

Current Bylaws of Pennsylvania Predator Hunters Association

Article I - Pre-amble

This association shall be known by the name Pennsylvania Predator Hunters Association herein called the PPHA. The PPHA is a non-profit incorporated association. It shall be governed by an elected Board and elected District officers.

The association will be open to all regardless of sex, race, creed or nationality.

Article II - Mission Statement

The mission of the PPHA will be to promote and protect the sport of predator hunting, through good sportsmanship, education and events, in order that current and future hunters will have the opportunity, knowledge and skills needed, to continue this great hunting tradition.

Article III - Membership

Section 3.1 Eligibility.

Any man, woman or child wishing to support the PPHA, the sport of predator hunting and furbearer management and abides by all legal methods of harvesting furbearers set forth by the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Section 3.1 a. Kit club member.

A Kit club member is a juvenile member under the age of 12 years old. All Kit Club members require an adult sponsor to attend PPHA events and hunts. Kit members are considered mentored hunters and are limited to take part in mentored hunts as defined by the Pennsylvania Game Commission state laws .Kit members will not receive any membership rights with the exception of being able to participate in hunts or events with adult supervision.

Section 3.1 b. Junior Membership.

Junior members between the age of 12 years and 17 years of age are considered active PPHA members and can participate in PPHA events under adult supervision and receive all membership benefits. Junior members must have a parent or legal guardian co-sign their application.

Section 3.1 c. Adult membership.

Adult members are any person having reached their 18th birthday and are entitled to participate in all PPHA events, elections and Hunts.

Section 3.1d Family Membership.

Adult, Spouse and any children under 18 years of age living in the same household.

Section 3.2 Limitations.

Persons under the age of 18 years of age shall not take part in any money hunt. Be the winner of any firearm or cash prize given awarded to the winner of a hunt. Are excluded from the entire election process.

Section 3.3 Application.

Application for membership must be submitted in writing with at least the first years dues. Application will be reviewed by the Board and District officers and either approved or denied. In case of denial dues will be refunded.

Article IV - Guests

Section 4.1 Meetings.

All members are entitled to bring one guest to include non-paid members to a meeting. Attendance of a meeting by anyone with a guest status shall be allowed once during that fiscal year. A guest wishing to attend more than one meeting per fiscal year must have approval of the executive officers. Guests shall have no voice in the business of the PPHA. Guest may not attend "special" meetings and may be asked to leave a meeting at anytime by the Board or District Officers.

Section 4.2 Hunts.

Guests will be permitted to participate in one sanctioned PPHA hunt per year with a PPHA Adult member sponsor in good standing. Guests may not hunt solo and must be accompanied by their PPHA member sponsor at all times while in the act of hunting during a PPHA hunt. Guests must possess the proper license required and follow any and all PPHA, State and Federal Laws/Regulations set forth. Failure to follow any laws/regulations set forth could result in sponsor expulsion and/or legal actions. Guests/Sponsor will pay a non-refundable entrance fee of \$10.00 payable to the PPHA Treasurer prior to the hunt, which will be credited toward a membership plan of their choice if application is received no later than seven (7) days after the closing of the hunt. Adult Guests will be eligible for any/all prizes awarded by the PPHA.

Section 4.3 Spouse and Children.

Spouse and children of a member in good standing may attend PPHA Family events, but may not participate in PPHA hunting events unless they are a member in a family membership plan or a guest.

Article V - Expulsion

Section 5.1 Reasons.

The following infractions shall be considered sufficient reason for expulsion:

- (a) Failure in payment of dues.
- (b) Failure to follow state and federal game laws.
- (c) Any law violation that results in the loss of hunting and or trapping privilege.
- (d) Failure to pay just debts incurred to the association for an individual member or group of members. Failure to return any association property.
- (e) Failure to uphold all articles and sections contained in these bylaws.
- (f) Felony conviction.
- (g) Assaulting or threatening another PPHA member in any manner.

Section 5.2 Expulsion guidelines.

Once sufficient evidence has been submitted in writing via letter or email to an Executive Board member or District officer, a meeting of the Executive board and district officers will be called within fourteen days, to determine if a investigation is warranted.

Section 5.3 Course of action.

If an investigation is warranted;

- (a) Investigation will be conducted by at least 3 members in good standing each being from different districts appointed by the President.
 - (b) Investigation:
 1. Member will be suspended for a maximum of thirty days, so an investigation can take place. Member will then be considered “not in good standing” as defined in Article 7.
 2. Before the thirty day suspension is over the Executive board and investigation committee must meet to decide a further course of action.
 - (a) Determined member did not violate bylaws and return member back to “in good standing”.
 - (b) Extend suspension for an additional max thirty days to continue investigation.
- At end of 2nd thirty day suspension, member must be either returned to “in good status”, or a vote taken on expulsion.
- (c) Release findings in a letter to all Executive board members and Investigation committee members to be voted on by Executive board and Investigation committee members.

Section 5.4 Vote Results.

Once votes have been tallied, two possible outcomes will occur:

- (a) Majority of votes for keeping member. Member then will be returned to “in good status”.
- (b) Majority votes for expulsion. Member will be removed from PPHA and not allowed to visit PPHA website forum or attend any PPHA function, also forfeit remainder of dues.

Section 5.5 Appeal.

Any expelled member has the right to request an appeal within 7 days upon notice of their expulsion.

- (a) Appeal must be submitted in writing via email or letter to a Executive Board member, stating why an appeal is warranted.
- (b) Board and District officers will vote for or against appeal.

1. If the appeal is accepted then sections 5.3 and 5.4 will be followed.
2. If the appeal is denied, the original expulsion still stands and remainder of dues is forfeited.

Article VI - Reinstatement

Section 6.1

Any member expelled from the PPHA will be considered for reinstatement when the following are met:

- (a) Period of one year has passed since expulsion.
- (b) Hunting and trapping privilege restored.
- (c) Felony conviction overturned.
- (d) All fees and dues owed the PPHA are satisfied.

Section 6.2.

Expelled member meeting section 6.1 must submit written request and application to the Board.

- (a) Board will send information to all members in good standing to vote on reinstatement.
 1. If membership approves reinstatement then member applying must pay dues before considered a member.
 2. If membership denies reinstatement, a letter will be sent to applicant stating reinstatement denied.

Article VII - Privilege of Members

Any member in good standing will be entitled to participate in any association activities. They will be able to solicit the support of the association in any and all activities consistent with the purpose of the association. They will be entitled to vote on all matters brought before the membership and compete in any and all contests and events sponsored by the PPHA. Members in good standing may also use the PPHA web-based forums. The forum board is a privilege that can be suspended from any member until further notice if the established forum board rules are not followed.

Article VIII - Duties of Members

It is the duty of a member to support the association in any and all activities in which they are able. To promote and support the association, and to represent the PPHA in a positive and outstanding manner.

Article VIV - Finances

Section 9.1 Fiscal Year.

Fiscal year shall run from September 1st to August 31st

Section 9.2 Disbursement.

The disbursement off all association funds shall be determined by the Board and District officers. All PPHA expenditures over amount of \$450.00 with the exception of reoccurring operating expenses and fund raiser purchases shall be brought forth to the membership for a vote for release of funds. Written notification will be mailed to all members in good standing. No action will be taken for fourteen days from mailing.

Section 9.3 Dues and Fees.

Membership dues shall be set by a majority vote of the executive board and district officers.

Dues are to be paid according to the type of membership.

Section 9.4 General fund.

The Board is authorized to open a checking account as a general fund. All monies collected by the association shall be held in this account, until distributed according to these bylaws. The account ledger will be audited by the outgoing and incoming Treasurer's for each term and verified by the incoming President within 60 days of the start of any new term.

Article X - Duties

Section 10.1 President.

It shall be the duty of the president to preside over all meetings of the Board. Quorum for all board meetings shall consist of at least two executive board members and four district officers. President shall only vote if there is a tie. President shall appoint all members of a committee. Appoint winners in an uncontested election. Be present at the counting of votes in an expulsion vote. Be responsible to the membership, for results of all committees, Board and District officers. Shall by virtue

of the office be chairperson of Board. He or she shall sign any and all legal documents in the name of the PPHA.

Section 10.2 Vice President.

The Vice President shall assist the President in any and all matters. Shall conduct business of the association and chair board meetings in the absence of the President. He or she shall succeed the President in the event they are no longer able to carry out their duties. Vice President shall by the virtue of the office be chairman of the planning committee and co-signer of all documents requiring a second signature.

Section 10.3 Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall keep account of each members debts , shall collect all dues and money due the association, and deposit it into the general fund. Shall report all expenditures and income to the Board and District officers at all meetings. Shall sign all checks and pay all debts approved by the Board, District officers and membership. Inform the President and Secretary of all members behind in their financial duties to the association.

Section 10.4 Secretary.

The Secretary shall receive all correspondence and direct it via the proper channels. Shall keep minutes of board meetings and shall keep an accurate record of names and address of all members. Also handle the processing of all applications for members and expulsion of members. Shall inform all District officers of new members in their districts. Shall inform each member of their tardiness of dues and fees.

Section 10.5 District Officers.

Shall be the duty of all District officers to keep members informed by mail, email, phone, meetings or message board with the current business in their district. District officers shall hold at their discretion, or as needed; district meetings and submit the minutes to the Board. Shall attempt to hold two district events a fiscal year. District officers shall attempt to man a booth at any sportsmen's event with the purpose of recruiting new members and representing the PPHA.

Article XI – Nominations

Nominees for Executive Officer & District Officer positions must be members in good standing. Nominations must be presented in writing via email or letter to the Secretary or to a district officer. Nominations must be accepted by the member nominated to be deemed valid. Nominations for officers and coordinators will open up February 1st of every year. Nominations will be excepted from February 1st at 12:01 am to March 31st at 11:59 pm every year.

Article XII – Election

Elections for Executive Office and District Office will be held by secret ballot. Winner will be determined by majority vote of all members in good standing. District officers will only be voted on by members within the district for which they intend to hold officer for. Ballots will be mailed out within 14 days of the end of the nomination period to all members in good standing. All ballots must be returned to the Secretary by the date specified on the ballot. Nominees have the right to ask for a recount. Elected Executive & District positions will be for a term of one year. In the event of a tie, a re-vote will take place. If only one nominee is running for a position, then the president will appoint them the winner without conducting a vote. New officers and coordinators will take office effective April 1st of every year.

Article XIII– Appointment

Section 13.1 Appointing.

In the event a Board member or District Officer becomes unable to perform their duties and a position is vacant, the President shall appoint, with approval of the Board and District Officers a member in good standing to fill that position till the next election with that members accepted nomination.

Section 13.2 Multiple positions.

If an officer should hold more than one officer positions or there are two individuals holding a District office, this position shall only be allowed to cast one vote on each item brought forth.

Article XIV - Committees

Committee shall be made up of two or more members in good standing appointed by the President for the betterment of the association.

Section 14.1 Planning Committee.

Shall be the function of this committee to arrange all state wide activities for the association. To present a calendar of events to the membership as soon as possible. Planning committee shall present all plans to the Board and District officers to be voted on. The Vice President shall be the Chairperson of this committee.

Section 14.2 Political Committee.

Shall be the duty of this committee to keep abreast of all current events and legislation this is relevant to the purpose of our association. The committee shall recommend to the Board and District officers, a group plan, action to be taken in order that the association may be counted collectively.

Section 14.3 Meetings.

The Chairperson of each committee will be responsible for setting the time, date and place of all meeting. Minutes must be kept of all committee meetings and it is the chairpersons responsibility that the Board and District officers receive the minutes.

Article XV - Resignation

Section 15.1 Resignation from committee.

Any member wishing to resign from a Committee shall inform the Chairperson of the committee in writing via email or letter of their intent. The Chairperson will then forward the letter of resignation to the President

Section 15.2 Resignation from the PPHA.

Any member wishing to resign from the PPHA may do so, as long as they inform the President and Secretary of their intentions in writing, via email or letter. Upon resigning member forfeits any dues already paid and access to the "members only" section of the PPHA forums.

15.3 Resignation from Office.

Any officer, executive or district, wishing to resign from their position must submit a letter of resignation to the President and or the Secretary of their intentions. Any officer may resign from office without resigning from the PPHA.

Article XVI - Amendments

Any member in good standing may suggest an amendment or correction to the existing bylaws. Member must submit suggested amendment changes in writing via email or letter to a Board member or their District officer. Suggestions will be reviewed and tabled by the current Board. Tabled amendments will be open for review within the first & last 90 days of each 1 year Executive Officer term, the bylaws will be closed between such times.

except for those for which a review has begun. Proposed amendments deemed of high importance will be reviewed and voted upon by the Board when received. Newly proposed amendments voted with a majority approval of the Board will be mailed to the membership for voting. Results of membership voting will be reported at the next Board meeting. Votes will be tallied and the amendment will then be inserted or denied with eligibility for appeal.

Article XVII~ Items Not Covered

Any PPHA issue incurred by the executive board not covered within these bylaws shall be handled by an emergency meeting within 7 days from the time the issue has arisen. Decision on the issue will be voted upon my majority of the executive & district officers.

