

Taunton Rifle and Pistol Club, Inc.



BY-LAWS

Revision 7/2009

This page is intentionally left blank for your notes

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ARTICLE I	4
NAME.....	4
ARTICLE II	4
OBJECT	4
ARTICLE III.....	4
MEMBERSHIP.....	4
OATH OF ALLEGIANCE	4
PLEDGE	4
ARTICLE IV	4
DUES	4
ARTICLE V	5
MEETINGS	5
ARTICLE VI	5
OFFICERS	5
ARTICLE VII.....	6
DUTY OF OFFICERS.....	6
ARTICLE VIII.....	7
SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION.....	7
ARTICLE IX	8
MEMBERSHIP.....	8
ARTICLE X.....	9
AMENDMENTS	9

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the *TAUNTON RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB, INC.*

ARTICLE II

OBJECT

The object of this organization shall be the encouragement of organized shooting among citizens of the United States residing in our community with a view toward such citizens of the safe handling and proper care of arms as well as improved marksmanship. It shall be our further object and purpose to forward the development of those characteristics of honesty, good fellowship, self-discipline, team play and self-reliance, which are the essentials of good sportsmanship and the foundation of true patriotism.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Any prospective member (voting or non-voting family member) must have the ability to qualify for and meet local, state, and federal requirements to possess and own a firearm. The only exception is for minors who fail to meet age requirements. Any citizen of the United States may become a member of this organization on vote of the membership after subscribing to the following oath and pledge, and on payment of the usual initiation fee and dues (see Article IX).

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands. I certify that I am a citizen of the United States and that I am not a member of any organization or group pledged to, or working for a program aimed at the destruction of our present system of government established by the Constitution of the United States (see Article IX).

PLEDGE

I certify that I am a citizen of the United States of America and that I am not a member of any organization or group which has any part of its program the attempt to overthrow the Government of the United States or any of its political subdivisions by force or violence; that I have never been convicted of a crime of violence and if admitted to membership I will faithfully endeavor to fulfill the obligations of good sportsmanship and good citizenship (see Article IX).

ARTICLE IV

DUES

- A.** The members' annual dues to the club shall be an amount payable not later than January first of each year.
- B.** No member of the club in arrears shall be eligible to vote or to enjoy any other of the privileges or benefits offered by the club.
- C.** New members joining after January 1st shall pay the initiation fee plus an adjusted amount.
- D.** New members will be charged an initiation fee as set by the membership.
- E.** Each member of the club shall be assessed a fee for insurance as set by the club according to the policy.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

- A. ANNUAL MEETING:** The annual meeting of the organization shall be held in October of each year at the regular monthly meeting. If the annual meeting shall not take place at the time fixed it shall be held within a reasonable time thereafter and the officers shall hold over until their successors shall have been duly elected. Duly elected officers shall take office on January 1st of the following year.
- B. REGULAR MEETING:** The regular meetings for business of the organization for the transaction of ordinary business normally shall be held on the second Sunday of each month unless otherwise designated.
- C. SPECIAL MEETINGS:** A special meeting of the organization may be held at any time upon call of the President or upon call of the Executive Committee, or upon demand in writing, stating the object of the proposed meeting, and signed by not less than 50% of the members. Notice of the time and place and object of any special meeting shall be given all officers and members in good standing in writing by United States mail no less than seven (7) days prior to the date fixed for the holding of the meeting. The place of such special meeting shall be fixed by the Executive Committee.
- D.** Twelve (12) members of the organization entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.
- E.** Robert's Rules of Order will be followed at all meetings.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

- A.** The officers of this organization in order of succession shall be a President, Vice-President, Dues Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Building Supervisor, Rifle Instructor, Pistol Instructor, Shotgun Instructor, Musket Instructor, and Archery Instructor. Said positions are the only dues exempt positions.
- B.** The executive Committee shall have general supervision and control of all the activities of the club. Executive Committee may also appoint a Chief Range Officer, Safety Instructor, and Junior Rifle Instructor. Such appointments shall be non-voting positions.
- C.** Meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held regularly at such time and place as the committee may determine. Special meetings may be held at any time on the call of the President or on demand, in writing to the Secretary, by six (6) members of the Committee.
- D.** The Executive Committee will have an audit by an outside agency.
- E.** Six (6) members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- F.** Resignation of any officer may be accepted by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Committee. All resignations must be in writing.
- G.** A vacancy in the Executive committee may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the committee. However, if more than one vacancy exists, a special meeting of the club shall be called and new officers shall be elected to fill the vacancies until the date of the next annual meeting as provided in Paragraph A of Article V above.

ARTICLE VII

DUTY OF OFFICERS

- A. President:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the club and of the Executive Committee. He shall be a member ex officio of all regular and special committees and shall perform all such other duties as usually pertains to his office.
- B. Vice-President:** The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence or at his request, plus his regular assigned duties.
- C. Dues Secretary:** The Dues Secretary shall be responsible for the collection of all fees and dues and shall remit the same to the Treasurer, taking his proper receipt thereof.
- D. Corresponding Secretary:** Secretary shall notify the member of special and annual meetings and shall notify the members of the Executive meetings as required in Article V.
- E. Recording Secretary:** The Recording Secretary shall conduct all official correspondence pertaining to the proper preparation and forwarding of all reports required by the club by the National Rifle Association and the Civilian Marksmanship Program. He shall keep true record of all meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Club and have custody of the books and papers of the club, except the Treasurer's books of account. All application for membership in the club shall be made to the Secretary. He shall be responsible for reaffiliating the club with the National Rifle Association.
- F. Treasurer:** The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds of the club and place the same in such bank or banks as may be approved by the Executive Committee. Such money shall only be withdrawn by check signed by the Treasurer for the payment of such bills as shall have been approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all his transactions and render a detailed report with vouchers at any meeting of the Executive Committee when requested and an annual report to the organization at its annual meeting.
- G. Building Supervisor:** The Building Supervisor will be in charge of care and maintenance of buildings and all club property. He shall contract no bills without authorization of the Executive Committee.
- H. Instructors:** Each branch of the club shall have instructors who also serve as Executive Officers. One representing Rifle, one Pistol, one Archery, one Muzzleloader, and one Shotgun. He shall have charge of all arms instruction with authority to appoint his assistants. He shall contract no bills without the authorization of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION

- A.** Any officer may be removed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members in good standing present at any special meeting called for this purpose. No vote on suspension or removal may be taken unless at least fifteen (15) days notice in writing shall have been given to the officer of the reasons for his removal and of the time and place of the special meeting at which such ballot on his removal be taken. At such special meetings, the officer shall be given a full hearing.
- B.** Any member may be suspended or expelled from the club for any cause deemed sufficiently detrimental to the welfare and interests of the Club by the Executive Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the members of the Committee at any regular meeting or special meeting. No vote on suspension or expulsion may be taken unless at least fifteen (15) days notice in writing shall have been given to the member of the charges preferred and of the time and place of the meeting of the Executive Committee at which such charges will be accorded a full hearing. Charges against any officer or member may be preferred by any member in good standing. They shall be in writing clearly stating the facts relied upon and accompanied by all affidavits or exhibits which are to be used in their support. Such charges shall be filed with the Recording Secretary, who will immediately notify the President. The President will call a meeting of the Executive Committee to hear the charges. The Recording Secretary will give at least fifteen (15) days notice of the meeting to each member of the Executive Committee and to the accuser and to the accused which notice shall be in writing and will include a true copy of the charges and of the supporting affidavits and exhibits.
- C.** Any member suspended (90 days or more) or expelled by the Executive committee may appeal to the full membership of the club. Such appeal shall be made in writing to the Recording Secretary who will notify the President. The President will call a special meeting of the club for the purpose of acting on the appeal. The Recording Secretary shall give at least fifteen (15) days notice in writing to all members of the club in good standing the date, time, place and reason for such a special meeting. At the meeting of the full club the Recording Secretary will read the original charges, the supporting affidavits and will read or display the accompanying exhibits and will read the minutes of the special meeting of the Executive Committee at which charges were heard and action taken. A full hearing will be given the accuser and the accused. A vote will be taken by ballot of the members in good standing present and two-thirds vote shall be required to reverse the action of the Executive Committee.
- D.** The NRA and local police may be notified and given a full report on any club member or guest who has been expelled from the club for any cause deemed sufficiently detrimental to the welfare and interests of the Club.
- E.** Any member (voting or non-voting family member) who has had his or her ability to keep or qualify for a permit to own or possess a firearm suspended by local, state or federal authorities, will be immediately suspended from the club. Suspension will include use of club property, participation in club events, and voting privileges. Suspension will also include participation in any elected or appointed positions. It is the member's obligation to notify the club by mail, voice mail or in person to any board of directors' member, immediately if for any reason their ability to own or possess a firearm is revoked.

ARTICLE IX

MEMBERSHIP

- A.** Any member in good standing may, upon request, ask for a leave of absence from the club stating his reason for the leave of absence to the Executive Committee. Upon approval by the Executive Committee such leave of absence may be granted by the Executive Committee and signed by the President and two other Executive Committee Officers. While on leave of absence, the member in question is exempt of all dues and penalties until the termination of the leave of absence at which time the member in question shall continue to pay his regular dues. While on leave of absence the member is not entitled to any club privileges. Leaves of absence will run for one (1) year and follow the same annual cycle as dues. Members must request a leave of absence (or one year extension each year) prior to the established dues grace period, or the member's name will be dropped from the club roster with the unpaid members.
- B.** Any member voted into the club shall be classified as an Associate member for the first two (2) years of his membership. Under this classification the member cannot hold an executive office, but is entitled to all other club privileges. On January 1st following the second anniversary of acceptance into the club the member in question shall then be classified as a Charter member and may then hold an executive office plus enjoy all other club privileges.
- C.** The Dues Secretary shall remove from the club roster, any member who is in arrears, after said member has been mailed a written notice stating that he is in arrears and the amount of his arrears and allowed a thirty (30) day grace period to pay his dues in full.
- D.** Any application for membership to the Taunton Rifle & Pistol Club must be sponsored by a member with a least six (6) months membership in the Taunton Rifle & Pistol Club.
- E.** Any resident legal alien may become a member of this organization on vote of the Executive Committee provided they meet the following requirements:
 - 1.** Must possess a valid Resident Legal Alien Registration Card.
 - 2.** Must possess a valid Massachusetts Firearms Identification Card, valid Massachusetts License to Carry Firearms, or a valid Massachusetts Permit to Purchase Firearms.
 - 3.** Must be able to read, write, speak and comprehend the English language.
 - 4.** Must not belong to any organization foreign or domestic, which has as its goal the overthrow of the government of the United States or a citizen of any country at war with the United States.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

Any proposed amendments to these by-laws may be introduced by a member of the club at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose. After they have been approved by the Executive Committee, they must be acted upon by the club membership at a regular meeting or a special meeting called for the purpose, provided a copy of the approved amendment has been sent to each club member by United States mail at least ten (10) day previous to the meeting. A two-thirds vote of the members present will be necessary to pass it.

By-Laws Amendment: On October 14, 2007 the TRPC executive board and the club's general membership approved the following change to the by-laws:

- As of October 14, 2007 all active club members are now eligible for discounted membership dues. Members of 60-years of age are eligible for a 50%, or half, membership dues discount; members of 70-years of age are eligible for 100%, or full, discount; and junior members are eligible for 50% discount up until the age of 21 and 50% and 100% discount when they reach the age of 60 and 70 respectively.
- Members who joined the club after October 14, 2007 are not eligible for any discounts at the age of 60 or 70.
- Members who let their membership lapse, which requires payment of initiation fees, will lose any previous membership privileges.
- Members who have joined the club prior to October 14, 2007, and are on a yearly approved Leave of Absence, are considered inactive members. When these members are able to activate their membership they will be eligible for these 60 and 70 year old discounts.