

# **Constitution of the Blue Max RC Flying Club, Inc. Buffalo Grove, IL**

The Blue Max RC Flying Club, Inc. is a not for profit corporation governed by the bylaws and regulations shown below and the laws of the state of Illinois.

## **BY LAWS:**

### **ARTICLE I --- NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the "Blue Max RC Flying Club" of Buffalo Grove, Illinois, and shall hereinafter be referred to and designated as such.

### **ARTICLE II --- PURPOSE**

The organization shall be not for profit and was formed for the following reasons:

1. To create interest in model building.
2. To promote model flying.
3. To educate both new and seasoned flyers in the mechanics and aeronautics of flight, the skills of model building and the electronics involved in RC operation.
4. To sponsor model Fun-Flies.
5. To improve friendship.
6. To exchange knowledge and ideas.
7. To create and conduct indoor and outdoor activities.
8. To have social activities to include families.

### **ARTICLE III --- MEMBERSHIP**

1. Number of members shall be unlimited.
2. Applicants must apply for membership at a formal meeting, by mail or via the Internet. The application and dues must be submitted to the Club Treasurer, before the membership is granted.
3. The Secretary and Treasurer will screen the roster quarterly and submit names of members without AMA membership to the Board of Directors for revoking membership from the club.  
**Method of Membership Dismissal:**
  - A. Members to be notified by letter thirty (30) days prior to the Board of Directors vote.
  - B. Member to be placed on probation for thirty (30) days.
  - C. Requires a majority vote of the Board of Directors.
4. Membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) is required for all members, except Non-Flying Members or those that the Club adopts as Honorary Members.
5. Any Member deliberately breaking club rules, not acting in a sportsmanlike manner or being uncooperative is liable for expulsion from the club by a majority decision of the Board of Directors. A signed petition submitted to the Board of Directors can also initiate the action.
6. All members will be responsible for payment of any assessments approved by the club membership.
7. All members will be responsible for personal and property damage caused by them and shall assume said responsibility before resumption of flying.
8. Club members are encouraged to have occasional guests at the flying field and meetings. Guests shall comply with all Blue Max, AMA and Forest Preserve rules.
9. Application for an Honorary Membership must be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval. If approved, the Board of Directors will bring the application to vote at the next Club meeting.

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**ARTICLE IV --- DUES AND FINANCES**

1. Membership is accepted upon payment of dues and validation of current Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) membership.
2. Club dues shall be as follows:
  - A. Student Membership (up to and including 17 years of age) \$25.00 per year.
  - B. Open Membership (Ages 18 to 64 years) \$50.00 per year.
  - C. Associate Membership (Non-Flying) \$40.00 per year.
  - D. Senior Membership (65 years of age and older) \$37.50 per year.
  - E. Super Senior Membership (80 years and older) \$20.00 per year, no initiation fee.
  - F. Lifetime Membership (as defined in Article IVa, Section 2, Subsection E) are permanent members and are not required to pay annual membership dues. These members will have full privileges and voting rights equal to an "Open Member".
  - G. One Open, Associate or Lifetime membership in the Blue Max Flying Club provides other members of that immediate family that are under the age of 18, with the status of Family membership. Family membership dues are:
    - a) Family members ages 13 – 17 are \$15.00 yearly per member.
    - b) Family members 12 years of age and under are free.
3. An initiation fee of \$20.00 shall be required of each new membership. This initiation fee covers all family members under the age of 18. Members covered under the Family Membership Plan are not subject to the Initiation Fee when converting to an Open Membership upon reaching the age of 18 as long as they have maintained continuous membership.
4. Membership dues cover the cost between the time of acceptance and December 31 of the same year.
5. If a member(s) joins between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>, the member(s) will pay 50% of full applicable membership dues for that year plus the full initiation fee.
6. If a member(s) joins between November 1<sup>st</sup> and December 31<sup>st</sup>, the member(s) will pay the full membership dues for the following year plus the full initiation fee. This payment will cover the remainder of the current year plus the entire following year.
7. Dues for members in good standing must be paid yearly and are due by December 31 for the following year's membership. Any member that has not paid their dues by the January meeting shall have their Club privileges terminated and will be dropped from the Club roster. Any member who has not paid their dues before March 1 will be considered a new member and will be subject to the \$20.00 initiation fee. The Board of Directors may waive the initiation fee for past members in good standing if the Board determines there are extenuating circumstances.
8. Dues and initiation fees shall be governed by the Board of Directors, subject to membership approval and reviewed annually.

**ARTICLE IVa --- MEMEBERSHIP CATAGORIES**

1. All persons shall be eligible for membership in the Blue Max R/C Flying Club and shall agree to abide by its Constitution, Club Rules and Regulations and those of the AMA.
2. The membership shall be divided into the following categories:
  - A. Student Member: Is younger than eighteen (18) years old, has full privileges and voting rights. Membership dues are as listed in Article IV, Section 2, Subsection A.
  - B. Open Member: Is eighteen (18) years old or older and have full privileges and voting rights. Membership dues are as listed in Article IV, Section 2, Subsection B.
  - C. Associate Member: A Non-Flyer, who is interested in activities of the Club and has voting privileges. An Associate Member may not hold a club officer position but may be appointed to a committee. Associate Members are not required to hold an AMA membership. If an Associate Member decides to upgrade to an Open Membership, then a valid AMA Membership is required as well as a payment to the club in the amount of the difference in the dues between Associate and Open Membership. Membership dues are listed in Article IV, Section 2, Subsection C.
  - D. Senior Member: Is sixty-five (65) years old or older and has full privileges and voting rights. Membership dues are as listed in Article IV, Section 2, Subsection D.

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E. Lifetime Member: Effective January 1, 2005, any current club members in good standing that are at least 50 years of age and have maintained paid membership in the club for at least 25 cumulative years with the prior 10 years being consecutive, will be automatically converted to "Lifetime Member" at membership renewal time. Lifetime Members have full privileges and voting rights equal to an Open Member as long as AMA Membership is maintained as current. If AMA Membership lapses, the Lifetime Member will assume the rights and privileges equal to an Associate Member (Non-Flying).

F. Family Membership: Requires at least one "Open" or "Associate" membership. All paid Family Members have full privileges and voting rights. Membership dues are as listed in Article IV, Section 2, Subsection E.

G. Honorary Membership: Honorary members have no voting rights, cannot hold a club position (neither elected nor appointed) and are not eligible to win raffle or Fun-Fly prizes (they may participate in the Fun-Flies) but cannot win a prize nor will they be ranked). Honorary Members are not dues paying members. Honorary Memberships are granted by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors. Honorary Memberships will be reviewed each January by the Board of Directors to determine continued eligibility.

3. Flying members will be required to hold and maintain a membership issued by the AMA. All first time flying member applicants, as well as present flying members seeking membership renewal, must have proof of current membership in the AMA. Associate Members (Non-Flying) do not require AMA membership.

**ARTICLE V --- CLUB MEETINGS**

1. Club meetings are to be held once a month.
2. Meetings will be held at a designated place.
3. Meetings will be held on the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Monday of each month at a time determined by the Board.
4. Meetings shall be held in formal business like manner and should be as informative as possible.
5. Club business should prevail at all meetings. "Bull sessions", "out of turn" and "off the subject", etc., should follow the meetings and programs and not be part of them.
6. The majority of the club membership, in agreement, may call a special Club Meeting by advising the Board of Directors.
7. The Board of Directors may call a Special Club Meeting with prior notice to the members of the Club.
8. The Secretary shall keep the "minutes" of every meeting.
9. The following business shall be executed at each business meeting:
  - A. Previous minutes reading and approval.
    - a) Additions.
    - b) Corrections.
  - B. Treasury report.
    - a) Additions.
    - b) Corrections.
  - C. Any Chairman reports.
  - D. Old business.
  - E. New business.
10. All voting issues subject to a membership vote must be passed by a simple majority of a "quorum". A "quorum" shall be 30% of the active membership.
11. Additions or revisions of the by-laws are subject to a majority approval of the Board of Directors prior to being submitted to a membership vote.
12. Any five (5) members disagreeing with any action taken by the officers of the Club may, by petition, bring the matter before the Board of Directors for discussion.
13. Club operating expenses will be paid from the Treasury.
14. The President shall have the authority to spend up to \$200.00 for unexpected costs, related to Club issues, without formal approval by the Club members.

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**ARTICLE VI --- NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

1. Officers will be elected on a yearly basis.
2. Nominations for all elective offices shall be made at the October business meeting.
3. Nominations are closed for each office separately at the October meeting.
4. During the October meeting, up to 30 minutes shall be allocated for the nomination speeches for the positions of President, Vice-President and the Board of Directors.
5. Members can vote to elect officers via the Internet or at the November Club Meeting by paper ballot. The Internet ballots shall be posted at least two (2) weeks prior to the election. The Board of Directors and the Webmaster shall determine the rules for Internet voting.
6. Installation of the new officers will be at the close of the December meeting.
7. Officers to be elected are:
  - A. President.
  - B. Vice-President.
  - C. Board of Directors (formerly the Membership Committee), consisting of five (5) members:
    - a) Four (4) members to be elected.
    - b) Fifth member to be the Club President.
8. The election results will be a combination of paper ballots and Internet ballots, which will be combined and counted at the November Club Meeting.
9. In case of resignation of the President or his inability to serve, the Vice-President shall ascend to his position as President and Chairman of the Board. A special election will be held to elect a new Vice-President.
10. If the Vice-President assumes the position of President and he is already a member of the Board of Directors, an election will be held at the next club meeting to elect a new member of the Board of Directors. The aforementioned vote will not be conducted via the Internet.
11. If a member of the Board resigns or cannot fulfill his duties, a new Board member will be elected at the next Club Meeting. The aforementioned vote will not be via the Internet.
12. A majority of cast votes shall determine the election results, when only two (2) candidates are nominated for a position. When three or more candidates are running for a position, the candidate with the most votes is the winner.
13. Committee Chairmen/Chairwomen to be appointed as required by the Club President:
  - A. Fun-Fly (formerly – Contest)
  - B. Program
  - C. Safety
  - D. Refreshments
  - E. Field Marshall (formerly – Field Maintenance)
  - F. Flying Proficiency
  - G. Picnic
  - H. Banquet
  - I. Noise Control
  - J. Webmaster

**ARTICLE VII --- BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of four (4) elected members and the Club President. The President shall serve as the Chairman.
2. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the overall direction and planning of the activities of the Club.
3. The Board of Directors has the responsibility of appointing the Club Editor, Secretary and Treasurer. The aforementioned appointments shall be determined by a majority of the Board of Directors.
4. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to spend Club finances on Club membership approved program and activities.
5. Any Professional (i.e.: legal, accounting, etc.) services that are required for the Club shall be approved by the unanimous consent of the Board of Directors.
6. The Board of Directors is responsible for the maintenance of all corporate and legal documents.
7. All elected officials shall provide their duties in a “Hold Harmless” environment. Specifically, they shall not be subject to any legal or monetary penalties for services provided in good faith.
8. No elected or appointed Club Official shall be compensated for fulfilling their Club duties.

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### **ARTICLE VIII --- DUTIES**

1. The President shall preside over all meetings and conduct same in a responsible parliamentary manner. The President shall authorize and spend reasonable Club funds for the Club Raffle and Fun-Fly prizes.
2. In absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside over the meeting.
3. In the absence of the President and Vice-President, the senior member (longest membership in the Club) of the Board of Directors that is present shall preside over and conduct the business meeting.
4. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings and submit them to the membership for approval at the following meeting. In the absence of the Secretary, the Vice-President will be responsible for recording the meeting minutes. The Secretary shall be custodian of all records including the Club roster and shall notify members of any special meetings and regular meetings. He/she also will handle any correspondence and insurance records as required by the AMA.
5. The Treasurer shall collect all monies and keep a record of the same. He/she shall give a report at each meeting of all receipts and expenditures. He/she shall collect dues and maintain a bank account in the Club name and arrange for transfer of same to the succeeding Treasurer.
6. The Editor shall be responsible for the creation and distribution of the newsletter.
7. All members shall be responsible for enforcing Club and safety rules.

### **ARTICLE IX --- COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Program Committee is in charge of arranging for all:
  - A. Guest Speakers.
  - B. Movies.
  - C. Demonstrations.
  - D. Discussion Panels.
  - E. Etc.
2. The Fun-Fly Committee is in charge of arranging for all:
  - A. Contests.
  - B. Demonstrations.
  - C. Participation with other clubs.
  - D. Etc.
3. The Safety Committee shall be responsible for helping to enforce all Club and AMA safety regulations and periodic safety reminders at Club meetings.
4. The Refreshments Committee shall be responsible for providing normal refreshments for the Club meetings. The costs will be reimbursed from the Club Treasury.
5. The Field Marshall shall be responsible for the overall maintenance of the flying field.
6. The Flying Proficiency Committee shall be responsible for maintaining a record of the members "proficiency" ratings. The Committee shall oversee, appoint and regulate all Club Instructors. All changes in proficiency ratings will be subject to the Committee's approval. The content of the various proficiency tests is the Committee's responsibility.
7. The Picnic Committee shall be responsible for the annual Club Picnic.
8. The Banquet Committee shall be responsible for the annual Club Banquet.
9. The Noise Committee shall be responsible for recommending noise level standards for the Club. The Committee shall provide periodic noise control recommendations at Club meetings.
10. The Webmaster shall be responsible for maintaining the Club Website, conducting the Internet voting (in conjunction with and as outlined by the Board of Directors) and sending letters and notices to Club Members as necessary.

### **ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS**

**Amendment 1:** The Board of Directors will be responsible for developing and maintaining a Systems file for the Club. This file will include procedures for the business operations of the Club.

The file will include, but not be limited to, accounting practices, dates and procedures for filing legal documents, dates and procedures for filing Corporate Tax and other accounting records, and where Club documents shall be stored.