

American Buckeye Poultry Club (A.B.P.C)  
Constitution & Bylaws

**ARTICLE I. - NAME, PLACE & OBJECTIVES**

**Section 1 - Name:** The name of the organization shall be the American Buckeye Poultry Club (ABPC.)

**Section 2 - Place of Business:** The address of the Secretary-Treasurer.

**Section 3 - Objectives:** The objectives of the Club/Association shall be to encourage and promote interest in the Buckeye Breed, both large fowl and bantams; to raise awareness of the Buckeye Breed in poultry shows and poultry publications; to improve the quality of the Buckeye Breed; to provide a better understanding of the Buckeye Breed; to increase the knowledge of the history and qualities of the Buckeye Breed; to enhance the Buckeye Breed's standing and reputation in the poultry world; to bring together those interested in Buckeyes for increasing and sharing of wisdom and knowledge for the mutual benefit of the members and to bring about a more perfect standard for the breed.

**ARTICLE II. - MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1 -** Any person who is interested in the object of this organization and who agrees to abide by its Constitution & Bylaws, shall be entitled to membership by sending name(s), address and required annual dues to the Secretary-Treasurer. Payment of dues shall constitute full acceptance of this Constitution & Bylaws.

**Section 2 -** Any person joining the organization on or before December 31, 2009 shall be deemed a Founding Member. Junior Members are those persons under 18 years of age.

**Section 3 -** Annual dues shall be \$15 per year per Adult member; \$5 per year per Junior Member or \$25 per year per Household/Family.

**Section 4 -** Membership becomes effective upon the payment of annual dues. Members shall keep their membership current by the payment of annual dues on or before January 31 of each year. Dues may be paid in advance for up to a three (3) year period. Only members in good standing may vote for elected Club Officers.

**Section 5 -** Any member in good standing can resign from the organization by sending a letter of resignation to the Secretary by U.S. Mail, first class postage. All interest of a resigned member in the organization's property or funds shall then cease.

**Section 6 -** (a) Charges of Misconduct of any member shall be settled by a Grievance Committee consisting of three (3) Club members. Charges must be submitted in writing to the Secretary only by a member(s) in good standing. The Secretary shall send a copy of the charges by certified mail, return receipt, U.S. Mail, to the accused member. The accused member shall have thirty (30) days from the receipt of said charges to prepare a written answer to the charges and submit

it to the Secretary allowing for 3 additional days for mailing. This answer shall be immediately forwarded to the President by the Secretary. A Grievance Committee of three (3) disinterested Adult members in good standing shall then be appointed one (1) by the President and one (1) by the Vice President. These two (2) members shall then appoint a third Adult member to chair the Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee shall report its decision within thirty (30) days to the Executive Committee, the Secretary and the accused party. The chair of the Grievance Committee shall prepare the said report. The decision may be permanent expulsion, suspension for a period of time or a private or public reprimand.

(b) An expelled, suspended or reprimanded member may appeal the decision of the Grievance Committee to the President in writing within thirty (30) days. The President, after thoroughly reviewing the charges, the facts and the written decision of the Grievance Committee, shall render a final decision in the case. An expelled member shall be ineligible for further and continued membership in the Club.

(c) Honorary Recognition. The Club may provide honorary recognition of a person, living or deceased, member or non-member, by submission by the President of the person's name and special contribution to the Objects of the Club and a 2/3 vote in favor for the Honorary Recognition by the current members in good standing.

(d) The club reserves the right to refuse membership to any person.

### **ARTICLE III. - OFFICERS & DISTRICTS**

**Section 1 - Officers.** The elected officers (also known as The Executive) shall consist of a **President, Vice President, and a Secretary/Treasurer**. The Junior Division shall also consist of a President and Vice President. The Board *shall appoint* the following non-elective officers: an **Election Commissioner**; an **Awards Commissioner**; a **Newsletter Editor** or **Co-Editors** and a **Website Manager** or **Co-Managers**. A member may serve as more than one non-elective officer concurrently as needed. A member may not serve as more than one elective officer concurrently.

**Section 2 - Districts & Representatives.** There shall be FIVE Districts as follows:

**SOUTHWESTERN** - The States of Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and the Country of Mexico.

**CENTRAL** – The States of Missouri, Iowa, South Dakota, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and the Province of Ontario.

**WESTERN** - The States of Washington, Oregon, California, Wyoming, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Hawaii, Nebraska, Colorado, The Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

**SOUTHEASTERN** - The States of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Bermuda, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

**NORTHEASTERN** - The States of Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, the District of Columbia and the Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador.

(b) The three elected officers *shall appoint* a Representative of each District. In the event that no Representative is appointed, then the Vice President shall serve as de facto Representative for each such District.

**Section 2** - Eligibility. Any member in good standing may run for an elective office. Any member may nominate a member in good standing for any office. Any member in good standing may be appointed to a non-elective office.

**Section 3** - Term of Office. All *elective officers'* terms of office shall be for **two (2) consecutive years** beginning in 2010. No person shall hold the same Elective Office for more than two (2) terms in succession. Nothing in this provision shall be construed as prohibiting a member from serving a different elective office nor shall it prohibit a member from holding the same elective office after sitting out one term of such office. Nothing in this provision shall be construed as prohibiting a member from serving any number of terms as a non-elective officer.

**Section 4** - The elected officers shall begin serving January 1<sup>st</sup> following their election and until such time as their successors have been elected. The Club year shall run from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> and the Club books shall close with the Club year.

**Section 5** - Removal from Office: Any officer, elective or non-elective, may be removed by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, the Election Commissioner and the Five District Representatives. Each Executive Committee member shall have only one (1) vote in any decision to remove an officer.

## **ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS**

**Section 1** - The Secretary-Treasurer, on or before October 1<sup>st</sup> preceding the election of officers, shall call for nominations or submissions to run through the Club Newsletter and/or the Club's website. Any members who wish to run may submit their names to the Secretary-Treasurer and any members wishing to nominate a member may do so with the Secretary-Treasurer by ballot. The Secretary-Treasurer shall verify with each nominee a willingness to serve if elected.

**Section 2** - The ballot shall specify that votes are to be cast for three (3) elective officers: President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

**Section 3** - The Election Commissioner shall, on or about December 1<sup>st</sup>, count the ballots and send a report of the election to the President and a report and the ballots to the Secretary-Treasurer.

**Section 4** - Any member shall have the right to inspect the nomination and election ballots at the annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS/MEETS**

**Section 1**- The National Meet. Each District Representative may submit a choice as to the location of the National Meet to the Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer then submits these choices to the President and Vice President. The President shall then select the location of the National Meet each calendar year. If after May 1<sup>st</sup>, the President has not selected the site for the National Meet, then the Vice President may decide its location.

**Section 2** - Annual Meeting. There shall be an annual meeting to transact such business as may pertain to the interests and welfare of the Club. In the absence of the President, the annual meeting shall be chaired by the 1) Vice President; 2) Secretary-Treasurer; 3) any District Representative; 4) any non-elective officer; or 5) a member elected by the members present.

**Section 3** - The time and place of the annual meeting shall be determined by the President and announced in the Club Newsletter, by email to members and/or Club website at least sixty (60) days prior to the meeting. Four (4) members shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 4** - The order of business shall be: 1) signing the Roll Call sheet and introductions; 2) reading of the last minutes; 3) Secretary-Treasurer's Report; 4) old business; 5) new business; 6) judge's comments if possible; 7) discussion; and 8) adjournment.

## **ARTICLE VI. MANAGEMENT**

**Section 1** - The management of the affairs of the Club shall be vested with the Executive Committee, to-wit: President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and the five (5) District Representatives.

**Section 2** - The President is the chief executive officer and shall preside at meetings and appoint all non-elective officers and committee members as needed. The President shall carry out the instruction of the Club as made at said meetings and at all times, the President acts in the best interest and welfare of the Club. The Junior Division President shall be under the direction and guidance of the President and the Junior Division Vice President shall be under the direction and guidance of the Vice President. Junior Division officers shall have the duty to work with the Secretary-Treasurer and the District Representatives as to meets.

**Section 3** - In the absence or inability of the President to discharge any aspects of the office of President, the Vice President shall act as president until the next election, or until the President regains the ability to resume the office of President, whichever occurs first.

**Section 4** - It shall be the duty of the Vice President to serve as Acting President when required. It shall be the duty of each District's [appointed] Representative to place any District or State

meets within their respective Districts and to keep the Secretary-Treasurer informed of where the meets have been placed. The Vice President shall be responsible for soliciting for National Meet Awards. The Secretary-Treasurer, Newsletter Editor(s) and Website Manager(s) are to assist through newsletters, poultry publications and websites.

**Section 5** - Any District may hold TWO (2) District Meets in separate areas of that district, to accommodate its members, subject to approval of the President.

**Section 6** - The duties of the Election Commissioner shall be as enumerated in Article III. The Awards Commissioner shall be responsible for compiling the awards won by our members and shall work closely with the Secretary-Treasurer.

**Section 7** - The Newsletter Editor or Co-Editors shall be responsible for soliciting information from members and officers, compiling and drafting a newsletter which may be circulated by any means of communication deemed sufficient. The Website Manager or Co-Managers shall be responsible for communicating with all entities and parties having to do with the Club's website and managing its contents. Both the Editor(s) and Manager(s) shall work closely with the Elected Officers in these matters. **Both the Website Manager and the Newsletter Editor SHALL "carbon copy" the Secretary-Treasurer all correspondence whatsoever.**

**Section 8** - The Secretary-Treasurer shall conduct the necessary correspondence of the Club, keep correct minutes of all meetings, and have charge and custody of the books and papers pertaining to the club and this office, including, but not limited to, membership rolls, bank account and financial records, etc. The Secretary-Treasurer shall collect dues, donations and other funds for the Club. The Secretary-Treasurer shall pay all legitimate Club expenses, including printing, postage, publicity ads, awards, website & newsletter fees and office supplies. All Club accounts shall be kept in proper order for inspection of the Auditing Committee, including cancelled checks, money orders, income receipts, expense receipts and bills of lading.

**Section 9** - The Secretary-Treasurer shall carefully and faithfully preserve all past records pertaining to that office, including, but not limited to, a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws, yearbooks, minute books, reports of committees, petitions, grievances, membership rolls and any and all worthy communications whatsoever.

**Section 10** - The Secretary-Treasurer shall send Club account books as balanced on January 1<sup>st</sup> to the President on or before February 1<sup>st</sup> by email *or* prepaid express, together with all supporting financial papers whatsoever.

**Section 11** - The Auditing Committee shall consist of the President as Chairman and one other member who shall be appointed by the President. The Secretary-Treasurer shall mail account books to the President for audit, who shall then mail the account books to the appointed committee member for audit, and the same shall audit and then mail back to the Secretary-Treasurer.

**Section 12** - It shall be the duties and responsibilities of all the Officers, both elected and non-elected, to further the interests of the Club in every way considered proper and possible. Each

officer shall cooperate in every manner appropriate and promptly upon matters submitted to them by mail, fax or email for their opinion, vote or decision.

**Section 13** - Vacancies may be filled by the President or as needed, in the President's absence, by the Vice President as set forth herein and above.

**Section 14** - This Constitution & Bylaws may be altered or amended in whole or in part by a majority vote of the members voting by mail vote or by email vote. A Petition, signed by 6 members in good standing, setting out proposed alterations, additions, or amendments may be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer by U.S. Mail or by email. The Secretary shall then be required to submit the same, upon confirming the members' signatures thereto, to a mail or email vote within ninety (90) days. Any proposed changes are to be published in the newsletter and open to caucus for 90 days. Announcements of the results will be within the same length of time.

**Section 15** - In January of an election year hereafter, the president shall appoint a committee of at least two members to review the Constitution & Bylaws for updating revisions. The Committee shall report their findings to the President and to the Secretary-Treasurer no later than August 1<sup>st</sup> of the said election year. Any revisions made by the Committee shall be added to the ballot for membership vote. The deadlines named in this provision may be altered by the President for good cause shown. However, any such alterations in the deadlines must be conducted in a reasonable time for the same to be added to the ballot for membership vote.

**Section 16** - At any time and for any provision herein that it becomes necessary, notification can be considered sufficient when the same is given by email when all parties involved have access to internet.

**Section 17** - This is the entire Constitution & Bylaws of The American Buckeye Breed Club of America. Any matter not covered herein may be passed upon by a majority of Club members in good standing.