

Springfield Township Farmers' and Sportsmen's Association Inc.

**Proposed Bylaw Changes from the Board of Directors**

1. There were no changes made to the Constitution.
2. ~~Red Text~~ with Strikethrough line indicates text to be deleted.
3. Red Text underlined indicates new or corrected text.
4. Only the areas of proposed changes to the Bylaws are listed, all Articles not shown remain unchanged.
5. Changes to the Rules And Regulations Of The Junior Club and the House And Ground Rules are also noted.
6. Only current members in good standing will be eligible to vote on the proposed changes. Have your membership card if needed.

Voting on these changes will take place at the Open Meeting  
Wednesday, June 12th, 2024 at 7:30 pm.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **Article I**

#### Membership and Dues (Active)

Sec. 1. (a) American citizens eighteen (18) years of age or over may apply for membership and must be proposed by two (2) members in good standing in the association. These two (2) members shall have known the applicant for a long enough period of time to be able to vouch for the honesty and character of the applicant. Number of members may be capped at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

(b) New members will be required to attend four meetings and put in sixteen work hours each year for the first four years of their membership. After the first four years they will be required to get in eight work hours to use the club grounds. Failure to do so will result in the loss of membership. If a new member can't make the meetings due to work additional work hours will be added to the 16 hours.

It will be the members responsibility to get the number of work hours along with approved initials on the back of their membership card, as sign in/sign out sheets may not be available at all work parties. Cards will need to be presented when renewing memberships and signing up for hunting privileges.

(c) A membership screening committee shall be appointed to interview all applicants before approval by the Board of Directors. They shall also be sure that the applicant understands the Constitution, all By-Laws including the requirements for new members as stated in paragraph (b), and Ground Rules.

(d) After the applicant has been approved by the Board of Directors at a regular Directors meeting, the applicant(s) will be announced at the regular meeting of their intent to join the association. After a period of at least 30 days, the application accompanied by the regular fee, shall be presented to the association at any regular meeting. A majority vote of the members present shall be required to elect the applicant into membership.

Sec. 2. The application fee for membership in the association shall be fifty (\$50.00) dollars and this, together with one (1) years dues must accompany the application at the time it is filed. These fees shall be returned to the applicant in the event that the applicant is not approved.

Sec. 3. (a) The annual membership dues for each member type shall be determined and approved by the Officers and BOD by the September BOD meeting. This allows dues to be adjusted based on operational expenses as needed to run the organization. Membership dues will be published on a dues schedule each year which will be provided with the October newsletter. Membership dues shall be due and payable on or before the January open meeting. Membership dues are to be paid in November and December. December 31st is the last day membership dues will be accepted; no late fees will be accepted unless approved by the Board of Directors.

~~All applications received shall have their membership dues owed prorated as per the schedule below based on date of application:~~

| <del><u>100%</u></del> | <del><u>75%</u></del> | <del><u>50%</u></del> | <del><u>100%*</u></del> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <del>January</del>     | <del>April</del>      | <del>July</del>       | <del>October</del>      |
| <del>February</del>    | <del>May</del>        | <del>August</del>     | <del>November</del>     |
| <del>March</del>       | <del>June</del>       | <del>September</del>  | <del>December</del>     |

~~\* All applications received between October 1 and December 31, if approved, shall be given the following year's membership card.~~

~~Applications for membership will be accepted year round and held for review in July and August. Potential applicants will be selected for interviews in September and October. If approved, new members will be voted on at the November open meeting. Once voted in new members may attend club activities, but will become full voting members with the start of their membership on January 1st of the new year.~~

A membership card shall be given to each member. This card shall be of a different color each year and bear the current year and the membership secretary's signature, or a unique organization logo. This card shall be carried on your person at all times while on club, and must be produced on demand from members or officers. In the event a membership card is lost or mutilated it will be replaced free.

(b) Any member in good standing with the association upon reaching the age of sixty-five (65) years by the start of the calendar year and having completed ten (10) consecutive years of membership shall become a senior member, with full privileges of the association. ~~Senior members shall be assessed a dues amount at approximately 25% of the regular member dues (approximation due to rounding to whole dollars).~~ Senior members shall be assessed a dues amount based on the dues schedule for the year.

(c) Any member who has become physically unable to take an active part in the association after having been a member for five (5) consecutive years shall upon written request to the Board of Directors, accompanied by a Medical Doctors Certification of said disability, receive an inactive members card. Inactive members shall not be liable for assessments or dues and shall be placed on an inactive basis until member shall make written application to the Board of Directors to become active and pay dues for the year he desires to become active. Any member who leaves the area for a period of time to attend college or to serve in the armed forces shall have the option to submit a written request to the board of directors to be placed on the inactive membership list for as long as necessary and regardless how many years they have been an active member. Any Voluntary inactive member can re-instate their active status by making a written request to the board of directors.

Sec. 4. Life membership shall be available to any member in good standing for five consecutive years, upon payment of the amount of 20 times annual regular member dues, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 5. If dues are not paid by ~~January 31~~ December 31st, member shall be made inactive.

Sec. 6. Any member who has been made inactive due to late dues payment may be reinstated by payment of a fee of \$30.00. Said applicant for reinstatement shall also pay dues and assessments owed at the time the member was placed inactive and said applicant for reinstatement must have the approval of the Board of Directors. Any member made inactive shall be on inactive for 30 days after which they shall be dropped from the association.

Sec. 7. Honorary membership will be granted upon approval of the Board of Directors. This membership will be reviewed annually.

Sec. 8. All applicants under the age of eighteen (18) years shall become members of the Junior Sportsmen's Organization, which is sponsored by the association, and shall be governed by that organization. They may, upon reaching the age of eighteen (18) years and having two (2) years membership in the junior organization and having qualified, become regular members of the association in good standing by paying the yearly dues.

(a) All junior members electing to become regular members will also be required to attend four meetings and put in sixteen work hours each year for the first four years of their regular membership. After the first four years they will be required to get in eight work hours to use the club grounds. Junior members who have put in 16 work hours a year will be given credit toward the four year requirement. (Ex: A junior who has put in 16 work hours for two years will only need two years as a regular member.)

Sec. 9. Any member for reasonable cause may be suspended from membership by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Such suspended member shall have the right to appeal to the directors at the next regular Board of Directors meeting, of the association following suspension. The upheld suspension will be for a minimum period of one year. The suspended member will not pay dues for that period. Following the suspension period the member may apply for reinstatement which may or may not be granted at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 10. Spouse Membership will be available to members (in good standing) spouses. ~~Spouse members shall be assessed a dues amount at approximately 25% of the regular member dues (approximation due to rounding to whole dollars).~~ Spouse members shall be assessed a dues amount based on the dues schedule for the year.

## **Article VI**

### Intoxicating Beverages/Illegal & Chemical Substances

Sec. 1. The association shall at no time acquire a license for selling intoxicating beverages.

Sec. 2. ~~No member or guest shall be permitted to participate in any activity should he be deemed by the committee in charge of the activity as being under the influence of intoxicants or illegal substances. Violation of this section shall be deemed cause for immediate suspension.~~

Members and guests may have alcoholic beverages on the club grounds and are cautioned to consume such in moderation. Use of illegal substances is strictly forbidden. Anyone deemed to be under the influence of intoxicants or behavioral altering substances shall be prohibited from participating in any activities and interactions with other individuals. Violation of this section shall be reasonable cause for immediate suspension. (See Art I, Sec. 9 regarding suspension)

Sec. 3. Members are responsible for the conduct of their guests at all times.

## **Article VII**

### Field Trial and Dog Training

Sec. 1. Upon every occasion when the association shall sponsor and hold Field Trials said Trials shall be conducted in accordance with the rules and regulations set up by the American Kennel Club. Further, all such trials shall be advertised as being sponsored by the Springfield Township Farmer's and Sportsmen's Association of Jacobus, PA.

Sec. 2. Dog Training—Individual members are permitted to run four (4) dogs or four (4) pups, or any combination of dogs or pups amounting to four (4) at any one time. Two or more members are permitted to run six (6) dogs to a pack at any time. Dogs shall be under the control of handlers at all times.

Sec. 3. (a) Only members of the association will be allowed to train his or another member's dogs on the training area and must accompany the dogs at all times.

(b) For special events approved by the Board of Directors, participants that are not members of the association shall be asked to provide a donation in an amount recommended by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 4. Members are permitted to train or run dogs after all classes of said trial are completed.

Sec. 5. Any member will be responsible for any damage done by his dog on the club farm and any adjacent farm.

Sec. 6. All members train their dogs at their own risk and the association will not be responsible for any accident to any dog.

Sec. 7. All members' dogs shall have identification tags, and current licenses attached while training on Association ground.

Sec. 8. Rifle range shall be closed while all field trials are in progress.

Sec. 9. (a) During the months of October, November and December nighttime running of dogs is only allowed on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings no later than 10:00 pm.

(b) Dogs must be off of the club grounds and back in their transport kennels by the 10:00 pm cut off time.

Sec. 10. When running dogs at night during the months January through September, please use common sense and be respectful of the time while running in the vicinity of the tenant houses.

## **Article VIII**

### Deer Hunting Privileges

Sec. 1. Any member (all types) in good standing for two (2) years and ~~with four (4) work participation stamps~~ who has met a required number of work hours in the current year, may sign up to hunt deer during all published seasons per the Pennsylvania Game Commission published season and bag limits. The number of hunters may be capped at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Sec. 2. Deer hunting privilege signup will occur during the September open meeting. Any member, who wishes to sign up for the deer hunting privileges, must be present at the September meeting to sign up. Exceptions to this rule must be in writing to be considered by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 3. All Pennsylvania Game Commission laws apply to hunting on the club property.

Sec. 4. Center-fire rifles are not permitted on club grounds for deer hunting. Shotguns, Bows, Crossbows, Muzzleloaders or rifles for Straight Walled cartridges only.

Sec. 5. Permanent tree stands are not permitted. Trees on club grounds are not to be damaged by any climbing devices.

Sec. 6. Junior members are also required to have ~~four (4) work participation stamps~~ met a required number of work hours in the current year. Junior members are not required to be member for two years. This requirement is waived as long as they are hunting with a regular member with all requirements as specified above.

Sec. 7. Dog training is open during all hunting seasons. Deer hunting is a privilege, and confrontations will not be tolerated. Hunting safety is the ultimate concern always.

Sec. 8. Any complaints, questions, or issues related to deer hunting should be brought up at an open meeting. Any rule infractions should be brought to the board of directors for review. Disciplinary actions may result in loss of deer hunting privileges and/or probation or suspension of membership.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE JUNIOR CLUB**

1. All applicants shall be under eighteen (18) years of age.
2. All applicants shall become members only after approval of the Board of directors of the senior club.
3. Dues in the Junior Club shall be ~~approximately 5% of annual dues for regular member per year assessed a dues amount based on the dues schedule for the year.~~
4. All junior members who have met all of the above requirements shall be eligible for membership in the senior organization of their eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) birthday by paying the annual dues of the Senior Club. ~~Such dues shall be paid to the Membership Secretary of the senior Club before the 31<sup>st</sup> day of January of the year following their eighteenth (18<sup>th</sup>) birthday In addition to meeting the requirements set forth under Membership, Art VIII, Sec. 8, paragraph (a).~~
5. All activities, meetings, etc. shall be under the supervision of the members of the Senior Club.
6. The Junior Club shall come under the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors of the Senior Club.
7. All monies received by the Junior Club shall be turned over to the Treasurer of the Senior Club, when deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.
8. Junior members shall have all of the privileges of senior members except as herein stated.
  - A. Junior Dog Training shall be subject to the same restrictions as a senior member.
  - B. Junior members must be under the direct supervision of a responsible senior member over 21 years of age while handling and firearms on the Club rifle range.
  - C. Junior members must be under the direct supervision of a responsible senior member over 21 years of age while camping on the club grounds.
  - D. Junior members 15 years of age or under must be under the direct supervision of a responsible senior member over 21 years of age while on the archery range.
  - E. Junior members 12 years of age and under must be under the direct supervision of a responsible senior member over 21 years of age while fishing in the Club's pond.

**Approved and Adopted by the Board of Directors—November 28, 1961 Springfield Twp. Farmers' and Sportsmen's Association, Inc., Jacobus, PA.**

## **HOUSE AND GROUND RULES**

1. The members shall have the power to enforce all laws, and report all violations to the Board of Directors.
2. Any member, upon request, must show their membership card to any member of the Association.
3. Speed limit on the park driveway shall be 10 miles per hour and no parking on driveway at any time.
4. All automobiles must be parked in the parking areas. No driving in the fields except for Club maintenance and club activities.
5. No member or group of members shall so conduct themselves in such a manner on the premises, so as to discourage the presence of any other member.
6. No member and their family or group of members and their families shall hold outings or picnic lunches in the buildings except in case of emergency.
7. There shall be no activities of any kind during meetings.
8. No fires are allowed anywhere on the Club grounds except in fireplaces in the picnic area and incinerator.
9. All refuse must be placed in containers, provided for same, before leaving Club grounds. Any member in violation shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.
- ~~10. There are toilets on the Club grounds. Please use them.~~
10. A member may bring a prospect for membership along one time to use the Club's facilities.
11. Only members of the Association will be allowed to train their, or another member's dogs, on the training area and must accompany dogs at all times.
12. Any member using the dog kennel other than at a trial must clean out the kennel before leaving.
13. All firearms shooting must be confined to range provided for same. POSITIVELY NO AUTOMATIC WEAPON.
14. Archery Range is for members and their families use only. Please be cautious of any other member walking through the area.
15. Fishing in the pond is for members and their families use only.
16. No swimming in the pond.
17. Skating on the pond is prohibited.
18. All dog training hours on the Club grounds must conform to State Dog Training hours as specified in the State Game Laws.