



Volunteer State Model Aviators Club Bylaws



Article 1 - Volunteer State Model Aviators

A. Volunteer State Model Aviators flies at Winters Field,
Private land owned by Murph Winters in Cedar Hill, TN.

B. Definitions

- a) **Club:** Volunteer State Model Aviators
- b) **Quorum:** A quorum shall be considered fifty (50) percent of the officers and twenty-five (25) percent of the active club membership.
- c) **AMA:** Shall mean Academy of Model Aeronautics.

Article 2 – Purpose

The purpose of the Club is to promote the hobby of radio controlled aero modeling in the Middle Tennessee area. We strive to offer a maintained flying facility and to provide a fun and safe atmosphere for members and visitors to enjoy aero modeling.

Article 3 - Membership

A. Qualifications - All persons shall be eligible for membership, and shall agree to abide by the Club bylaws, and those of the AMA.

B. Categories and Dues

a) **Regular Member:** Is eighteen (18) years old or older and have full privileges and voting rights.

Dues: Regular Member rate \$100.00 yearly.

b) **Senior Member:** Is Sixty-five (65) years old or older and have full privileges and voting rights.

Dues: Senior Member rate is 50% of the Regular Member rate paid yearly.

c) **Family Membership:** Includes all regular flying members of the immediate family, i.e.: spouses and children under the age of 19. All regular flying members have full privileges and voting rights.

Dues: Family Membership rate \$100.00 yearly.

C. AMA Membership - Flying members will be required to hold and maintain a license issued by the AMA. All first-time flying members, as well as present flying members seeking membership renewal, must show proof of membership in the AMA. Non-flying and Associate Members do not require AMA membership.

D. Probationary Period - All new members will be under a probationary period for one full year from the date of application. New members will have full privileges and voting rights, but will not be able to run for office while under this probationary period.

Article 4 – Officers

A. Responsibilities

a) **President:** Shall preside at all meetings of the Club and shall act as spokesman for the Club in all matters pertaining to it. President will be responsible for auditing the club financial records once per calendar year.

- b) **Vice-President:** Shall act for the President when the President is unable to serve.
- c) **Secretary:** Shall record and keep the Minutes and attendance roll of all meetings. The Secretary shall provide himself with an official Minutes book for this purpose. The Secretary is also responsible for the renewal of the AMA Charter.
- d) **Treasurer:** Shall collect all moneys due and shall keep complete records of all moneys received and disbursed by the Club. The Treasurer shall keep track of dues payments, as well as members that have or have not paid.
- e) **Safety Officer / Coordinator:** Shall chair the safety committee and ensure safety rules and procedures are enforced. The Safety Officer will process all grievance forms and follow grievance procedures documented in the bylaws. This individual will be appointed by the newly elected officers before January 1st.

- B. Term of Office - All officers of the Club shall serve for one year, from January 1 to December 31 of the elective year.

Article 5 – Meetings

Regular meetings shall be held once each month, January through November, with December being at the discretion of the Club Officers. The Club Officers shall select the time, day and location of the meeting. This date and time shall remain as consistent as possible. A quorum must be present in order to vote on a club related issue. Results will be based on the majority vote of the quorum.

Special meetings of the Club shall be at any convenient time, upon call by the President, or upon call signed by any three (3) of the Club Officers, or upon call signed by any ten (10) members of the Club, provided that any such call shall name the time and place of any such meeting, and shall be issued at least three (3) days in advance of the date set. No notice of regular meetings shall be given, except in the case of annual meetings for the election meetings a week in advance. However, failure of the President to notify the members in advance shall not nullify any election procedures conducted at any meetings where a quorum is present.

Article 6 - Record Keeping

Secretary will be responsible for keeping a copy of all club records.

Article 7 – Committees

- A. Standing Committees
 - a) **Safety Committee:** Shall be composed of all the Club Officers. Shall meet as necessary to discuss safety issues and process grievance issues.
 - b) **Nomination Committee:** Shall be composed of Nominating Committee Chairman and members of the active club membership appointed by the Chairman. Chairman will be selected by the President no later than August 1 of the current year.
- B. **Special Committees** - Shall be named by the Club Officers as needed.

Article 8 - Nominations and Elections

- A. Nominations - Shall be made by the Nomination Committee or by individual members following the final report of the Nominating Committee on Election Day.
- B. Elections - Shall be held annually at the November membership meeting of the current year. A quorum must be present in order to hold an election. Election will be based on majority vote of the quorum.

Article 9 - Miscellaneous Issues

- A. Fiscal Year - Shall be from January 1 to December 31.
- B. Expenditures - All expenditures in the name of the club over \$55.00 shall be paid by the Treasurer upon approval by the membership present at a club meeting.
- C. Transfer of records - Secretary will be responsible for transferring all records to newly elected Secretary before January 1st of the new year.
- D. Use of Club Logo - Club officers and Webmaster will have authorization to use the Club logo for official use. Club logo may be placed on all Club assets. Other uses, including but not limited to, apparel and decals, must be approved by the Club Officers.
- E. Dissolution of Club - Club may be dissolved with the approval of two-thirds vote of the active voting members. Upon the dissolution of the Club, the Club Officers shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Club, dispose of all the assets of the Club in such manner, to the AMA, or other non-profit organization as determined by the Club Officers.

Article 10 - Amendment of Bylaws

- A. Amendments may be made to these bylaws at any general meeting of the Club membership, provided the members have been notified, in writing or e-mail, at least thirty (15) days in advance that an amendment is to be considered. Copies of the proposed amendment shall be provided to all members via the Club Website the month before the vote.

Article 11 - Safety and Grievance Procedures

- A. Purpose - The grievance procedure provides a mechanism to help the club provide a safe environment for pilots and spectators. Although most complaints can be resolved informally within the club, if a complaint is serious or involves a non-club member, 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 a member of the Safety Committee. At least one witness is required to sign the Grievance Form. Although our Club cannot be responsible for the actions of other non-member flyers at the Winters Farm Flying Field, VSMA will be responsible for reporting safety violations of members and non-members to the Safety Committee.
- B. Safety Committee - Safety Committee shall use its judgment in carrying out action on the following:
 - a) A grievance form will be filled out and turned into a Safety Committee Member. At least one witness is required.
 - b) **FIRST VIOLATION** - A verbal reprimand will be given to the accused, whether a member or nonmember, by the Safety Committee, and this will be recorded in the Committees files.
 - c) **SECOND VIOLATION** - A verbal reprimand will again be given to the accused by the Safety Committee
The Committee may also recommend the accused fly under the supervision of club instructor until the instructor deems his flying acceptable. Details of violation and if instruction was accepted, will be noted in the Committees files.
 - d) **THIRD VIOLATION**
 - i. **Member** - Safety Committee will meet to discuss whether violation is worthy of expulsion. If the Committee chooses, a vote will be held at the next Club meeting to vote on the matter. The member may be expelled from the Club upon a majority vote of the quorum present. Voting will be by secret ballot. Expulsion will last for a one-year minimum. (Longer if deemed necessary by the Club Officers and Safety Committee). If member continues to fly at the Club Field the Safety Committee will notify the land owner in writing of the safety concerns.
 - ii. **Non-Member** -The Safety Committee will notify the land owner in writing of the safety concerns.