

# MID-HUDSON DIVING ASSOCIATION

## **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

**There are 3 pages to this document**

I. The name of this organization shall be: **Mid-Hudson Diving Association**.

II. The general purposes of this organization shall be safety, recreation, and education of its members in the sports of Skin and SCUBA Diving.

III. Members of the organization will agree to assist rescue agencies in underwater missions. These agencies would include police and fire departments, civilian defense, Red Cross, and other life-saving services.

IV. All members agree to protect and improve the underwater ecosystem.

V. This organization shall not issue capital stock. The funds necessary to accomplish objectives and discharge expenses of the organization shall be procured by membership dues, charter dues, donations, assessments, and/or voluntary contributions from its members or other persons.

VI. The officers of the organization shall include a President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and Divemaster. Each officer shall be elected at the January meeting and serve for a period of one (1) year. Should an officer be unable to complete a term of office, a special election will be held at the meeting at which that office is declared vacant, and a new officer will be elected to serve until the succeeding January elections. (Amendment 11 - 4/16/97)

VII. The organization is open to any male or female that is a certified diver by a recognized, national organization. Junior certified divers may join as provisional members. Junior divers must have their card appropriately signed.

VIII. Members of this organization must be interested in its aims and must be willing to abide by its laws.

IX. There shall be a membership fee of five dollars (\$5.00). This fee must be submitted with the proper application forms that have been properly completed.

X. The dues of this organization shall be twenty dollars (\$20.00) per year payable by January 31st of each year. There shall be a two-week (2) grace period on all dues and assessments of the organization, subsequent to which a delinquent payee shall be fined five dollars (\$5.00), and shall lose voting and club participating privileges. In the event any dues or assessments remain unpaid after 30 days said sum was due and payable, the individual delinquent shall lose his or her membership and all rights and privileges pertaining thereto. New members shall pay pro-rated dues.

Those individuals legally absent from the New Paltz area wishing to remain in the Mid-Hudson Diving Association will be assessed only ten dollars (\$10.00) per year for membership, and they will have full privileges. (Amendment 4 - 7/2/80)

Should a member lose their membership and wishes to join, all past indebtedness must be paid immediately after acceptance of his or her new membership. (Amendment 3 - 7/2/80)

XI. The President of this organization shall be responsible for, and in charge of, meetings and the order of business together with such matters as is necessary for the welfare of this organization.

The Vice-president will be in charge of the Membership Committee and will properly screen new applicants. The Vice-president will also act as President in the event the President is unavailable.

The Secretary will keep adequate records for the organization.

The Treasurer will be responsible for all club funds.

The Divemaster is responsible for keeping a detailed and accurate record of all dives made by members of the Mid-Hudson Diving Association and making those records available at each Mid-Hudson Diving Association meeting. (Amendment 8 - 01/15/86; Revised 4/16/97.)

XII. All members of the organization should be willing to become members of at least one committee, and new committees should be created when needed for the welfare of the organization.

XIII. A member of the Mid-Hudson Diving Association must meet the following minimum standards for open-water diving based upon its diving calendar which is broken into four (4) quarters:

Quarter 1 - December, January, and February

Quarter 2 - March, April, and May

Quarter 3 - June, July, and August

Quarter 4 - September, October, and November

1. During quarter 1 any member may dive but it is optional. Any dive made during this quarter may be added to any of the next three quarters.

2. A member must complete a minimum of two (2) dives for each of the subsequent three quarters.

3. A dive constitutes a logable SCUBA dive.

Any diver not completing the required number of dives for a quarter shall be fined a minimum of eight dollars (\$8.00) for each missing dive. The due date for this fine is the first week following the end of the quarter in which the deficient dive(s) occurred. This assessment shall be treated according to the applicable section in Article X. (Amendment 2 - 12/19/79); Revised 03/31/82; Revised 01/15/86)

When a diver exceeds five (5) dives in any single quarter, any additional dives may be added to any following quarter for that year only. (Amendment 7 - 01/15/86)

All divers must submit a record of each of their dives indicating dive date and location to the Divemaster within thirty (30) days following the dive.

If a dive is not credited it will not count toward the Mid-Hudson Diving Association Constitutional dive requirements. Note: Amendment 8 - 01/15/86 was removed from this Article on 1/20/2010)

Any dives of a questionable nature shall be reviewed by a five (5) member board and either approved or rejected. The board shall be chaired by the Vice-president, and the remaining four members are to be appointed by the President and approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the majority of the members of the Mid-Hudson Diving Association. Any decision reached by the board will be enforced.

XIV. Any proposed amendment to this Constitution and/or its by-laws are to be read at three (3) consecutive meetings of the Mid-Hudson Diving Association. At the third meeting a vote shall be taken on the issue in question. Two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the total members is required to

carry the measure into law. After passage or rejection, the proposal is to revert to Old Business and may not be re-debated for a three-month period.

XV. There shall be no discrimination against applicants based on race, nationality, color, or creed.

XVI. Regular members being absent from three (3), consecutively scheduled, regular meetings shall have their case reviewed by the organization's officers. It shall be left to the discretion of said officers to judge the validity of the reason(s) for the member's absenteeism. Should the officers rule the reason(s) invalid, it shall be within the officers' power to levee a fine or expel the member from the organization.

XVII. Any person wishing for special constitutional privileges because of extended absenteeism from the New Paltz area or because of physical disability shall have their case reviewed and either approved or rejected by a five-member (5) board. The board shall be chaired by the Vice-president, and the remaining four (4) members are to be appointed by the President and approved by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of the Mid-Hudson Diving Association. Any decision reached by the board will be enforced. (Amendment 6 - 03/31/82)

XVIII. A member found to be in violation of any constitutional law, unless punishment is stated within the constitution, shall be reviewed and either approved or rejected by a five-member (5) board. The board shall be chaired by the Vice-president, and the remaining four (4) members are to be appointed by the President and approved by two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of the Mid-Hudson Diving Association. Any decision reached by the board will be enforced. (Amendment 1 - 12/02/75; Revised 03/31/82)

XIX. The membership of the Mid-Hudson Diving Association will at the January meeting of each calendar year determine a reward for all members who, in that year, meet the following requirements:

1. Attend every regularly scheduled Mid-Hudson Diving Association meeting in the upcoming calendar year.
2. Meet the minimum standards for open-water diving as outlined in Article XIII of the Mid-Hudson Diving Association Constitution.

This award will be awarded at the first meeting of the following year. (Amendment 9 - 11/14/90; Revised 3/24/93)

XX. The membership of the Mid-Hudson Diving Association will, at the January meeting of each calendar year, determine a reward for all members who, during the course of that calendar year, complete 5 consecutive years of membership. Members completing tenures that are multiples of 5 years (i.e., 5, 10, 15, years etc.) will be similarly rewarded. This reward will be presented at the meeting immediately following the members' tenure. (Amendment 10 - 11/14/90; Revised 3/24/93)

XXI: Should the MHDA suddenly cease to exist due to unforeseen circumstances, all the monies in the MHDA treasury will be donated to the Divers Alert Network. (Article passed 7-15-09)