

CONSTITUTION OF THE MI GAZEHOUND ASSOCIATION, INC.

A. NAME AND OBJECTIVES

ARTICLE I

SECTION 1: NAME - The name of the club shall be MI GAZEHOUND ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED (MGA).

SECTION 2: OBJECTIVES - The objectives of the club shall be:

- a. To further the advancement of all sighthound breeds;
- b. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of lure coursing tests and trials and to encourage sportsmanlike conduct at such events;
- c. To conduct lure coursing tests and trials and any other event for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club (AKC) and/or the American Sighthound Field Association (ASFA).
- d. To disseminate knowledge, conduct classes in and promote the training of purebred dogs;
- e. To encourage the training of judges and working positions for lure coursing tests and trials.

SECTION 3: NON-PROFIT OPERATION The club shall not be conducted or operated for profit. No part of any income, remainder, or residue from dues or donations to the club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual, except that the Board of Directors shall be authorized and empowered to make reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions on furtherance of the purposes of the club.

SECTION 4: BYLAWS The members of the club shall adopt and may from time to time to revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out these objectives. These bylaws are subject to and governed by the State of Michigan Laws and the Articles of Incorporation of the MI Gazehound Association. In the event of a direct conflict between the provisions of these bylaws and the mandatory provisions of the State of Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act, the State of Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act will be controlling.

SECTION 5: NOTICE When notice is required to be sent, unless a different standard is specified that requirement is met if written notice is sent to each member either by a form of electronic communication, such as e-mail; or Postal mail.

B. BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: ELIGIBILITY

There shall be three types of membership open to all persons eighteen (18) years of age or older and one type of membership open to all persons under the age of eighteen (18) years. All persons must be, ~~who are~~ in good standing with the AKC and ASFA and ~~who~~ subscribe to the purposes of the club. While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the club's primary purpose is to be representative of the Gazehound breeders and exhibitors in its immediate area.

- a. Regular members enjoy all club privileges including the right to vote and hold office.
- b. Household membership includes two (2) regular members who reside in the same household, each eligible to vote and hold office.
- c. Life memberships shall be granted to those individuals who have maintained regular or household membership for twenty (20) consecutive years until their membership is terminated. Life members pay no dues but are eligible to vote and hold office.
- d. Junior members enjoy all club privileges excluding the right to vote and hold office. Junior members in good standing automatically become regular members upon reaching the age of eighteen (18) years.

SECTION 2: DUES

- a. Membership dues shall not exceed \$50.00 per year. Fees are to be set by the Board of Directors. The dues shall have a fee for a single regular member, ~~and~~ a fee for a household that includes two (2) regular members who reside in the same household, and a fee for a single junior member.
- b. Dues are payable before the first day of January of each fiscal year. New member dues paid after September 30th will be carried over into the next fiscal year. Any extensions for the deadline date are to be voted upon by the Board of Directors.
- c. During the month of November, the Treasurer shall send to each member, a statement of dues for the ensuing fiscal year.
- d. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current fiscal year.
- e. Any membership that has lapsed beyond any extension the Board of Directors may have approved must be resubmitted for membership as a new application.

SECTION 3: ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP

- a. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the MGA Constitution and bylaws and the rules of the AKC and ASFA. The application shall state the name, address, email and phone number of the applicant. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current fiscal year.
- b. All applications to regular membership are to be filed with the Secretary and each applicant is to be read at the first meeting of the club following its receipt. At the next club meeting the application will be voted upon and affirmative votes of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting by secretive ballot at the meeting shall be required to elect the applicant.
- c. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the club may not reapply within six (6) months after rejection.

SECTION 4: LOSS OF VOTING PRIVILEGES

- a. The unexcused absence of a voting member from three (3) consecutive meetings or failure either to volunteer and work at one annual club event or to assist in the annual administration of the club, unless excused by the Board of Directors, deprives that member of their right to vote.
- b. All written requests for excusal or to restore voting privileges will be considered by the Board of Directors.
- c. Any difference in dues will be forfeited.

SECTION 5: TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership may be terminated by:

- a. Resignation - Any member in good standing may resign from the club upon written notice to the Secretary. But, no member may resign when in debt to the club. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the club and are incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
- b. Lapsing - A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated, if such member's dues remain unpaid sixty (60) days after the first day of the fiscal year. However, the Board of Directors may grant up to an additional sixty (60) days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- c. Expulsion - A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in ARTICLE VI of these bylaws.

ARTICLE II: MEETINGS AND VOTING

SECTION 1: GENERAL CLUB MEETINGS

- a. Six (6) General meetings per year of the club shall be held in the greater Detroit area of Michigan at such day, hour and place or by teleconference or other virtual methods as may be developed in accordance with State law, as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The annual general meeting must be held in person.
- b. Written notice of each such meeting shall be given to the membership at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting.
- c. The quorum for such meetings shall be twenty percent (20%) of the members in good standing.

SECTION 2: SPECIAL MEETINGS

- a. Special Club meetings may be called by the President or a majority vote of the Board of Directors who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting. Special Club meetings shall also be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five (5) members of the "Club", who are in good standing.
- b. Such special meetings shall be held at such place, date, and hour or by teleconference or other virtual methods as may be developed in accordance with State law, as may be designated by the President or Board of Directors.
- c. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed to the membership by the Secretary, at least five (5) days and not more than fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meetings. The notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business may be transacted thereat.
- d. The quorum for such meetings shall be twenty percent (20%) of the members in good standing.

SECTION 3: BOARD MEETINGS

- a. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in the Greater Detroit area of Michigan six (6) times a year at such place, date, and hour or by teleconference or other virtual methods as may be developed in accordance with State law, as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may also conduct meetings by email provided it does not conflict with any other provisions of these Bylaws and at least one meeting per calendar year is in person.
- b. Written notice of each such meeting shall be given at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting.
- c. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board of Directors.

d. All Board of Directors meetings that take place in person will be open to the General Membership, who shall be encouraged to attend. At Board of Directors meetings, General Members may initiate and participate in discussion. However, voting will be limited to Board of Directors.

SECTION 4: SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS

- a. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President, or may be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three (3) members of the Board of Directors.
- b. Such meetings shall be held in Michigan, at such place, date, and hour or by teleconference or other virtual methods as may be developed in accordance with State law, as may be designated by the President or Board of Directors.
- c. Written notice of such meetings shall be given by the Secretary at least five (5) days and not more than ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat.
- d. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the Board of Directors.

SECTION 5: VOTING

- a. Each member, in good standing, shall be entitled to one vote at any General meeting of the club at which the member is present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any General club meeting.
- b. Voting at Board of Directors meetings shall otherwise be limited to Board members.

ARTICLE III: DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

SECTION 1: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- a. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and one (1) other person elected as Director, all of whom shall be members in good standing.
- b. All Directors and Officers shall be elected for one (1) year terms at the club's annual meeting as provided in ARTICLE IV of these bylaws and shall serve until their successors are elected.
- c. General management of the club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2: OFFICERS

- a. The club's Officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the club and its meetings and the Board of Directors and its meetings.

SECTION 3: DUTIES

- a. The President shall preside at all meetings of the club and of the Board of Directors and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these bylaws.
- b. The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity. The Vice-President shall serve as ex officio member of all standing committees.
- c. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the club and of the Board of Directors and of all matters of which, a record shall be ordered by the club; shall have charge of the correspondence, shall read all correspondence received, except those pertaining to membership applicants, at the monthly meetings following receipt, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their status of membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the club with their addresses and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.
- d. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the club. The Treasurer shall deposit the same in a Bank or Savings and Loan designated by the Board of Directors in the name of the club. His/her books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer shall report to them, at every meeting, the condition of the club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.
- e. The Directors shall along with the Officers govern the club by consideration and adoption of operating and governing policies in accordance with club Objectives in ARTICLE I of the name and objectives.

SECTION 4: VACANCIES

- a. Any vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors or among the Officers during the year, shall be filled for the unexpired term of office by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at the first regular meeting following the creation of the vacancy, or at a Special Board of Directors meeting called for that purpose.
- b. Except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President and the resulting vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV: CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, and ELECTIONS

SECTION 1: CLUB YEAR

- a. The club's fiscal year shall begin on the first (1st) day of January and end on the thirty-first (31st) day of December.
- b. The club's "Official" year begins immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting.

SECTION 2: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a. The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of October, at which Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret written ballot from those nominated in accordance with SECTION 4 of this ARTICLE.
- b. The Officers and Directors shall take office at the conclusion of the elections and each retiring officer shall turn over to their successor in office all properties and records relating to that office at the time.

SECTION 3: ELECTIONS

- a. The nominated candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected.
- b. The one (1) nominated candidate for the Board of Director position whom receives the greatest number of votes for the position shall be declared elected.

SECTION 4: NOMINATIONS

No person may be a candidate to a club election who has not been nominated. During the month of July, the board shall elect a Nominating Committee consisting of three members and two alternatives, no more than one of whom may be a member of the board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee and alternatives of their selection. The board shall name a chairman for the committee and it shall be such person's duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before September.

- a. The committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and positions on the board, and after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing.
- b. Upon receipt of the Nomination Committee's report, the Secretary shall at least 2 weeks before the September meeting notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- c. Additional nominations may be made at the September meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated does not decline when their name is proposed, and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, the proposer shall present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.
- d. Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

SECTION 1: STANDING COMMITTEES

- a. The Board of Directors may each year appoint Standing Committees and Delegate(s) to advance the work of the club in such matters as: Events, Coursing Trials, Trophies, Annual Awards, and other such areas which may well be served by a committee.
- b. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board of Directors.
- c. Such committees may also be appointed by the Board of Directors to aid it on particular projects.

SECTION 2: COMMITTEE TERMINATION

- a. Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the board upon written notice to the appointee.
- b. The Board of Directors may appoint successors to those person(s) whose services have been terminated.

SECTION 3: ASFA DELEGATE

- a. One delegate shall be chosen by the Board of Directors from the club members in good standing.
- b. The delegate must:
 1. Receive all ASFA notices and make all ASFA-distributed information available to their club. The majority of ASFA communications are sent via email, so a valid email address is required.
 2. Help with their club's annual renewal process.
 3. Vote in ASFA elections.
 4. Should submit an annual report to their club concerning ASFA/club activities.
 5. Should attend the Annual Convention of Delegates.

ARTICLE VI: DISCIPLINE

SECTION 1: SUSPENSION

Any member who is suspended from any of the privileges of the AKC and/or ASFA automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this club for a like period.

SECTION 2: CHARGES

- a. Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the club.
- b. Written charges, with specifications, must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of ten (10) dollars, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board of Directors following a hearing.
- c. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board of Directors or present them at a Board of Directors meeting.
 1. The Board of Directors shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the club or Breeds.
 2. If the Board of Directors considers that the charges do not allege conduct that would be prejudicial to the best interests of the club, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction.
 3. If the Board of Directors entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date for a hearing by the Board of Directors not less than three (3) weeks, nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter.
 4. The Secretary shall promptly send one (1) copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail, together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in their own defense and bring witnesses if the member wishes.

SECTION 3: BOARD OF DIRECTORS HEARINGS

- a. The Board of Directors shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, both defendant and complainant shall be treated uniformly in that regard.
- b. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by the complainant and defendant, the Board of Directors may, by a majority vote of those present, reprimand or suspend the defendant from all privileges of the club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing.
- c. If the Board of Directors deems that suspension is insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such a case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendants' right to appear before their fellow members at the ensuing club General meeting, which considers the Board of Directors recommendation.
- d. Immediately after the Board of Directors has reached a decision, its finding shall be put in writing and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary, in turn shall notify each of the parties of the Board of Directors' decision and penalty, if any.

SECTION 4: EXPULSION

- a. Expulsion of a member from the club may be accomplished only at a General meeting of the club following a Board of Directors hearing and upon the Board of Directors recommendation as provided in SECTION 3 of this ARTICLE.
- b. Such proceedings may occur at a regular General meeting or special meeting of the club to be held within sixty (60) days, but not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the Board of Directors recommendation of expulsion.
- c. The defendant shall have the right of appearing in their own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting.
- d. The President shall read the charges and the Board of Directors findings and recommendations and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in their own behalf.
- e. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion.
- f. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board of Directors suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR PETITION

- a. Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or;
- b. By written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by twenty percent (20%) of the membership in good standing.
- c. Amendments proposed by such petition shall promptly be considered by the Board of Directors and;
- d. Must be submitted to the membership, with the recommendations of the Board of Directors, by the Secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the Secretary received the petition.

SECTION 2: VOTING ON AMENDMENTS

- a. The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose and;

b. Provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: DISSOLUTION

SECTION 1: METHOD

The club may be dissolved at any time by written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members, in good standing.

SECTION 2: PROPERTY

a. In the event of the dissolution of the club, whether voluntary or involuntary, or by operation of the law, none of the property of the club nor any proceeds thereof nor any assets of the club shall be distributed to any members of the club.

b. But, after payment of the debts of the club, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs selected by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX: ORDER OF BUSINESS

SECTION 1: GENERAL MEEETINGS

a. At the meetings of the club, the order of business, so far as the nature and character of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

Roll call

Minutes of last General Meeting

Minutes of last Board of Directors Meeting

Reports from:

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Committees

Election of New Members

Unfinished Business

New Business

Election of Officers and Board of Directors (at annual meeting only)

Adjournment

b. At the meetings of the Board of Directors, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

Roll call (Board of Directors members only)

Minutes of last Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of last General Meeting

Reports from:

President

Secretary

Treasurer

Committees

Unfinished Business

New Business

Adjournment

ARTICLE X

Parliamentary Authority

SECTION 1. The rules contained in the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised," shall govern the club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any other special rules of order the club may adopt.

SECTION 2. Any special rules of order that have been adopted by the club, either by the members or by the Board of Directors may not contradict any policies of the AKC or ASFA. For the most updated information on the AKC and ASFA policies, as well as frequently asked questions and answers, please visit www.akc.org and www.asfa.org.

GLOSSARY

Member in good standing – An individual who is not suspended by the AKC, ASFA or MI Gazehound Association and whose dues for the year are already paid.

Types of Membership are defined in Article I, Section 1 of the bylaws:

Regular Members – Enjoy all club privileges including the right to vote and hold office.

Household Membership – Includes two (2) regular members who reside in the same household, each eligible to vote and hold office.

Life Members – Enjoy all club privileges including the right to vote and hold office but pay no dues. Awarded after twenty consecutive years of regular or household membership.

Junior Members – Open to children under 18 years of age; a non-voting/non-office holding membership which may automatically convert to regular membership at age 18.

Reprimand – A written warning to a member after charges have been filed in accordance with the bylaws, and it is determined that the member's conduct was not severe enough to warrant a suspension or a recommendation for expulsion.

Notices – All club notices must be sent either via the US Postal Service or e-mail.