

**BYLAWS OF LARGE GAZEHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION
AN UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION**

ARTICLE I: OFFICES

Section 1.01 PRINCIPAL OFFICES

The principal office of the Association for the transaction of its business is located at the address of the Secretary. The National Race Director is authorized to change the principal office at his or her discretion, and shall notify all Member Clubs of any such change in writing.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERS

Section 2.01 CLUB MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Club Membership shall be the only class of membership in this Association.
- (b) A Member Club shall be a Sighthound club, Association, or corporation duly admitted to membership by the Association.
- (c) Member Clubs only shall have voting rights in the Association, and the voting rights of each Member shall be equal, subject to the stipulation that any individual elected or appointed as a Club Delegate may vote on behalf of no more than one (1) Member Club, as set forth in Article IV, Section 4.01, herein.
- (d) The interest of any Member of this Association is the personal property of that Member, and no Member shall have any interest in property held by the Association, regardless of the time or manner in which said property is acquired.

Section 2.02 QUALIFICATIONS

An application for Club Membership shall be a sighthound club, association, or corporation which has:

- (a) Previously sponsored a race meet held under the rules set forth by the Whippet Racing Association, the North American Whippet Racing Association, National Oval Track Racing Association, or other recognized racing association, or
- (b) Has held one duly scheduled Qualifying Race Meet under the Rules of the Large Gazehound Racing Association **to include three programs of racing, a minimum of eight dogs entered in three breeds, or in the case of a specialty, a minimum of eight entrants. The results must be submitted to the Registrar-Recorder and approved by the Board of Governors.**
- (c) The first race meet of a new club may be co-hosted with an approved club. The new club will be responsible for all paperwork and reports.

Section 2.03 ADMISSION

Qualified Clubs shall be admitted to membership on making application therefore and upon approval of the application by the Board of Governors. Application for Club Membership shall contain the statement that the applicant's directing officer and Club Delegate have read the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules of the Association, are familiar with and understand them, and that if admitted to membership, agree to be bound thereby.

Section 2.04 FEES, DUES, ASSESSMENTS, AND APPLICATION FEES

- (a) An annual fee may be charged to Member Clubs for membership in the Association. The amount of the fee will be set by the Board of Governors, and approved by the Member Clubs.
- (b) Club Membership in the Association is subject to assessments, which shall be levied and collected in the form of a \$1.00 per capita charge for each Sighthound entered in a race sponsored by the Member Club pursuant to the Rules of the Association.
- (d) Club Delegates will forward to the Secretary by mail, fax, or e-mail a Certificate or other legal proof of insurance at the beginning of each calendar year; or, in the case of new or inactive clubs, at least 30 days in advance of the club's first scheduled meet.

Section 2.05 TERMINATION, RIGHTS, AND REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

- (a) The membership of any Member Club of the Association shall automatically be terminated:
 - (1) On its written request for such termination mailed to the Secretary; or
 - (2) By its failure to pay its assessments when they become due within thirty (30) days thereafter; or
 - (3) By its failure to provide results of a Sighthound Race held pursuant to the Rules of the Association within ten (10) days of the date of the Race.
 - (4) By its failure to provide a proper certificate or other proof of insurance to cover the conduct of race meets, as stipulated in Article 2, Section 2.04 herein.
- (b) All rights and interest of a Member Club in the Association shall cease upon termination of membership as herein provided.
- (c) Any Member Club whose membership is terminated may have its membership reinstated on such terms as the Board of Governors deems appropriate by filing a written request therefor.

Section 2.06 SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION

(a) The Board of Governors is authorized to suspend or expel from membership a Member Club or a Club Delegate for good cause.

(b) "Good cause" as used in this section means:

(1) Any conduct that brings the Association into public disrepute or violates the purposes for which this Association is formed.

(2) Any willful failure or refusal to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, or Rules of this Association.

(c) Definitions:

(1) A "suspension" requires violation of Subparagraph (b) (2) of this section and in addition all voting rights of the Member Club are terminated.

(2) An "expulsion" requires violation of Subparagraph (b) (2) of this section and in addition thereto the membership of the Member Club and Club Delegate in this Association shall immediately and conclusively be terminated, provided, however, that such member shall not be relieved of any liability for the payment of assessments accruing prior to the hearing on charges against it.

(d) Procedure:

(1) Proceedings against a Member may be initiated by a resolution of a majority of the Board of Governors specifying charges, and served by personal service or by certified mail on the Club Delegate and President of the Member Club, and, if by mail, a Return Receipt shall be required. Said Resolution shall specify a hearing date not less than fifteen (15) days, nor more than forty - five (45) days after passage and service of the resolution of the Board of Governors.

(2) The Member shall be entitled to participate in the hearing. The National Race Director shall appoint a hearing committee consisting of three Club Delegates from the region of the Member. The hearing shall be informal and the rules of evidence and rules of judicial procedure need not be observed. One Club Delegate will be selected by the National Race Director to serve as Chairperson.

(3) The hearing shall be presided over by the Chairperson who shall:

(a) Read the charges against the subject Member;

- (b) Require that the charges be verified by the testimony of the person making them, and such witnesses as the Committee deems appropriate;
 - (c) Allow the subject Member, by its Club Delegate to question each witness or written statement;
 - (d) Allow the Member, by its Club Delegate, to make a statement in its own behalf, and call witnesses in its own behalf;
 - (e) Allow the Board of Governors to question witnesses; and
 - (f) Rule on the admission and exclusion of evidence and on questions of hearing procedure.
- (4) After the hearing is closed, the committee shall vote on whether to impose discipline or dismiss the matter. The vote imposing discipline or dismissing the matter shall be reviewed and approved, or rejected, by the Board of Governors prior to the vote becoming final.

ARTICLE III: MEETINGS OF ACTIVE MEMBERS

Section 3.01 MEETINGS

Due to the widely dispersed geographical area of the Association, and its nonprofit nature, the lack of compensation of its officers and members, there shall be no regular Member meetings, and business of the Association and elections shall be conducted by mail or e-mail. However, the National Race Director is authorized to schedule meetings at such time and place as he or she may designate.

Section 3.02 MEETINGS AND NOTICES

Written notice of the time and place of meeting shall be delivered by United States Mail to the Club Delegate at least fourteen (14) days prior to such meeting.

Section 3.03 VOTING

Voting shall be by mail, fax and/or e-mail on ballots mailed, faxed, or e-mailed to the Members by the Secretary. Each Club Delegate shall mail, fax or e-mail his or her ballot back to the Secretary. Election of Officers by the Club Delegates shall be by secret ballot.

SECTION 3.04 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

- (a) In the event a meeting of Club Delegates is held, the meeting shall be presided over by the National Race Director, or in the National Race Director's absence, by a chairperson chosen by the Club Delegates present. The Secretary of the Association shall act as secretary of all meetings, provided that in the absence of the Secretary, the presiding officer shall appoint another person to act as Secretary.

- (e) Meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order, insofar as such rules are not in conflict with these Bylaws or the Constitution of the Association, or with the law.

ARTICLE IV: CLUB DELEGATES

Section 4.01 ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT, AND TERM OF OFFICE

Club Delegates shall be elected or appointed by the Member Clubs. Each Member Club shall advise the Secretary of the Association in writing of the name, address, and telephone numbers of its Delegate. In the event that a person is elected or appointed to be a Club Delegate by more than one (1) Member Club, said person shall:

- (a) be entitled to cast a vote on behalf of only one (1) Member Club.
- (b) decide which Member Club he or she will represent in any elections conducted by the Association.
- (c) convey said decision to the Secretary of the Association in writing within ten (10) days of election or appointment to the position of Club Delegate.

Section 4.02 QUALIFICATIONS

When possible, the Club Delegate that is elected or appointed by a Member should have a least two (2) years experience in sighthound racing.

Section 4.03 DUTIES AND COMPENSATION

It shall be the duty of the Club Delegate:

- (a) To perform any and all duties imposed on them collectively or individually by law, by the Constitution of this Association, or these Bylaws.
- (b) To register their addresses and telephone numbers with the Secretary of the Association.
- (c) Club Delegate shall serve without compensation.
- (d) Any two (2) Club Delegates by joint written request presented to the Association Secretary, may require any decision or act of the National Race Director be placed before the Club Delegates for approval or reversal.

Section 4.04 REMOVAL

Club Delegates shall serve the Member Club electing or appointing them, and can only be removed by their respective Member Club.

Section 4.05 VACANCIES

A vacancy of Club Delegate shall be filled by election or appointment of the Member Club whom the Club Delegate represents. The Member Club shall provide the Association with notice, as set forth in Section 4.01.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 5.01 OFFICERS AND TITLES

The Board of Governors of this Association and their titles shall be:

- (a) National Race Director
- (b) Registrar – Recorder
- (c) Secretary
- (d) Treasurer

Section 5.02 ELECTION AND TERM OF OFFICE

The four (4) officers named in Section 5.01 shall be elected by the Members by written ballot. The term of office shall be two (2) years commencing on January 1st of the even numbered years. The following procedure shall be followed:

- (a) Nominations shall be made in writing by the Club Delegates and approved by the nominee and mailed to the Association Secretary in the odd-numbered years between October 15th and November 15th .
- (b) Each candidate for office shall prepare a short campaign statement to be included with the ballot. This statement should include why they want to run for office and what they intend to do while in office.
- (c) The Association Secretary shall prepare and mail the candidate statements along with the ballots to the Club Delegates by November 20th .
- (d) The Club Delegates shall vote promptly and mail the ballots back to the Secretary. The ballots must be received by the Secretary no later than December 15th to be counted. Ballots received after that date will not be counted.
- (e) To be considered elected, each officer must receive fifty (50%) plus one (1) vote of the ballots being received on December 15th. If no candidate receives a majority plus one of the votes for an office, a run-off election between the top two contenders for that office shall be conducted.

- (f) The Association Secretary shall tally the ballots on December 15th , and mail or e-mail notice of the results of the election to the members within fifteen (15) days of tallying the ballots.
- (g) The Secretary shall preserve the ballots for a sixty (60) day period during which time they shall be available for inspection by any Club Delegate.

Section 5.03 COMPENSATION

Officers of this Association shall serve without compensation

Section 5.04 REMOVAL

Any or all officers may be removed from office at any time by the vote of a majority of the Club Delegates.

Section 5.05 VACANCIES

The following procedures shall be used in filling vacant positions on the Board of Governors:

- (a) The following order of preference shall be used to fill the vacant unexpired term of the National Race Director:
 - (1) The duly elected Registrar - Recorder
 - (2) The duly elected Secretary
 - (3) The duly elected Treasurer
 - (4) If no duly elected person remains on the Board of Governors to fill this ` position, the acting Secretary shall call for an immediate election to fill the vacant remaining term of the National Race Director.
- (b) The National Race Director shall have the power to appoint an acting replacement to serve out the remaining term of any vacant Board of Governor positions except for the position of National Race Director.

Section 5.06 OFFICIATING AT LOCAL EVENTS

Association officers as listed in Section 5.01 shall be exempted from officiating at local events (Foul and Finish Line Judge and Local Rules Committee) to ensure the sanctity of the Association's appeals process. They may serve as Paddock Official, Announcer, Lure Operator, Starter, and Box Operator.

Section 5.07 DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL RACE DIRECTOR

- (a) The National Race Director shall serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Association and shall, in general, be subject to the control of the Club Delegates.
- (b) The National Race Director shall supervise and control the affairs of the Association.
- (c) The National Race Director shall perform all duties incident to his/her office and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Constitution of this Association, or by the Bylaws, or which may be assigned to him/her from time to time by the Club Delegates.
- (d) The National Race Director shall be the final reviewing authority for all protests received, and is responsible for appointing all protest committees with the chairman of the committee being one of the Association's Board of Governors.

Section 5.08 DUTIES OF THE REGISTRAR – RECORDER

- (a) The Registrar - Recorder shall serve as the Vice President of the Association.
- (b) The Registrar - Recorder shall register all hounds participating in the Race Program.
- (c) The Registrar - Recorder shall maintain and publish records of each race meet held by Member Clubs pursuant to the Association's Rules governing sighthound racing.
- (d) The Registrar - Recorder shall issue racing championships to the owners of those hounds, which complete the requirements set forth in the Rules.
- (e) The Registrar - Recorder shall perform all duties incident to his/her office and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Constitution of this Association, or by the Bylaws, or which may be assigned to him/her from time to time by the Board of Governors.

Section 5.09 DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY

- (a) The Secretary shall keep the principal office of the Association, the original Constitution, as amended, and the original Bylaws, as amended.
- (b) The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining and annually publishing the Rules of LGRA Sighthound Racing
- (c) The Secretary shall keep in the Minutes Book the minutes of all meetings of the Club Delegates, and the names of those in attendance.

- (d) The Secretary shall see that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws, or as required by law.
- (e) The Secretary shall be custodian of the records of the Association.
- (f) The Secretary shall keep the name and address of each Member Club and its respective Club Delegate.

Section 5.10 DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

- (a) The Treasurer shall have charge of and custody of, and be responsible for all funds and assets of the Association, and deposit all such funds in the name of the Association in such bank or depository.
- (b) The Treasurer shall receive and give receipt for moneys due and payable to the Association.
- (c) The Treasurer shall distribute the funds of the Association as directed by the Board of Governors.
- (d) The Treasurer shall keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the Association's properties and business transactions, including accounts of its assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, gains, and losses.
- (d) The Treasurer shall render to the National Race Director and Board of Governors an account of any and all transactions, as requested.
- (e) The Treasurer shall perform all duties incident to his office and such other duties as may be required by law, by the Constitution of this Association, or by these Bylaws, or which may be assigned to him/her from time to time by the Board of Governors.

ARTICLE VI: COMMITTEES

Section 6.01 GENERAL

The National Race Director shall appoint such committees, and designate its members, or Club Delegates to serve on such committees.

Section 6.02 RULES COMMITTEE

The Rules Committee shall be chaired by a member of the Board of Governors and shall consist of four (4) additional members selected from the Club Delegates. It shall formulate the Rules for LGRA Racing and from time to time amendments thereto, for approval by the Club Delegates. Members through their Club Delegate may propose in writing to the Rules Committee changes to the Racing Rules. All proposed rules shall be voted on by the Member Clubs.

Section 6.03 PROTEST COMMITTEE

A Protest Committee comprised of five (5) Club Delegates shall be appointed by the National Race Director in order to review and render a decision upon the merits of each protest filed against an official race meet. All protests must be filed within ten (10) days of the meet in question. Due to the widely dispersed geographical area of the Association, and its nonprofit nature, the lack of compensation of its officers and members, there shall be no physical protest hearing. Instead, all protests will be handled by mail or e-mail. The Protest Committee will complete its work as quickly as possible.

ARTICLE VII: EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS, DEPOSITS AND FUNDS

Section 7.01 EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS

The National Race Director may enter into any contract and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Association and subject to approval by the Board of Governors.

Section 7.02 CHECKS AND NOTES

Except as otherwise determined by resolution of the Club Delegates, or as otherwise required by law, the Constitution of this Association, or by these Bylaws, checks, drafts, promissory notes, orders for payment of money, and other evidence of indebtedness of this Association shall be signed by the Treasurer or by the National Race Director of the Association.

Section 7.03 DEPOSITS

All funds of the Association shall be deposited promptly to the credit of the Association in such banks or other depositories as the Treasurer may select. The Treasurer will provide to the Board of Governors an annual statement as to income and expenditures by November 1st of each calendar year, which statement will also be provided to any Club Delegate upon written request. The financial records of the Association shall be open to inspection by the Club Delegates and Members at all reasonable times during business hours.

ARTICLE VIII: BYLAWS

Section 8.01 ADOPTION, AMENDMENT AND REPEAL

The Bylaws were adopted November 23, 2000. The Bylaws may be amended or repealed, in whole or in part, and new Bylaws adopted by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the member Club Delegates of record on the date the ballot is due back to the Secretary of the Association.

Section 8.02 CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION

The original of the Bylaws, as amended, shall be recorded and kept in a book which shall be kept in the principal office of the Association, and such book shall be open to inspection by the Club Delegates and Members at all reasonable times during business hours.

Amended: March 1, 2001; December 2001