

# New York Coalition for Recreational Fishing



## Constitution and Bylaws

January 23, 2019

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## **Article I — Title, Objectives, and Purposes**

**Section 1.** This organization shall be known as the New York Coalition for Recreational Fishing Inc., or in its abbreviated form, the NYCRF.

**Section 2:** The purpose and mission of the NYCRF is to:

- (a) Promote and encourage the sport of recreational fishing, including surfcasting, baitcasting, flycasting, and other forms of fishing.
- (b) Actively engage in the establishment and implementation of sound policies and practices related to the protection, conservation, restoration, and safe regulation of the natural marine resources of New York State and the other states that share resources with New York State.
- (c) Monitor and lobby for federal, state, and local legislative activities that promote the rights and privileges of New York coastal recreational fishermen.
- (d) Actively engage in activities that preserve and promote access to all current and future fishing grounds that are of interest to New York coastal recreational fishermen.
- (e) Enter into agreements and/or contracts that may be necessary to support the stated goals and overall mission of the NYCRF.
- (f) Foster communication between all interested parties, organizations, and individuals that share the above stated goals.

## **Article II — Membership**

**Section 1:** Membership in the New York Coalition for Recreational Fishing can take two forms - Individual Membership and Club/Organization Membership:

- (a) Individual Membership requirements:
  - must be a citizen of the United States
  - must be at least 18 years old
  - must be of good character
  - must share an interest and commitment to NYCRF stated goals
  - must pay yearly NYCRF membership dues
- (b) Club/Organization Membership requirements:
  - club/organization must have at least five active members
  - club/organization must meet regularly
  - club/organization must have a stated mission and/or by-laws that are compatible with those of the NYCRF
  - must pay yearly NYCRF membership dues

**Section 2.** Yearly dues are payable by January 30. Any individual member or club/organization that has not paid its dues in full by May 1 shall be automatically suspended from all activities and lose all voting privileges of the NYCRF until the time when its dues are paid in full.

**Section 3:** Member clubs and organizations are represented by one delegate who is appointed by his or her respective member club or organization. Each delegate has voting privileges wherein their vote counts as one vote on issues before the NYCRF.

**Section 4:** Independent members have no individual voting privileges. Independent members will nominate and elect a delegate to serve as the Independent Member Delegate. As with all member club or organization delegates, the vote of the Individual Member Delegate will count as one vote on issues before the NYCRF.

### **Article III — Members In Good Standing**

**Section 1.** Member clubs and organizations in good standing must pay dues and/or fees by January 30th of each year. Member clubs and organizations not paying their dues by January 30th lose their voting privileges until the dues are paid in full.

**Section 2.** Member Clubs/Organizations and Independent Members will act in accordance with NYCRF rules of conduct.

**Section 3.** Failure to meet any or all of the above conditions automatically causes a member in "good" standing to lose that standing. The Board will review each situation on an individual basis and may take any additional action deemed appropriate including expulsion from the Coalition.

### **Article IV — Meetings**

**Section 1. The Coalition will meet as follows:** Unless otherwise determined, meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the following months:

- |                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| 1. First meeting  | February |
| 2. Second meeting | April    |
| 3. Third meeting  | June     |
| 4. Fourth meeting | August   |
| 5. Fifth meeting  | October  |
| 6. Sixth meeting  | December |

**Section 2.** At all meetings the order of business shall be:

1. Salute to colors.
2. Roll call.
3. Acceptance of minutes of previous meetings.
4. Treasurer's report.
5. Committee report(s).
6. Old business.
7. New business.
8. Adjournment.

**Section 3.** Regular meetings of the NYC RF shall be held at such places and dates as may be deemed suitable by the Board of Directors. There shall not be less than one regular meeting every two months.

**Section 4.** Additional meetings may be held upon the request of 4 (four) or more Delegates or upon the request of the President.

**Section 5.** A non-member may attend the meeting of the NYC RF only upon the invitation of the President.

**Section 6.** The Board of Directors shall meet six times per year at a time and place selected by the President.

### **Article V — Quorum**

**Section 1.** No official business of the NYC RF shall be conducted without a quorum.

**Section 2.** A quorum shall be defined by at least 5 (five) voting members of the NYC RF.

**Section 3.** At meetings of the Board of Directors, a majority of the total members of the Board shall constitute a quorum, and a majority vote of the Directors present at any such meeting shall prevail.

### **Article VI — Regulations at Meetings**

**Section 1.** All meetings shall be conducted according to Robert Rules of Order. All matters before the NYC RF shall be open for discussion from the floor.

**Section 2.** The President will serve as Chairman of all NYC RF meetings. In the absence of the President, the Vice President will serve as the Chairman. Any member may raise a point of order at the meeting. The Chairman will rule on a point of order. The chairman's decision may be appealed by a delegate and decided by a majority vote without debate.

**Section 3.** No member may speak more than twice on the same question without permission from the Chairman.

**Section 4.** No debate shall be had on any motion until that motion is stated and seconded. Amendments may be motioned at this time. If the maker of the motion accepts the amendments, the motion shall be voted on and the question is as amended.

**Section 5.** All voting shall be a simple majority vote of all delegates at regular meetings and all board members at Director's meetings. All votes are to be recorded as cast unless unanimously carried.

**Section 6.** In the case of a tie vote, the Chairman shall be the deciding vote.

**Section 7.** Each delegate has the right to have an alternate in their place with full voting rights.

**Section 8.** A motion to adjourn shall be in order only after completion of the NYC RF regular business.

## **Article VII — Management and How Elected**

**Section 1.** The management of the NYC RF shall be vested in the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

**Section 2.** The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the NYC RF shall be elected for a term of two years, which will continue until their position is filled by another individual.

**Section 3.** Only individuals that have been members in good standing for at least one calendar year can be considered for NYC RF management and leadership roles.

**Section 4.** During the October meeting, officer nominations will be accepted from the floor if duly seconded.

**Section 5.** Voting will take place at the December meeting. Voting shall be by secret ballot. The nominee receiving the most votes shall win. New officer terms begin on January 1.

**Section 6.** In the event that an officer position becomes vacant during the term, the Board will appoint an interim officer who will serve the remainder of the vacated term.

**Section 7.** In the event of a vacancy of the President, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the President.

## **Article VIII — Duties of Officers**

### **A. Board of Directors**

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors shall have the power to manage all the affairs of the Coalition on any and all questions relating in any manner whatsoever thereto, and to make all contracts necessary for the proper transaction of all business. They shall have entire jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the care, conduct, control, supervision, and management of the NYC RF and its finances and all appropriations shall be made by them with the exception of instances cited in Article VIII, E, Section 1.

**Section 2.** It shall be the duty of said Board of Directors to prescribe and publish rules regulating the operations of the NYC RF.

**Section 3.** Any member of the Board of Directors who shall absent himself from two monthly Board meetings shall offer, within ten days, an excuse for his absence which is satisfactory to the Board of Directors or shall be deemed to have resigned as a member of said Board.

**Section 4.** The Board of Directors shall have the following specific powers:

- (a) To make rules for the conduct of the members of the NYC RF.
- (b) To suspend or expel a member with due process procedures for any conduct in violation of rules or behavior, or prejudicial to the interests of the NYC RF. Due process procedures include:

- board discussions;
- interview with member in questions;
- deliberation and voting.

- (c) To prescribe rules for the admission of strangers or guests to the privileges of the NYC RF.
- (d) To call special meetings of the NYC RF to consider special subjects.
- (e) To prescribe additional duties for any of the officers, in addition to those herein set forth.
- (f) To set annual dues.
- (g) To appoint At-Large Directors in support of the effective running of NYC RF.

**B. President**

**Section 1.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the NYC RF and shall enforce all laws and regulations of the NYC RF. He/she shall perform such duties as shall be imposed on him/her by resolution of the voting members of the NYC RF. The President shall, with the Secretary or Treasurer, sign all written contracts and written obligations of the NYC RF. The President shall have the power to appoint committees consisting of members of the NYC RF, with the approval of the Board.

**C. Vice President Secretary**

**Section 1.** In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President.

**D. Secretary**

**Section 1.** The Secretary shall keep the minutes and other official records of the NYC RF. He/she shall conduct the official correspondence of the NYC RF. He/she shall keep all records, books, documents, and papers relating to the NYC RF. He/she shall maintain all records in such a place as shall be designated by the voting members of the NYC RF. He/she shall make available all minutes upon request. He shall give to all members at least 2 (two) days' notice of all special meetings. He/she shall keep a roster of members and their addresses. He/she shall perform any other duties as shall be assigned to him by the Board.

**E. Treasurer**

**Section 1.** The Treasurer shall keep account of all monies received by the NYC RF, and deposit those monies in the name of the NYC RF, in such bank as shall be designated to him by the officers. He/she shall not dispense more than \$250.00 from the NYC RF treasury without the approval and authorization, by motion or resolution, of the Board. Any amount below \$250.00 shall be approved by two officers, one of which being the President of the NYC RF. At each bi-monthly meeting of the NYC RF Treasurer shall submit a statement of the financial condition of the NYC RF. At the February meeting of the NYC RF he/she shall submit a detailed report of the financial condition of the NYC RF, for the preceding fiscal year, which report may be reviewed by individuals designated by the Board. The fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31.

## **Article IX — Amendments**

**Section 1.** Amendments hereto may be voted on at the December meeting or at a meeting called for the purpose by a two-thirds vote of all the members present. Written notices of the proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Board of Directors and notice of the proposed amendment shall be given to all members by the Secretary at least ten days prior to the meeting during which such amendment is to be considered.

*By-Laws Amended: February 20, 2020:*

Original Wording

## **Article II — Membership**

**Section 1:** Membership in the New York Coalition for Recreational Fishing can take two forms - Individual Membership and Club/Organization Membership:

- (c) Individual Membership requirements:
  - must be a citizen of the United States
  - must be at least 18 years old
  - must be of good character
  - must share an interest and commitment to NYC RF stated goals
  - must pay yearly NYC RF membership dues of \$15.00 per year
- (d) Club/Organization Membership requirements:
  - club/organization must have at least five active members
  - club/organization must meet regularly
  - club/organization must have a stated mission and/or by-laws that are compatible with those of the NYC RF
  - must pay yearly NYC RF membership dues of \$35.00 per year

Original Wording:

## **Article VIII — Duties of Officers**

### **F. Board of Directors**

**Section 4.** The Board of Directors shall have the following specific powers:

- (a) To make rules for the conduct of the members of the NYC RF.
- (b) To suspend or expel a member with due process procedures for any conduct in violation of rules or behavior, or prejudicial to the interests of the NYC RF. Due process procedures include:
  - board discussions;
  - interview with member in questions;
  - deliberation and voting.
- (c) To prescribe rules for the admission of strangers or guests to the privileges of the NYC RF.
- (d) To call special meetings of the NYC RF to consider special subjects.



- (e) To prescribe additional duties for any of the officers, in addition to those herein set forth.
- (f) To set annual dues
- (g) To appoint At-Large Directors in support of the effective running of NYC RF.

*By-Laws Amended October 2024:*

**Section 4.** The Board of Directors shall have the following specific powers:

- (a) To make rules for the conduct of the members of the NYC RF.
- (b) To suspend or expel a member with due process procedures for any conduct in violation of rules or behavior, or prejudicial to the interests of the NYC RF. Due process procedures include:
  - board discussions;
  - interview with member in questions;
  - deliberation and voting.
- (c) To prescribe rules for the admission of strangers or guests to the privileges of the NYC RF.
- (d) To call special meetings of the NYC RF to consider special subjects.
- (e) To prescribe additional duties for any of the officers, in addition to those herein set forth.
- (f) To set annual dues.
- (g) To appoint At-Large Directors in support of the effective running of NYC RF.**

Also Edit to **Article IX — Amendments**

**Section 1.** Amendments hereto may be voted on at the ~~November~~ December meeting or at a meeting called for the purpose by a two-thirds vote of all the members present. Written notices of the proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Board of Directors and notice of the proposed amendment shall be given to all members by the Secretary at least ten days prior to the meeting during which such amendment is to be considered.

This is only an edit and does not require a vote.