g. The Safety Officer (and any Safety Deputies) are to treat all members with courtesy and respect. Members **willfully** violating club or AMA safety rules will be firmly, but politely, corrected by the Safety personnel. **Accidental or unintentional** violations will be handled in a gentle and constructive manner by the Safety personnel.

### F.12. COMMUNITY OUTREACH/EVENT ORGANIZER

- A.1.a. Responsible for organizing public and club events.

## E. VACANCIES

- A.1. Presidential vacancies will be filled immediately by the Vice President.
- F.13. All other officer vacancies are to be filled by simple majority vote of those in attendance of the next business meeting following resignation or removal of the officer being replaced. This could be the regular monthly business meeting, or a special meeting can be called if a majority of the remaining officers so deem.
- F.14. Non-presidential vacancies may be filled by a sitting officer, if so, nominated from the membership. In the event that an existing officer is elected to fill another vacant office, that officer's vacancy will then follow these same rules.

## ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

### A. REGULAR MEETINGS

- F.15. Regular Club meetings will be held on the second Saturday of every month. Should a major holiday fall on that day, the officers may, by simple majority vote, chose to move it to a more convenient date in an effort to gain higher membership attendance.
- F.16. It is the responsibility of the Vice President to announce the place, date and time of the following month's meeting at the close of each monthly meeting.

### B. SPECIAL MEETINGS

- F.17. It may become necessary from time to time to call special meetings. Officers will, by a simple majority vote, determine the need for such meetings.
- F.18. Special meetings will be announced to the membership electronically through email, the club web site and the club Facebook group page. Officers may, at their discretion, choose to use these means to also distribute special notices, foster discussion, and to administer voting on special items of business that require action prior to the next scheduled business meeting. Such votes must include participation from at least 25% active members in good standing to be deemed valid.

## ARTICLE VI: RECORD KEEPING

- A. The sitting Secretary shall pass all membership records and prior year meeting minutes to the newly elected Secretary at or after the regular December business meeting, and on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> following.
- B. The sitting Treasurer shall pass all financial records to the newly elected Treasurer at or after the regular December business meeting, and on or before January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

### A. Standing (Perpetual) Committees

- A.1. **Safety Committee** – Chaired by the Safety Officer and administered by a separate “Purpose and Implementation” document governing their activities.
- A.2. **Flight Instruction and Training Committee** – Chairman appointed by the President and administered by a separate “Flight Instruction and Training Code” document governing their activities.
- A.3. **Site Improvement and Maintenance Committee** – Chaired by the Vice President and administered by a separate “Site Improvement and Maintenance Code” document governing their activities.
- A.4. Other standing committees may be created by a standard motion and vote by the membership. Such standing committees will remain effective until abolished by similar vote.

### B. Special committees

- B.1. Special committees may be appointed by the President. Such committees will terminate at the expiration of the President’s term of office.

## ARTICLE VIII: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- A. **ROBERT’S RULES of order will be used to preside at all meetings.**

### G. FISCAL YEAR

- G.1. January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>

### H. ALCOHOL & TOBACCO POLICY

- H.1. No alcoholic beverages are permitted anywhere at any time at the NeST flying site. No flying is to be done by anyone while they are under the influence of alcohol.
- H.2. Smoking is not permitted anywhere at any time at the NeST flying site.



## **I. LOANS AND GIFTS**

- I.1.** Any member in good standing may offer cash or material loan(s) to the club to pay for field improvements. Said loan will be accepted only by a majority vote of the officers of the club.
- I.2.** If the officers do not pass the vote to accept the loan, the member may present the cash or material as a “gift” to the club, with no expectation of repayment.
- I.3.** If accepted, cash loans will be repaid to the member from Field Improvement fees paid by new members (See section III.B.3). If more than one member has an outstanding loan, repayment will occur in the order that the loans were accepted, unless other arrangements are made in writing and agreed to by all parties with outstanding loans.
- I.4.** Material loans require valuation by the club officers, either by cash receipt provided by the loaning member of a transaction for the material(s) completed within the last 60 days, or by research done by the member and validated by the club treasurer. Repayment will be made by club check in the amount of 80% of the valuation.
- I.5.** The club treasurer will issue a promissory note to the loan issuer upon acceptance of the loan. The treasurer will also account for all loans, and provide a loan status report at each club meeting.
- I.6.** The club will not pay interest on loans, and no other special consideration will be provided to the member issuing the loan or gift.
- I.7.** Gifts from non-members can be accepted by a majority vote of the officers. No loans will be accepted by non-members.

## **ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENT OF THESE BYLAWS**

### **A. PROPOSED**

- I.8.** Changes and/or amendments to these bylaws can be suggested through the club Secretary by any member in good standing. Officers will evaluate all such suggestions and, if by a simple majority vote of the officers, they deem it to be worthy of inclusion, they will place it on the agenda for the next scheduled business meeting.

### **J. APPROVAL**

- J.1.** Changes and/or amendments to these bylaws require a 2/3 vote of those in attendance of the meeting where at least 25% of the active membership in good standing are present.

## ARTICLE X: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

### A. PROCEDURE

**A.1.** The grievance procedure provides a mechanism to enforce existing safety rules by providing a progressive disciplinary system when needed. Although most complaints can be resolved informally, if a complaint is serious or cannot be resolved informally, the matter should be referred to the Safety Committee for its consideration by means of a Grievance Form to be filled out and turned into the Safety Committee Chairman. At least one witness is required to sign the Grievance Form. The Safety officer/Committee shall use its judgment in carrying out action on the following:

**A.1.b.** A grievance form will be filled out and turned into the Safety Officer/Committee Chairman. At least one witness is required.

(J.1.1) **FIRST VIOLATION** - Viewpoints of both complainants and accused will be considered. Complainant's name will be disclosed. A verbal reprimand will be given to the accused by the Safety Officer/Committee, and this will be recorded in the Club records.

(J.1.2) **SECOND VIOLATION** - Complainant's name will be disclosed. The accused has the right to a written rebuttal, to be reviewed by the Club Safety Officer/Committee. If the Committee so decides, the flying privileges of the accused will be suspended for thirty (30) days. Written notice of this shall be issued and a copy published in the Club newsletter.

(J.1.3) **THIRD VIOLATION** - Safety Officer/Committee will notify the accused in writing and the Club members via the Club newsletter that the Club will vote on the expulsion of the accused at the next meeting. Said expulsion will last for a one-year minimum. A member may be expelled from the Club only upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at the meeting. Voting will be by secret ballot at a regular monthly meeting. The expelled member may reapply for membership after the expiration of the expulsion time period.

(J.1.4) The three actions will not be enforced unless they are accumulated within a two-year period of time.

(J.1.5) Any member receiving a Grievance, who directs any retaliation action against the person filing said grievance, will be subject to immediate expulsion from the Club. This is to include threats, intimidation, physical harm, intentional equipment damage, or any other action deemed to be retaliatory by the Club Officers.

