

RHODE ISLAND SOARING CLUB

BYLAWS

These Bylaws were accepted by a vote of the majority of the membership as of April 2015. They supersede all previous Bylaws and Constitution.

1. NAME & TYPE

- a. The name of this club shall be the Rhode Island Soaring Club.
- b. The duration of this club shall be perpetual.
- c. The club shall be a federal, educational, 501c-3 corporation.
- d. The club shall be a chartered club within the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

2. PURPOSE

- a. To encourage consistent growth in the art, design, construction and flying of radio control sailplanes and airplanes powered by other than internal combustion engines.
- b. To influence and support AMA legislation as it affects RC soaring and electric powered aircraft.
- c. To provide the members with suitable flying fields
- d. To educate and share with club members and the general public, the skills needed to safely build and operate models designed for soaring.
- e. To promote fellowship and camaraderie among members and further the purpose of the RISC.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a. There will be two types of membership, Full and Temporary.
- b. Precondition - All members must be current members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics prior to the issuance of any RISC membership certificates.
- c. All members must have demonstrated proficiency in the operation of their aircraft in the presence of a club officer and agree to abide by the AMA Safety Rules, all published RISC By-Laws, Field Practices and RISC notices that may be sent to members.
- d. New Members.
 - i. Applicants must be sponsored by a Full club member.
 - ii. The applicant must complete an application form.

iii. All prospective members whose application has been received must meet with at least 3 club officers. There must be a majority vote by the officers for that applicant to be accepted into the club as a Temporary Member. The officers will then announce to the club, at the next scheduled club meeting, the particulars of the accepted Temporary Member.

iv. The Temporary Membership will be valid for a probationary period, not to exceed six (6) months of a flying season. During this period, the Temporary Member shall demonstrate to the club officers,

a) A full understanding of the AMA Safety Code as well as the RISC Field Rules.

b) A good understanding of the limitations on field use due to weather or farming activities.

c) Sufficient control of the model so as not to be a hazard to others.

d) A willingness to fit in with the club and its membership.

After this period has elapsed, the officers shall decide whether to allow the person to be accepted as a full member or not. During this probationary period any club member may come forward and voice their concerns to the officers if they feel that this Temporary Member may be detrimental to the club.

v. Temporary members may only fly when accompanied by a Full member.

vi. Full Members may be given a lifetime waiver of dues at the unanimous discretion of the club officers.

e. Membership Termination - Membership may be terminated for the following conditions:

i. Non-payment of dues.

ii. Failure to comply with these By-Laws, Field Rules & Practices, RISC notices issued and serious or continued safety infractions.

iii. Any individual may be expelled from the club by an unanimous vote by the Club Officers and a Quorum of the membership, if it is determined by the officers that such an individual willfully commits any act or omission, which is in violation of any of these By Laws, AMA Rules or which is detrimental to the RISC, AMA or the hobby.

The person, whose membership is being considered for termination, shall be informed of the infringements in writing by the officers, and at least 2 weeks before any proposed hearing.

4. OFFICERS

There will be five (5) officers, chosen from the list of Full Members.

a. The officer positions are, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Safety Officer, the term of office will be one (1) year each.

b. All officers will be elected at the December meeting of the preceding year, by a simple majority of all Full members in the club, either those present at that meeting, or by electronic voting set up for this

purpose, or by proxy vote submitted in advance to the club secretary in writing. Each club member is allowed one vote.

c. Any officer can hold more than one office simultaneously.

d. Nominations for officer positions are to be submitted at least 2 weeks before the December meeting and the list is to be sent out via email to all Full members for their consideration.

e. Only Full members who have attended at least 2/3rds of the club meetings may be nominated for club officer positions.

5. MEETINGS

a. Meetings may be held monthly, but at the very least 6 meetings are to be held every year at the discretion of the officers/members as required.

b. The meeting time and place will be determined by the secretary.

c. Meetings will be conducted by parliamentary procedure.

d. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Full Members attending that meeting.

6. DUES

a. Every member of the Club shall pay the required annual dues and annually submit a completed renewal application.

b. Membership to the Club expires on December 31st, however a grace period up to March 1st of the following year is given for the payment of club membership dues and renewal. Anyone delinquent after this date will be dropped from the membership. If they later wish to renew, they must do so as a new member applicant.

c. Additional funding, when so required, shall be raised by assessing fees upon the membership of the club. Any assessment shall be handled by the procedure in Paragraph 9.a.

d. Annual dues shall be determined by a majority vote of Club Officers.

7. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

a. The President is the official representative, executive officer and sole official spokesperson of the RISC. He/She is responsible for the smooth operation of all club functions, activities and efforts, and may appoint committees, to assist in these endeavours, as deemed necessary. Whenever possible he/she will preside over club meetings, will cast the deciding vote if a tie is encountered and shall work to maintain the best interests of the RISC and its members. The President will also be the chief moderator of the Club Facebook page and shall encourage discussion of club events and activities on it.

b. The Vice President shall be the primary assistant to the President and shall assume the duties of the latter if he/she is absent or unable to carry them out. The Vice President may exercise the authority of the President until his/her return or the vacancy filled by appointment of one of the remaining officers.

c. The Secretary shall keep accurate records of the proceedings at all meetings. He/she is the custodian of the original By Laws and all amendments thereto. The officer is also responsible for all club correspondence, shall maintain an up to date Roster, including contact details, AMA numbers and other functions which ordinarily pertain to this office, including details of the club's history. Furthermore the Secretary will be the focal point for all members wishing to distribute general information via email or regular mail to the club membership at large.

d. The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds and shall maintain full and accurate records of disbursements and receipts as required by law in a 501c-3 corporation. The officer will be responsible for depositing club funds in the name of RISC in the appropriate accounts. Cheques issued by the club will require the signature of either the Treasurer or President to ensure that funds can be accessed if either one of the officers is temporarily absent. The Treasurer shall provide an accurate monthly and annual report and shall report these at the club meetings. Club dues shall be collected by this officer and shall report to the Secretary those members who have submitted their dues so that an accurate, active membership list will be maintained. The Treasurer will also verify that all renewals and new member applications are also current AMA members. Finally, the Treasurer is also the official agent of the nonprofit corporation status of the RISC and is responsible for completing all local and state forms to maintain this.

e. The Safety Officer shall ensure that the safety regulations of both the RISC and AMA are adhered to by all participants at the fields. He/she shall be proactive in guiding fellow modelers to follow these rules and shall have the authority to reprimand and report, to the officers, if regular infringements of these rules occur. In the event of the Safety Officer not being present at field activities, these duties will fall to any other RISC officer present. In lieu of the possible absence of any of the above personnel, any club members shall feel free to assume these duties and act to prevent harm, either by act or omission to others (members or not), property, wildlife and report all infringements to the Safety Officer.

8. DISSOLUTION

a. This club may be dissolved by a majority vote of the total membership.

b. After resolving any and all club debts, any funds remaining in the club account(s) shall be turned over to the AMA.

9. AMENDMENTS/VOTING PROCEDURE

a. Any proposed amendment to the bylaws or proposed assessment on the members must be submitted to the members a minimum of twenty (20) days before the meeting at which the proposal will be acted upon.

b. Any such proposed resolutions may be submitted to the members no more than one (1) time in a calendar quarter, and no more than two (2) times in any calendar year.

c. All business requiring a vote of the membership shall be published in a timely manner so that those desiring to vote may attend the next meeting or be prepared to electronic vote. A majority of those present at that meeting, including the electronic voting and any proxy votes from absent members, shall carry the motion.

d. Electronic voting (e-voting) may be used at the discretion of the club officers.

e. Each member may submit a proxy vote by mail (USPS or Email) to the Secretary when unable to attend in person or e-vote. Members not attending the meeting, e voting or submitting proxy votes will be deemed to not have voted.

f. PUBLICATION: The secretary is directed to broadcast by Email all proposed resolutions requiring a vote.

10. LOGO

a. The official club logo shall be:

b. The logo shown is available for purchase from the club secretary.

c. It is three inches in diameter with a crimson glider superimposed on a white background with a light blue patch in the shape of the State of Rhode Island. The lettering and the two circles around the outer portion of the logo are navy blue.

d. The club patch and sticker are available to all members at a nominal price.

APPENDIX I

The RISC Field Rules are not part of the By Laws, but will be published on the Club website/Facebook page, and may be amended by the Club Officers as situations arise.

RISC FIELD RULES

REMEMBER THAT WE ARE GUESTS AT THESE FIELDS, WE DO NOT OWN THEM, BUT ARE HERE AT THE SUFFERANCE OF THE OWNERS.

1. Only AMA members are allowed to fly at the field.

2. All Sailplanes and Radios shall be marked and identified according to AMA and FCC specifications.

3. DO NOT park or drive on the turf grass, ever.

4. No aircraft powered by internal combustion engines are allowed.

5. New members or visitors shall demonstrate to a senior Member their ability to control their model safely and their equipment shall be made available for a safety check.
6. Any model or radio that is damaged shall be properly repaired before flying again.
7. Sailplanes launched by winch or hi-start, have field location and direction preference over electric assisted types.
8. Launch Area shall be at least 100 feet from the highway, buildings and any parked vehicles.
9. DO NOT fly over the highway or private property at low altitude (300 feet recommended minimum).
10. DO NOT fly through Launch/Parking Area.
11. All pilots not using 2.4Ghz radio equipment must display a channel number flag and their name on a pole at the pits area before turning on their transmitter.
12. No aircraft shall launched/flown in or out of the pit area and the safety of others must be the overriding concern at all times.
13. Aircraft in the process of landing have priority over those preparing to launch.
14. Announcing calls such as "Launching/Taking Off" and "Landing" should be made when multiple pilots are flying.
15. When flying, all pilots will stand at least 50 feet from the parking area.
16. Be particularly alert for General and Commercial Aviation, including ultra-lights as they always have right of way within the airspace.
17. Novices or Trainees shall use a Buddy Box or have a competent pilot at their side ready to take over.
18. NO LITTERING - retrieve all tools, stakes, turnarounds and any debris before you leave the field.
19. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES on the field.
20. DO NOT interfere with activities of farm personnel and DO NOT argue with neighbors.
21. DO NOT go on the turf when you may damage it. Frost, Mud, Wet, Soggy - etc. Use good judgment.
22. Be considerate where you park your car, to not annoy neighbors or farm operations. Parking/driving on the turf is absolutely forbidden.
23. Please be discreet when on your phone or using other audio devices, either use headphones or stand away when on a call.
24. Although pets are not encouraged at the field, they are allowed if the owner takes full responsibility for their behavior and do not interfere with flying activities.

25. Due to the negative publicity regarding drone use, several of our residential neighbors approached club members asking if we have cameras on our models. Therefore, to maintain our good rapport and ensure our continued use of these fields, cameras on sailplanes, or anything else you happen to fly are prohibited at the Covell and Fairgrounds flying sites.

26. If you land outside field boundaries and on private property, do attempt to obtain permission before trespassing to recover your model.

27. Please use common sense.