

Tri-County R/C Club Bylaws

Article One

Organization Name

- 1) The name of this organization shall be the Tri-County R/C Club, inc. DBA as Citrus County R/C Club, hereinafter called the organization.
- 2) The organization will have a corporate seal, which shall be used for all formal legal documents.
- 3) The organization may change its name by a vote of the membership,

Article Two

Purposes

- 1) This organization shall exist for the following purposes:
 - a) To provide members and their guests with suitable facilities and safe opportunities to pursue all facets of model aviation, etc.
 - b) To promote the growth of organized model aviation activities, etc.
 - c) To provide the opportunity for social contact among members and their families.
 - d) To support Model Aviation Education in the local Elementary grades and beyond.
 - e) To introduce beginning radio control operators safely to the basic skills inherent in the safe operation of radio controlled aircraft, etc.

Article Three

Membership

- 1) Membership in this organization shall be open to individuals who are active members in good standing of the Academy of Model Aeronautics [AMA] or MAAC.
- 2) Requirements for new open membership consideration are as follows:

Applicant must display a current AMA or MAAC membership card to an organization officer.

 - a. Contact and interview with an existing member willing to sponsor the individual. Provide a copy of the By-Laws and Field Rules and inform the candidate he/she is responsible for knowing and following the above rules and must sign a statement to that effect as part of the application process.
 - b. Attend a meeting and be introduced by his or her sponsor. Submit the application at that time.
 - c. The club has a minimum of two weeks to check credentials and allow members comments. There is no maximum but reasonably this period should not extend beyond the next meeting date. The board of directors reserves the right to reject applications for any reason. The applicant may fly as guest of his or her sponsor during this period with a waiver of the 3 per year limit on guests, but must have his or her sponsor or sponsors member designee present.
 - d. Assuming no negative reaction by membership and reasonable background checks by the sponsor or officers, the Board may vote to accept the applicant and the sponsor shall inform the candidate of such action. The applicant will be issued a probationary membership card and gate/catering codes at the next general meeting of the membership. All new memberships are on a 1 yr. probationary basis and may be cancelled by either party during that period with refund of annual membership fee only during the first six months. The initiation fee is non-refundable.
 - e. In the event of a negative decision by the Board, the sponsor, membership officer or a member of the Board shall inform the candidate of that result and return the candidates application and fees. Waiver of guest maximum flying days is rescinded.

f. The Board may at its discretion waive this process for a past member in good standing who for various reasons may have allowed their membership to lapse (health, moved away, financial, or simply forgot to renew, etc.) It may also waive the process for spouses and minor children of members in good standing who desire to become members.

- 3) All applicants for membership under 19 years of age shall be considered “Junior Members”.
- 4) Each member must comply with all organization safety and flying field regulations as well as these by-laws. A member may be suspended from the club for repeated violations of safety rules or by-laws, An appropriate hearing must be held and a majority vote for suspension by the Board of Directors is required, The member will be allowed to address the board if he or she so desires.

Article Four

Dues and Fees

- 1) Annual organization dues shall be due January 1st. A member will be considered in arrears thereafter, and will lose all club privileges, including flying. Anyone not having paid their dues by January 1st will be considered “not active” and dropped from the membership roles.
- 2) Members not active on January 1st shall be considered new members and subject to initiation fees.
- 2) Annual dues shall be \$75.00. There will be an initiation fee of \$100.00 for new members.
- 3) Any change in fees must be approved by a vote of the membership present at either a regular monthly meeting or a special meeting.
- 4) Dues for members joining during the 4th quarter of the year will be waived for the remainder of that year providing the member pays the dues for the following year plus the initiation fee.
- 5) Dues for members joining after June 30th will be \$137.50 (37.50 + 100 initiation)
- 6) Fees for Junior Members will be \$10.00 per year with no initiation fee.
- 7) Fees for Junior Members joining during the 4th quarter of a year will be waived for the remainder of the year providing the dues are paid for the following year.
- 8) An AMA member, who is the guest of a club member in good standing, shall not be permitted to fly more than three (3) times in a calendar year.
- 9) A member and his or her spouse who are both members of the AMA and intend to fly will pay an initiation fee of \$175.00. They will then be considered individual members and subject to obligations and dues as such.
- 10) Participants in Club sponsored events and the AMA Introductory Pilot Program are guests of the Club as a whole and exempted from any non-member maximum flight days restriction so long as they are participating in those events or participating and in compliance with the AMA Introductory Pilot Program and comply with all Club rules.

Article Five

Meetings

- 1) Our regular meetings shall be held once each month and they shall be at the location and date specified in the “Flight Recorder” newsletter. If due to some unforeseen reason the newsletter is not published we will meet at whatever place the meeting is usually held. Meeting time or date may be temporarily changed by vote at any monthly meeting.
- 2) A quorum will be a minimum of 20 members.
- 3) A special meeting may be called by the President, by two members of the Board of Directors, by request of ten open members or due to a quorum failure. Request for a special meeting must be in writing with ten days notice given.
- 4) Special meetings require a notice be sent to all members by the organization Secretary at least five days prior to the scheduled date. Such notice shall state the meeting’s purpose and business to be transacted. Only that business specified may be transacted.

Article Six

Voting

- 1) All votes at all meetings shall be by voice or show of hands with the exception of the election of organization officers.
- 2) Election of organization officers shall be by written secret ballot. If there is only one candidate for a position, a simple voice/show-of-hands vote will be sufficient.
- 3) If the majority so require, any questions may be voted upon by written, secret ballot.
- 4) The President shall appoint a three member election committee prior to the start of any secret balloting. No election committee member may be a candidate for office or have any special vested interest in the matter being decided, prior to election night.
- 5) The election committee shall supervise and validate, in writing, all secret election results. Such written validation shall be presented to the President and be affixed to the minutes of the meeting.
- 6) To be eligible for an elected office a member must have been a member for at least one calendar year.

Article Seven

Order of Business

- 1) Call to order, Secretary's report, Treasurer's report, Committee reports, Old business, New Business, Good and welfare and Adjournment.

Article Eight

Board of Directors

- 1) The Board of Directors will include: PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER, SECRETARY and MEMBER AT LARGE.
- 2) The Directors shall be elected at our November meeting and shall serve a one year term beginning on the first meeting of the following year.
- 3) The Board of Directors will act in the name of the organization only at regularly scheduled meetings or after due notice is given, at special meetings called under guide lines outlined in Article Five, paragraph 3.
- 4) Three members of the Board present shall constitute a quorum.
- 5) A minimum of two Board meetings shall be held annually.
- 6) Each Director shall have one vote. No proxy votes are permitted.
- 7) Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Board members except for a Presidential vacancy.
- 8) The President shall be Chairman of the Board.
- 9) A director may be removed for cause by a unanimous vote of the remaining Board members and by a majority vote of the membership at a subsequent meeting.
- 10) Board meetings shall be conducted according to those rules applying to regular meetings.

Article Nine

Officers

- 1) The officers of this organization shall be as follows:
 - a) President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Member at Large

2) No officer shall be entitled to receive any salary or compensation by reason of their office.

3) The Duty of each officer is as follows:

a) President:

i) The President will:

- (1) Preside at all membership meetings and as Chairman of the Board.
- (2) He shall be permitted to have the vice president preside over the meetings with regard to the order of business.
- (3) Ensure that all standing committees are operating.
- (4) Ensure that all books, reports and certificates are properly kept or filed.
- (5) Shall establish an operating the budget for the year.
- (6) Have such powers reasonably construed as belonging to the chief executive.
- (7) Co-sign organization checks with the Treasurer.

b) Vice President:

i) The Vice President shall:

- (1) Act as President in the absence of the President and exercise all rights and privileges as such.
- (2) Act as the chairman of the flight Regulations Hearing Committee and submit reports as necessary to the Board.
- (3) Succeed the presidency should the President resign or be permanently unable to serve and shall serve the remainder of the President s term.
- (4) Co-sign organization checks with the Treasurer.

c) Secretary:

i) The Secretary shall:

- (1) Keep the minutes and organization records.
- (2) File any certificate required by Federal, State or local statue.
- (3) Give/serve nil notices to members of the organization.
- (4) Be official custodian of all records and seals.
- (5) Present to the membership any communications which shall be addressed to them, as Secretary.
- (6) Maintain a master yearly attendance sheet.
- (7) Attend to and or inform the officers of all organization correspondence and exercise all duties associated with the office of Secretary.
- (8) Co-sign organization checks with the Treasurer.

d) Treasurer:

i) The Treasurer shall:

- (1) Have the care and custody of all monies belonging to the organization.
- (2) Sign all organization checks.
- (3) Render at stated periods determined by the Board, a written account of all organization finances.
- (4) Cooperate with the Audit Committee during their annual report.
- (5) Exercise all duties incident to the office of Treasurer.
- (6) Prepare and present to the general membership an annual report, including financial statement, at the February general meeting following the most recently completed calendar year.
- (7) No special fund shall be established that would make it unnecessary for two signatures on an organization check.

e) Member-at-Large:

i) The at Large Member shall:

- (1) Be the most recently retired full term President, in good standing.
- (2) Perform those duties assigned by the President.

f) Safety Committee chairman

i) With assistance from club instructors, the Safety Chairman shall be responsible for the following:

- (1) Inspect all planes before their first flight, new construction or after a major mishap, [crash]. They are to be airworthy. This to be determined only to the extent that an inspector can check visually. They should also make sure all engines have an approved muffler. Engine noise is to be kept to an allowable level. [98db or less at 9 feet]

(2) Ensure that all field rules and regulations are enforced.

g) Field Marshall:

i) The Field Marshall shall be Chairman of the Field Committee.

h) Pilot Training Chairman:

i) The Pilot Training chairman shall be head of the Pilot Training Committee.

i) Membership Committee chairman:

i) The membership committee chairman will work with Treasurer, and maintain an up to date membership roster.

Article Ten

Committees

1) All committees of this organization shall be on a voluntary basis for a term of one year.

2) The Board of Directors may remove a member from a committee office unless otherwise stated in the by-laws.

3) The standing committees shall be the following:

a) Field Committee [Chairman, Field Marshall].

b) Events Committee.

c) Audit Committee.

d) Pilot Training Committee [Chairman, Pilot Training Officer].

e) Flight Regulations Hearing Committee [Chairman, Vice President].

f) Nominating Committee.

4) The duties of the various Committees are as follows:

a) Field Committee:

i) The Field Committee will consist of Chairman [Field Marshall], and three club members.

ii) The Field Committee will:

(1) Supervise the general operations at the flying site. This does include the parking and any other operations that are incidental to the efficient operation of the field.

(2) Set up mowing schedules and organize repairs to the field as may be required.

(3) Perform other duties that may exist or may come up..

b) Events Committee:

i) Responsible for the scheduling and efficient operation of scheduled contests, social, etc. required to fulfill the organization purposes outlined in Article two.

c) Audit Committee:

i) Shall perform an annual financial audit of all organization operations and report in writing to the membership at a regular meeting no later than March of the succeeding year.

d) Pilot Training Committee:

i) The Pilot Training Committee shall be chaired by the Pilot Training Officer and be comprised of the pilot instructors.

ii) They shall establish programs to properly qualify new pilots in a prompt and efficient manner.

e) Flight Regulations Committee:

i) This committee will consist of three [3] club members and the Vice President as the chairman.

ii) They shall hear complaints of member's misconduct and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for further action.

f) Nomination Committee

i) Shall seek out candidates for office for election for the following year, They should be willing candidates.

5) All Committees shall perform those additional duties as requested by the President, the Board of Directors or the general membership.

Article Eleven

Safety Rules and Regulations

- 1) The safety rules and regulations may sometimes seem unnecessary and designed to curtail your enjoyment of our sport. Not so! They were designed solely for the safety of all those individuals who participate as pilots or, spectators at our R/C facility. Although abiding by the rules and regulations is not a guarantee accidents will not happen, they, along with common sense, will decrease the likelihood of one happening.
- 2) The field is for the exclusive use of the Tri-County R/C Club members and nonmembers exhibiting a current AMA or MAAC membership card. Individuals entering these premises must comply with all rules and regulations. Members are responsible for the action of their guest, including the guest's ability to fly.
- 3) Transmitters, except a buddy box, will contain the channel number. Excepting 2.4 spread spectrum. [Courtesy dictates the owner's name be displayed on the transmitter].
- 4) All transmitters will comply with current AMA and FCC regulations.
- 5) All transmitters, including buddy boxes, not in use for flying or adjustments, must be in the impound area. 2.4 Spread spectrum excepted.
- 6) No more than four [4] aircraft will be airborne at once. The frequency board must show a pin designating the channel of each active aircraft.
- 7) Running of engines will be limited to 8:00 AM until dark. Sunday's 10:00 AM until dark.
- 8) No one will turn on his or her transmitter unless they have their name clip on the frequency board.
- 9) A new member pilot must have a flight check and discussion of the field rules and regulation with a club instructor.
- 10) Flying is prohibited behind the flight line and west of Bridges Rd.
- 11) Pilots are asked to observe and abide by the current flight pattern (indicated by the "Direction Arrow") when operating over the runway. All flight maneuvers, aerobatics will be done north of the runway.
- 12) Only two [2] individuals are permitted at any single flight station - three [3] are permitted when one is a student on a buddy box, and the third is an assistant.
- 13) No one should stand on the active field except to launch or retrieve an aircraft.
- 14) Members are expected to help in keeping the flying facility neat and operational.
- 15) An aircraft while in the pit area must have a means to hold it in a static position while the engine is running or is being started.
- 16) The area between the flight shed out to the flight stations is not pit area.
- 17) An aircraft with engine running taken to the flight line from the pit area must be under physical constraint by the pilot or an assistant [A plane hand carried to the flight line is considered under physical constraint.] The aircraft will remain under physical constraint until it is in or beyond the entrance to the runway. Upon landing, an aircraft, with engine running, will again be maintained under physical constraint before exiting into the pit area.
- 18) Positively no alcoholic beverages are permitted on the premises. A pilot who has obviously consumed alcohol before his or her arrival to the premises will not be permitted to participate in any flying activities and is subject to a request to leave the premises.
- 19) A student pilot will not be permitted to fly by himself under any circumstances until he or she has soloed and becomes a novice flier. A novice pilot may fly by himself only after a designated club instructor pilot has evaluated him or her for their flying ability.
- 20) No assembly/repair or fueling of aircraft in the flight building.
- 21) Use of 50 & 53Mhz band requires an Amateur Radio operator's license
- 22) Spectators must stay behind the chain link fence and shall not enter the pit area unless accompanied by a member.
- 23) Flying any aircraft is prohibited before 10:00 AM Sunday.
- 24) All AMA safety rules and regulations also apply.
- 25) A provision to record and control excessive noisy engines/mufflers, via the "noise control log" as may be deemed necessary.
- 26) The last one out locks the gate, [Lock in Lock].

Article twelve

RESIGNATION, TERMINATION, DISCIPLINARY ACTION, EXPULSION AND REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

1. Any member in good standing may resign his/her membership by giving written notice to the Club.
2. If any member ceases to have the qualification necessary for membership in the AMA, his/her membership in the Club shall thereby terminate, subject to reinstatement upon restoration of eligibility.
3. This section provides for enforcement of the Safety Rules that are related to flying activities. Any other unacceptable behavior by an individual member or members, as defined by the Board of Directors, Club Bylaws become the responsibility of the Board of Directors as stated in Article 1, Duties, Section 1 of these Bylaws. Any individual may be expelled from membership from the Club by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors' determination, such individual willfully commits any act or omission which is a violation of any of the terms of these Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, or the Rules of the AMA, or which is detrimental the Club, the AMA, or to model aviation.
4. Any member who is expelled from membership may be reinstated to membership only by two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Board of Directors.
5. The Board of Directors shall have the discretionary authority to provide for and to impose disciplinary action for such acts or omissions, which do not justify expulsion from membership.

ARTICLE 13: DISSOLUTION

1. The Corporation may be dissolved with the approval of a two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote of the total membership.
2. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all the assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such manner, to the Academy of Model Aeronautics, Inc., or to such other organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or to such other organization with purposes similar to the purposes of this Corporation, as the Board shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas (or similar court) of the county in which the principal office of this Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes and to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE 14 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (FLIGHT AND GROUND SAFETY AND CLUB RULES)

Purpose

1. The grievance procedure provides a mechanism to enforce existing rules by providing a progressive disciplinary system when needed. Although most complaints can be resolved informally, if a complaint is serious or cannot be resolved informally, the matter should be referred to the Safety Committee for its consideration by means of a Grievance Form to be filled out and turned into the Board of Directors. At least one witness is required to sign the Grievance Form.
2. Board of Directors
The Board of Directors shall use its judgment in carrying out action on the following:
 - (a) A grievance form (see page 9) will be filled out and turned into the Board of Directors. At least one witness is required.
 - (b) FIRST VIOLATION
 - a. Viewpoints of both complainants and accused will be considered.

b. Complainant's name will be disclosed.

c. A verbal reprimand will be given to the accused by the Board of Directors, and this will be recorded in the Committee files.

(c) SECOND VIOLATION

a. Complainant's name will be disclosed.

b. The accused has the right to a written rebuttal, to be reviewed by the Board.

c. If the Board so decides, the flying privileges of the accused will be suspended for thirty (30) days. Written notice of this shall be issued and a copy published in the Club newsletter.

(d) THIRD VIOLATION

a. Board will notify the accused in writing and the Club members via the Club newsletter that the Club will vote on the expulsion of the accused at the next meeting.

b. Said expulsion will last for a one-year minimum.

(Longer if deemed necessary by the Board of Directors).

c. A member may be expelled from the Club only upon a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership present at the meeting.

d. Voting will be by secret ballot at a regular monthly meeting.

e. The expelled member may reapply for membership after the expiration of the expulsion time period.

(e) The three actions will not be enforced unless they are accumulated within a two-year period of time.

(f) Any member receiving a Grievance, who directs any retaliation action against the person filing said Grievance, will be subject to immediate expulsion from the Club. This is to include threats, intimidation, physical harm, intentional equipment damage, or any other action deemed to be retaliatory by the Board of Directors.

Grievance form

Preamble:

All members of the Tri County R/C Club are safety officers, and have an obligation to ensure that all members and guests operate their aircraft in a safe manner consistent with the published Tri County rules, and AMA safety code.

All Tri County members are also duly authorized agents of the club for the purpose of ensuring that safe, courteous flying conditions exist at all times. Club members are empowered to request the removal of all unauthorized personnel from club property.

Nothing governing the rules of the grievance procedure shall prohibit the amicable settlement of any rules violation by the grievant and the rules violator at the time of infraction with no further action being taken.

However, where no such settlement is immediately forthcoming, the grievant shall complete the form and submit it to a member of the board of directors for investigation, and resolution.

Date: _____ Time: _____

Grievance Filed Against: Name _____ AMA# _____

Tri County R/C Rule(s) Violated (Refer to current bylaws)

Description of incident:

Grievance filed by: Name _____ AMA# _____

Signature: (required) _____

Witness: (required) Name _____ AMA# _____

Signature: (required) _____

Board of Directors use only:

1st Violation _____ 2nd Violation _____ 3rd Violation _____

Resolution: (Article 14.2)

Flight Operations Safety – Fixed Wing Aircraft flight operations area defined.

1. A single, straight line (referred to as the ‘Flight Line’) is established for all fixed wing flying activity. The Flight Line is defined as the north edge of the black runway, in both directions to the western limit denoted by the sign warning not to fly west of that location over S Bridges Rd and eastward to the field border. The black surface runway shall only be used for ‘takeoffs’, ‘landings’, and ‘touch and go’ approaches. Low passes over the black runway are prohibited.
2. Deliberate flying south of the flight line is prohibited. Flying beyond the north and east field boundaries is at the pilot’s discretion. Flying west of the warning sign over S Bridges Rd. and west is prohibited.

Flight Operations Safety – Rotary Wing flight operations area defined.

1. Rotary wing aircraft (helicopters) by their nature of flight do not mix with fixed wing flight operations. The flying field was designed for fixed wing aircraft operations and it is not reasonable to expect those operations to be shut down to accommodate helicopter flights. Those members wishing to fly helicopters are restricted to flying in the Flight Operations area when there are no fixed wing aircraft using the field and must cease flight operations when a fixed wing aircraft enters the Flight Operations area.
2. An area designated for helicopter flight operations is established clear of the Flight Line and described as the triangular area west of the parking area and picnic table/ engine run in bench bounded by the convergence of the driveway and the Flight line. This area may be used for helicopter hover type operations using care to remain well clear of vehicle traffic on the access driveway.
3. Helicopter operations in any areas other than as herein described are prohibited.

Flying Field General Safety Requirement – DESIGNATED NO SMOKING AREA-

Based on concern over safety due to the rapid increase in use of gasoline as a model engine fuel and the input from the Fire Chief, the board has determined that all area forward of the fence separating the parking lot from the pit area including the pavilion is designated as a NO SMOKING AREA. In the area south of the dividing fence separating the parking lot from the pit area **not** including the shed area where gasoline is also present in significant amounts, smoking is permitted. Members park their models along the fence line at their own risk.

The by-laws may be amended only by an affirmative vote of 51% of the members present at a meeting after due notice has been given to all members by mail.

Revised 01/12/99 Approved 02/01/99

Revised 01/15/02 Approved 02/04/02

Revised 02/06/06 Approved 03/06/06

Revised 09/10/07 Approved 10/01/07 Article Three, paragraph 1: changed cap to 200. Article four, paragraph 9: new- guest flying restriction.

Revised 09/08/08 Approved 10/06/08 Article four, Section one.

Revised 10/06/08 Approved 11/03/08 Article four, section ten.

Revised 3/29/10 Approved 5/8/10

Revised 6/5/10 Approved 7/10/10

Revised 2/8/11, Approved 3/4/11 Article 4, Item 10 added.

Revised 4/20/11 Approved 6-3-11 Article 3, Item 2 added

Revised 11/3/12 Approved 11/3/12 Article 4, item 2, 5 revised