

Wintonbury Flying Club

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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WINTONBURY FLYING CLUB PHILOSOPHY

WFC was organized to provide a safe location for members to have fun flying their model airplanes and enjoy the camaraderie of other members.

WFC developed safety rules, not people rules. The club does not want excessive rules; just rules to protect people and property.

WFC safety rules are for guidance and safety, not for hard-handedness

WFC membership and its elected leadership will not tolerate mean-spiritedness from members to other members or guests of our club. This type of behavior will result in suspension of flying privileges and membership.

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

The name of this club shall be the Wintonbury Flying Club located at the Blue Hills Flood Water Retention Area, Reservoir No. 2, Bloomfield, CT.

ARTICLE 2 – PURPOSE

Section 1. The objective of the club shall be to promote model building and flying in Bloomfield, CT and in this town's general locality, and to aid insofar as possible the national program of the Academy of Model Aeronautics and other AMA activities, looking toward the continual advancement of model aviation in the United States.

Section 2. All special or local enterprises of the Wintonbury Flying Club shall conform to the policies of the Academy of Model Aeronautics and to the regulations of that organization governing model aircraft contests.

ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. All persons shall be eligible to membership in the club, provided they meet the qualifications prescribed by this club and by the Academy of Model Aeronautics and have a current AMA Open membership.

Section 2. Club membership shall be limited. The maximum number of regular members will be determined through consideration of relevant factors such as finance, safety, interest, goodwill, etc. Proposed changes to club membership shall be treated as Regular Business, Article 6 (below).

Section 3. No member in good standing shall be asked to relinquish his membership without valid reason. The membership and its elected leadership will not tolerate mean-spiritedness from its members to other members in the club. This type of behavior will result in suspension of flying privileges and membership.

Section 4. The club has established and will maintain a Junior Membership Program.

Section 5. Any member may resign his/her membership by giving written notice to the Club.

Section 6. If any member ceases to have the qualifications necessary for membership in the AMA, his/her membership in the Club shall terminate, subject to reinstatement upon restoration of eligibility.

Section 7. Any new member who joins the club after the thirty-first of August will have their membership honored and valid through December thirty-first of the following year.

ARTICLE 4 – OFFICERS

Section 1 – Definition

The elected officers of the Wintonbury Flying Club shall be:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer

Section 2 - Duties

1. President – The President shall preside at all meetings of the club and shall act as spokesperson for the club in all matters pertaining to it. The President shall appoint directors for various club requirements as needed.
2. Vice-President – The Vice-President shall act for the President when he is unable to serve.
3. Secretary – The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings and shall maintain an official minutes book for this purpose. In addition, the secretary shall circulate an attendance sheet at each club meeting.
4. Treasurer – The Treasurer shall collect and disburse all monies due and owed. The Treasurer shall also keep a record of all financial transactions by the club.
5. Executive Committee - The Executive Committee (consisting of the elected officers) shall have complete charge of all club affairs.

Section 3 – Term of Office

All officers of the Wintonbury Flying Club shall serve for one year from January first.

The election of officers shall be held annually in November and the nominations shall be made by a committee appointed beforehand for that purpose, or by individual members following the report of the Nominating Committee.

Section 4 - Vacancies

Vacancy in any office shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee, such appointee to serve until the end of the term for which his predecessor was elected.

ARTICLE 5 – MEETINGS

Meetings shall be held once each month. The time and place shall be designated by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 6 – REGULAR BUSINESS

All regular business affairs and enterprises conducted by the club shall be directed by the Executive Committee. At any time, the President may call a meeting of the membership to address any issues such as a problem or a business activity. Proposed changes that result from addressing these issues, unless they affect Amendments or Dues (reference Articles 7 and 8 below) will be offered as motions during the meeting which will be passed by a simple majority of those in attendance at the meeting.

ARTICLE 7 - DUES AND FEES

Section 1. The annual membership dues and initiation fee to this club shall be proposed by the executive committee, and are subject to the provisions of Article 7; Section 2.

Section 2. Proposed dues changes or special assessments shall be presented to the club in writing (in written correspondence or email) no later than thirty (30) days prior to any scheduled club meeting. For a dues increase or special assessment to pass, a simple majority of the active membership must vote to approve.

ARTICLE 8 - AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this Constitution and these By-Laws shall be presented to the club in writing (via written correspondence or email) no later than 30 days prior to any scheduled club meeting. For an amendment to pass, a simple majority of the active membership must vote to approve. *A simple majority* is defined as a voting requirement of more than 50% of all ballots cast. *Active membership* is defined as any member that attends the appropriate regularly scheduled meeting to vote or casts a vote via written correspondence or email as stated earlier. Votes for members unable to attend the regularly scheduled meeting where the vote will take place, will be recorded by submitting them in writing or via email to the club Secretary to be received no later than 10 days prior to the meeting date.

ARTICLE 9 – FINANCIALS

Section 1. The club Treasurers books must be audited annually prior to the new calendar year. The audit shall be performed by a committee of two (2) Club members, appointed by the executive committee. None of the auditors shall be on the Executive Committee in the club.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall maintain accurate and timely records of all club financial transactions via the use of Quick Books, or equivalent financial software.

Section 3. Club dues shall be collected at, or in advance of, the regularly scheduled January club meeting. Reinstatement will be subject to available openings and payment of the initiation fee.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget. The budget shall be presented to the membership at the regularly scheduled February club meeting.

ARTICLE 10 – FLYING AND SAFETY RULES

The club shall establish, maintain and regularly update a set of safety and flying rules.

ARTICLE 11 – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 1. ROBERT’S RULES . Robert’s rules of Order shall be used for conducting Club meetings and shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are consistent with these Bylaws.

Section 2. FISCAL YEAR. Fiscal Year will be from January1 to December 31

Section 3. STANDING RULES. All AMA rules apply as do Club Rules found in the Club Bylaws.

Section 4. DISSOLUTION OF CLUB. The duration of the Wintonbury Flying Club shall be perpetual. The Club may dissolve with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership. In the event that the Club should be dissolved, the entire assets after meeting liabilities shall be distributed to another non-profit organization that has similar interests.

ARTICLE 12 – RECORD OF BYLAW REVISION

Revision “–“: Initial Release 4/1/93

Revision1: Extensively Revised RN10/6/08

Revision 2: Revised note preceding Supplemental Helicopter Regulations RN10/15/09

Revision 3: Added Article 8 to Supplement Helicopter Regulations and revised note preceding Supplemental Helicopter Regulations. RN10/7/10

SUPPLEMENTAL SAFETY AND FLYING RULES FOR ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT/ HELICOPTERS

Note: the flying of rotary wing aircraft was established in September 2007 as a one-year trial program. This program was renewed at the September 2008, October 2009 and October 2010 Club meetings. On October 7, 2010, the Club voted to add Article 8 to these Regulations. The club will no longer vote on these regulations annually, as the language in Article 8 takes precedence. For clarification, the club initially adopted these provisions under Amendment XII of the club Constitution and Bylaws. This Amendment has been incorporated into the current revision of the club Constitution and Bylaws as these supplemental regulations.

The flying of rotary wing aircraft by members of the Wintonbury Flying Club (the “Club”) shall be permitted at the Club’s flying field at Blue Hills Flood Water Retention Area, Reservoir No. 2 (the “Field”) in accordance with the following provisions.

1. The term “rotary wing aircraft” shall mean a rotary wing aircraft, other than autogyros, whether powered by gas, glow or electric motors.
2. All rotary wing aircraft pilots must be certified to fly by the Club’s Training Director or by a Rotary wing aircraft Trainer appointed by the Training Director. No person who has not been certified to fly shall fly a rotary wing aircraft solo or under the supervision or with the assistance of anyone who is not a Rotary wing aircraft Trainer. As used herein, to be “certified to fly” shall mean that a Rotary wing aircraft Trainer has determined that the person seeking to be so certified is, without the assistance,

coaching or intervention of a Rotary wing aircraft Trainer or any other person, capable of flying a rotary wing aircraft in a safe and competent manner and in accordance with all safety rules governing flying at the Club's field.

3. Any person wishing to become certified to fly rotary wing aircraft must at all times until becoming so certified fly with and under the direct supervision of a Rotary wing aircraft Trainer and, unless determined by the Rotary wing aircraft Trainer to be unwarranted based on known capabilities of the person wishing to become certified to fly rotary wing aircraft, using a "buddy-box" system supplied by the person being trained.
4. Rotary wing aircraft shall be flown only in the Rotary wing aircraft Area. The term "Rotary wing aircraft Area" shall mean that portion of the Field which extends from the Rotary wing aircraft Pad north to the East-West Runway and the extension thereof west to the dike, west to the dike, and south to the tree line separating the flying field from the premises of Seabury, but in no event over or beyond the walking path maintained by Seabury for the use of its residents. The term "Rotary wing aircraft Pad" shall mean the regularly mowed, circular area as existing on the date of the adoption of this Amendment XII to the west of the parking area, but shall not include that area between said circular area and the parking area. Notwithstanding the foregoing in this Section 4, rotary wing aircraft may be flown over all approved flying areas of the Field if and when, but only for so long as, no fixed wing aircraft are present at the Field.
5. No more than one (1) rotary wing aircraft may be flown in the Rotary wing aircraft Area at the same time and, unless there are no other rotary wing aircraft pilots present and wishing to fly, rotary wing aircraft flights shall be limited to ten (10) minutes.
6. Rotary wing aircraft pilots shall at all times maintain the highest level of safety, shall comply with all safety regulations of the AMA pertaining to the operation of rotary wing aircraft and with Club rules of general application regarding field usage and flight operations- - including, but not limited to, the use of frequency pins and the transmitter impound - - and shall fully cooperate with pilots of fixed wing aircraft. Any dispute over flight operations or conflict between provisions of the Club's Bylaws or safety regulations shall be resolved in favor of fixed wing aircraft operation.
7. This Amendment XII, the implementation of it, and the operational experience under it shall periodically be evaluated, and, not later than one (1) year from the date of its adoption, the Amendment shall be reconsidered by submitting it, with such revisions, additions or deletions as may be deemed necessary or desirable, to a vote of the membership of the Club as if it were a new amendment to the Bylaws and, unless thereby adopted by such a vote of the membership of the Club this Amendment XII shall expire upon the expiration of one year from and after the date of its initial adoption.
8. Flying helicopters or rotary wing aircraft at the Field is prohibited after October 7, 2010, and this prohibition shall take precedence over any inconsistent or contradictory language in the Bylaws, the Supplemental Safety and Flying Rules for Rotary Wing Aircraft/Helicopters, or the Wintonbury Flying Club Safety and Flying Rules, and shall not be amended or repealed unless two-thirds of the whole membership of the club votes in favor of the amendment or repeal.

GENERAL

The flying field is located in Flood Control Reservoir #2, leased by the Town of Bloomfield from the State of Connecticut and supervised by the Bloomfield Recreation Department. The site has been designated by the Bloomfield Town Council for the flying of model aircraft and rocketry. The use of the model flying facilities is restricted to members of the Wintonbury Flying Club and their guests. In accordance with the club by-laws, all members of the Wintonbury Flying Club must belong to the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). The flying club will attempt to permit only members of the AMA to use the facilities. The latest published revision of the official AMA Safety Code will be observed by all participants utilizing the facilities for model flying.

