Flying Aces Pilots Association

Charlotte/Huntersville North Carolina

Club Bylaws & Grievance Form

Pending Approved: June 7, 2025

ARTICLE 1: PURPOSE

A. To further the hobby of model aviation, specifically radio control aviation of all types in the Charlotte North Carolina region. To help people both new to the hobby and those who are experienced. To disseminate information about current laws, rules, and best practices, to provide camaraderie and help provide a fun and safe environment to enjoy model aviation activities.

ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP

A. QUALIFICATIONS

Club membership is open to all people. All flying members must maintain Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) Membership and a Waymer Aeromodeler Chapter of AMA (WACAMA) Park Pass.

B. DUES and TYPES of MEMBERSHIP

The current annual dues are as follows;

Full Club members (19 years or older): $30 per year.
Honorary Lifetime Full Club members: $0 per year.
Junior Club members (younger than 19 years old): $0 per year.

Club Officers will have their annual dues waived for their term of office.

Any individual may be considered for Honorary Lifetime Full Club membership. Nominations can be made and voted upon at any monthly Club membership meeting. A simple majority of 50% of the attending Full Club members is needed for passage. Qualification could be holding Club office for a high number of years, exemplary Club service, a distinguished community leader, etc.

While new Club members can apply at any time, renewals are to be paid no later than the January Club meeting.

C. RESIGNATION

Any Club member in good standing may resign membership by giving notice to any Club Officer, written notice is preferred.

D. TERMINATION

A Club member shall be in arrears and shall not be considered active if his/her dues have not been paid. Any Club member who allows their Club membership to lapse beyond March 1 of any year shall be considered a new member when renewing their Club membership and will not be given preference over any other application should a Club membership waiting list be in existence.

Any Club member not maintaining AMA and/or WACAMA Park Pass will have their Club membership suspended until their AMA and/or WACAMA are reinstated.

Dues are non-refundable, except under extraordinary circumstances, which will be determined by the Club Officers on a case by-case basis.

No special assessment shall be levied upon the Club membership, unless it is approved by a simple majority of all active Full Club members (not simply meeting attendance).

Please see Article E for Expulsion.

E. EXPULSION

Any Club member may be expulsed from the Club. While the most common reason would be repeated, or a singular major, safety violation there may be other reasons.

Any Club member receiving a safety grievance as stated in Article 11, or who is involved in non-flying violations, or who has key information of a non-flying violation and withholds it from Club Officers, may at the Club Officers discretion be placed on probation for one (1) year regardless of his or her tenure in the Club. Any individual may be expelled from Club membership by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Club Officers when an 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, WACAMA, or which is detrimental to the Club, the AMA, WACAMA or to model aviation.

Expulsions will be determined by the Club Officers and brought before the Club membership and voted upon as described above. The expulsion of a Club member from the Club will be by a secret ballot.

F. REINSTATEMENT

Reinstatement may be considered when recommended by the Club Officers and brought before the Club membership and voted upon. This shall be by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Club Officers

ARTICLE 3: OFFICERS

A. The Club shall maintain the following Club Officers. A single individual may hold multiple positions as long as they are capable of performing the duties of each.

President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and shall act as spokesperson in all matters pertaining to it. They will have oversight of all Club activities including activities fellow Officers are responsible for. They will appoint special or standing committees as needed. They will cast the tie breaking vote if needed.

Vice-President: The Vice-President shall act for the President when unable to serve, and is to maintain an accurate record (including place of storage) of all Club assets.

Secretary: The Secretary shall record minutes of all Club meetings (Officers, monthly membership and any special meetings). They will handle all correspondence pertaining to Club activities. They will also be the Club's contact person with the AMA for club renewal, FRIA designation, in case of questions, problems or situations. Any and all records shall be passed to subsequent Club secretaries.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall collect all monies due, manage and record all FAPA financial transactions including assets. The Treasurer will report on the state of the Treasury at monthly Club meetings. The Treasurer shall collaborate with WACAMA to maintain a list of current Club members and supply this member list as needed to the Club Secretary.

Safety Officer: The Safety Officer shall be responsible for ensuring existing safety regulations are enforced. While all Club members are responsible for safety, the Safety Officer will provide guidance and assistance as needed. This includes processing the grievance forms and following the existing grievance procedure documented in the by-laws. They will also coordinate with the AMA, Mecklenburg Parks and Recreation and WACAMA (as applicable) for any safety related concerns and be the contact person for field maintenance issues.

WACAMA Board of Directors: the Club will elect two Club representatives for the WACAMA Board of Directors. These may be primary Club Officers or any Full Club member at large.

B. Standing or Committee appointments;

Additional appointments may be made at the discretion of the Club Officers. These are not considered to be additional Club Officers. These may be appointments such as Instructor, Newsletter Editor, Contest Director, Raffle Coordinator, Webmaster, etc.

C. Terms of office;

All elected Club Officers shall normally serve for one (1) year from the October meeting to the next election. Club Officers are to be elected by a vote of simple majority of active Full Club members present at the regular Club meeting in the month of October. Mail-in ballots will be made available for those Club members who have voting rights and notify a Club Officer of their inability to attend the October meeting. Those ballots, returned before the next meeting, will be counted as if those persons were present at the Club meeting. New Club members within the first calendar year of membership are not eligible for elected office; however they may serve the Club in appointed positions. New Club Officers will take office immediately after the October meeting. All outgoing Club Officers shall brief and pass down all information and assets to newly elected Club Officers. This is to include files, documents, passwords for accounts and transfer of all Club banking accounts.

D. Nomination of Club Officers;

Nomination of Club Officers shall be made at the Club general membership meeting during the month of September. Nominations for Club or WACAMA Officers may be made by any active Full Club member holding voting rights either in person or by submitting a proxy nomination to an existing Club Officer. All known nominations for office will be announced at the October meeting prior to the election. New Club members within the first calendar year of membership are not eligible for elected office; however they may serve the Club in an appointed positions.

E. Vacancies

Vacancies in any Club office shall be filled by appointment by the remaining Club Officers; such appointee will serve until the end of the term for which the predecessor was elected.

ARTICLE 4: MEETINGS

A. The Club President will preside over all Club meetings. The Club Vice President shall preside in the absence of the Club President.

B. Regular Club membership meetings shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the Club President and notice shall be made on the Club web page. Notice will be made available to those without internet access upon request.

C. Club Officers may call special Club membership meetings with no less than five days prior written notice on the Club web page of the special meeting. The purpose of the special meeting shall be stated in the written notice.

D. Club Officers may call Club Officer meetings at any time. A minimum of 50% of the Club Officers must be present for an official vote.

E. At any Club meeting a simple majority of 50% of the attending Full Club members (attending Club Officers for Officer meetings) is needed for the passage of motions. Abstentions will not be counted.

ARTICLE 5: AUDIT

A. The Club President and two at large Club members shall make an annual audit of the Club Treasurer's books. This audit will occur in the month of September with the results presented at the October Club meeting.

ARTICLE 6: AMENDMENTS

A. Amendments may be made to the bylaws at any general meeting of the Club membership, provided the Club members shall have been notified of the proposed amendments by placement on the Club web site at least five (5) days in advance of the amendments consideration. Copies of the proposed amendments shall be provided to all Club members without internet access upon request. Amendments shall be approved by no less than a two-third (2/3) majority vote of the Full Club members present, at the regular monthly meeting. Mail-in ballots will be made available for those Full Club members who cannot attend the Club meeting. Those ballots, returned before the next Club meeting, will be counted as if those persons were present at the meeting.

ARTICLE 7: CLUB TREASURY

A. The Club Treasurer is authorized to receive contributions or specially obtained funds from any individual or institution, to be applied to the operating expenses of the Club.

B. The Club President will have discretionary spending, up to $100.00 without requiring Club approval. Multiple discretionary expenditures totaling in excess of $300 in a one month period requires approval by at least one other Club Officer.

C. The Club Treasury shall not be allowed to go below $2500.00 under normal operating conditions. In an emergency situation the Club officers may approve expenditures that would reduce the Club Treasury below the $2500.00 threshold. These expenditures will be placed on the Club website and sent out via email at least 5 days in advance of the expenditures consideration. The expenditure shall be approved by no less than two-third (2/3) majority vote of the Full Club membership present, at the next regular monthly meeting. Mail-in ballots will be made available for those who are Full Club Members in good standing who cannot attend the meeting. Those ballots, returned before the next Club meeting, will be counted as if those members were present at the meeting.

D. The Club Field Camera code shall be changed in accordance with the WACAMA membership renewal, annually on February 1st.

E. When a new Club Treasurer is elected they shall accompany the outgoing Treasurer to the Club banking establishment in a timely manner to transfer the account ownership to the newly elected Club Treasurer and President (see ARTICLE 3: OFFICERS Section C).

ARTICLE 8: DURATION

A. The duration of this Club shall be perpetual

ARTICLE 9: DISSOLUTION

A. The Club may be dissolved with the approval of a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the total Club membership.

B. Upon dissolution of the Club, the Club Officers shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Club, dispose of all assets of the Club in a manner that benefits model aviation, for example donation to the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) or to such other organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or to such other organization with purpose similar to the purposes of this Club. Any assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas (or similar court) of the county in which the principal office of this Club is then located, exclusively for such purposed and to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE 10: LOGO

A. The official Club logo shall be:

ARTICLE 11: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (FLIGHT AND GROUND SAFETY RULES)

A. Purpose: 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 Club Safety Officer for consideration. This shall be by means of a Grievance Form. At least one witness is required to sign the Grievance Form.

B. The Club Safety Officer, with assistance of other Club Officers if needed, shall use their judgment in carrying out action on the following:

1. FILING A GRIEVANCE

i. A Grievance Form (see attached) must be completed and submitted to the Club Safety Officer within seventy-two (72) hours of the alleged incident or of the complainant becoming aware of the incident.

ii. At least one witness is required to sign the Grievance Form.

iii. Failure to file a grievance within the seventy-two (72) hour period may result in the grievance being dismissed unless the Club Officers determine that extenuating circumstances justify a later filing.

A grievance form (see attached) will be filled out and turned into the Club Safety Officer. At least one witness is required

2. FIRST VIOLATION

i. Viewpoints of both complainants and the accused will be considered.

ii. Complainant's name will be disclosed

iii. If the complaint is found to be valid a verbal reprimand will be given to the guilty party by the Club President, and this will be recorded by the Club Secretary.

3. SECOND VIOLATION

i. Viewpoints of both complainants and the accused will be considered.

ii. Complainant's name will be disclosed.

iii. If found guilty the guilty party has the right to a written rebuttal, to be reviewed by the Club Officers.

iv. A letter will be sent to WACAMA recommending that the flying privileges of the guilty party be suspended for thirty (30) days. Written notice via email of this shall be issued to the guilty party.

4. THIRD VIOLATION

i. Viewpoints of both complainants and the accused will be considered.

ii. Complainant's name will be disclosed.

iii. The Club Officers will notify the accused and the Club members via email that the attending Full Club will vote on the expulsion of the accused at the next meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is needed to expulse a Club member. Voting will be by secret ballot.

iv. If found guilty the person will be expulsed. Said expulsion will last for one-year minimum. (Longer if deemed necessary by the Club Officers). Written notice of this shall be issued to the guilty party.

v. A letter will be sent to WACAMA recommending that the flying privileges of the guilty party be suspended. Written notice of this shall be issued to the guilty party.

vi. The expulsed Club member may reapply for Club membership after the expiration of the expulsion time period.

vii. The actions will not be enforced unless the three violations are accumulated within a two-year period of time.

5. Any Club member receiving a Grievance, who directs any retaliation against the person filing the Grievance, will be subject to 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.

FLYING ACES PILOTS ASSOCIATION

GRIEVANCE FORM

Date: _____ Time: _____

Nature of Violation:

Signature: _____

Witness: _____

Additional Witnesses (optional):

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