

# Midwest R/C Society AMA Charter #711

## CLUB BYLAWS

(Rev. 3/6/13)

**Club Name:** This club shall be known as the “Midwest R/C Society Inc.,” AMA Chapter #711; also known as “MRCS”

**Club Purpose:** MRCS shall be devoted to the development and flight of “radio” controlled model aircraft and equipment, and membership shall be open only to those showing a genuine interest in these principles.

### ARTICLE 1: DUTIES

#### 1. *President:*

- a. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and shall act as a spokesperson in all matters pertaining to it.
- b. Appoint members of any and all committees.
- c. Enforce any and all by-laws.
- d. Hold no other club office other than President at any one time.

#### 2. *Vice-President:*

- a. The Vice-President shall act for the President when he/she is unable to serve, and preside at all meetings not attended by the President.

#### 3. *Secretary:*

- a. The Secretary shall record minutes of each Club meeting.
- b. Handle all correspondence pertaining to Club activities. He/she will also be the Club’s contact person with AMA in case of questions, problems or situations.
- c. Maintain an active and current MRCS membership roster and publish said roster annually for membership use.
- d. Renew MRCS legal commitments as required, e.g., AMA charter renewal.

#### 4. *Treasurer:*

- a. The Treasurer shall collect all moneys due and shall disburse and keep a record of moneys disbursed by the Club.
- b. Deliver Treasurer’s report at MRCS monthly meetings.

#### 5. *Field Marshall:*

- a. The Field Marshall shall be responsible for establishing “mowing crews” and “mowing equipment maintenance crews”.
- b. He/She is to ensure that the field is properly maintained and recommend improvement/changes.

#### 6. *Safety Officer:*

- a. The Safety Officer shall be responsible for chairing the safety committee and ensuring existing rules are enforced. This includes processing the grievance forms and following the existing grievance procedure documented in the by-laws.

7. *Directors at Large (3):*

- a. The three (3) Directors at Large shall meet with the officers at all board meetings, provided input and vote on all issues brought up at the board meeting.

**ARTICLE 2: AUDIT**

1. The President or his appointees will make a periodic audit of the Treasurer's books.

**ARTICLE 3: TERMS OF OFFICE**

1. All elected officers of the Club shall serve for one (1) year date of election. Officers are to be elected by a vote of simple majority of those present at the regular meeting in the month of November. Mail-in ballots will be made available for those members who have voting rights but cannot attend the meeting. Those ballots, returned by mail before the November meeting, will be counted as if those persons were present at the meeting. New officers will take office immediately after the December meeting.
2. Nomination of Club officers shall be made at the general membership meeting during the month of October. Nominations for office may be made by any active Club member holding voting rights, either in person or by submitting a proxy nomination to an existing officer. All known nominations for office will be published in the newsletter prior to the election.
3. A secret ballot is required for elections, for removal of a Club officer, and for expulsion of a member from the Club unless waived by a simple majority vote of the members present at the meeting.

**ARTICLE 4: VACANCIES**

1. Vacancies in any office shall be filled by appointment by the remaining officers, such appointee to serve until the end of the term for which is predecessor was elected.

**ARTICLE 5: COMMITTEE**

1. The committee of the Club shall be appointment by the President and may be approved by a simple majority vote of the members present at a meeting (if a vote is requested), to serve throughout the term, or less, of his tenure of office. Standing Committees are the Safety Committee and the Field Maintenance Committee.

**ARTICLE 6: MEETINGS**

1. Regular meetings shall be held at a time and place designated by the Club officers and published in the Club newsletter.
2. Club officers may call special meetings with no less than five days prior written notice of a special meeting. The purpose of the special meeting shall be stated in the written notice.
3. At any Club meeting a simple majority shall be over 50% of the members voting at the meeting.
4. Newsletter; The Club publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "The Midwest RC Monitor" featuring meeting minutes, coming events, meeting notices, used equipment for sale or wanted, and other club news.

## **ARTICLE 7: DUES AND MEMBERSHIP**

1. The annual dues to be paid to the Club shall be determined by the Club officers with the approval of a simple majority vote. Dues are non-refundable, except under extraordinary circumstances, which will be determined by the Club officers on a case-by-case basis. Dues are to be paid no later than the January Club meeting.
2. No special assessment shall be levied upon the Club membership, unless it is approved by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present at the regular monthly meeting, and the members have been given five (5) days prior notice along with an explanation of the assessment.
3. New members who join in August through December will pay initiation fee and rates of the current yearly dues. This will cover the membership dues until the end of the following year.
4. A member shall be in arrears and shall not be considered active if his/her dues have not been paid as provided in Article 7, Section 1. Any member who allows their membership to lapse beyond March 1 of any year shall be considered a *new member* when renewing their membership and will not be given preference over any other applicant should a membership waiting list be in existence.
5. Types of membership and limits on the total number of members shall be determined by the Club officers and approved by a vote of two thirds (2/3) majority of the members present at the meeting.
6. Membership acceptance and renewal shall be contingent upon active, demonstrated participation in MRCS activities. All members will serve on at least one MRCS activity and/or committee. Failure to comply can result in loss of membership privileges.

## **ARTICLE 8: MEMBER STANDING**

1. All persons shall be eligible for membership, and shall agree to abide by the Club's bylaws, and those of the AMA.
2. The membership shall be divided into the following categories:
  - a. Senior Member: Is eighteen (18) years old or older and has full privileges and voting rights. Dues: Full Member rate plus AMA Membership.
  - b. Junior Member: Is younger than eighteen (18) years old, has full privileges and voting rights. Dues: Junior Member rate plus AMA Membership
  - c. Associate Membership: Includes all flying members of the immediate family (spouse and children). They have full privileges and voting rights. Dues: One (1) Full Membership, plus AMA Membership for each flying member.
  - d. Life Member: Nominated by the membership for outstanding contribution to club activities. Dues: Free club membership, plus AMA Membership.
  - d. Probationary Member: A new member within the first calendar year of membership. This member is not eligible for elected office; however they may serve the Club in an appointed position. Member has full voting rights at Club meetings. Membership dues are per the rate structure, published in the newsletter. Only one newsletter per family address per month.
3. Flying members are required to have a current AMA membership. All first-time flying member applicants, as well as present flying members seeking membership renewal, must show proof of current AMA membership.

4. All new MRCS members will be required demonstrate their proficiency in the safe operation of model aircraft prior to being granted “pilot” status. Additionally, all new MRCS members must be familiarized with the current MRCS field rules. An MRCS officer or flight instructor must verify said proficiency and field familiarization prior to the issuance of a MRCS membership card by the Secretary.

5. Any member receiving a safety Grievance as stated in Article 16, who is involved in non-flying violations, or who has key information of a non-flying violation and withholds it from the officers, may at the officer’s discretion be placed on probation for one (1) year regardless of his or her tenure in the Club.

#### **ARTICLE 9: 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 officers, become the responsibility of the officers. Any individual may be expelled from membership from the Club by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the officers if, in the officers 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 officers

5. The officers 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 10: AMENDMENTS**

1. Amendments may be made to the Constitution and these bylaws at any general meeting of the Club membership, provided the members shall have been notified in writing at least five (5) days in advance that the amendments are to be considered, publication in club news letter constitutes notification. Copies of the proposed amendments shall be provided to all members as part of the notification. Amendments shall be approved by no less than a two third (2/3) majority vote of the members present, at the regular monthly meeting. Mail-in ballots will be made available for those Full members who cannot attend the meeting. Those ballots, returned by mail before the next meeting, will be counted as if those persons were present at the meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 11: SPECIAL FUNDS**

1. The Treasurer of the Club is authorized to receive contributions or specially obtained funds from any individual or institution, to be applied to the operating expenses of the Club.
2. The President will have discretionary spending, of up to \$500.00 without requiring Club approval.

#### **ARTICLE 12: DURATION**

1. The duration of this Club shall be perpetual.

#### **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: INCORPORATION**

1. The incorporation of this membership shall be a minimum of three (3) of the four (4) elected officers.

#### **ARTICLE 15: LOGO**

1. The official Club logo shall be:



#### **ARTICLE 16: GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (FLIGHT AND GROUND**

## **SAFETY RULES)**

### *1. Purpose*

The grievance procedure provides a mechanism to enforce existing safety 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 Safety Committee Chairman. At least one witness is required to sign the Grievance Form.

### *2. Safety Committee*

The Safety Committee shall use its judgment in carrying out action on the following:

(a) A grievance form (see page 6) will be filled out and turned into the Safety Committee Chairman. 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 Safety Committee, 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 Committee.
- c. If the Committee 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. Committee 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 officers' ).
- 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 officers' .

## **Midwest R/C Society Club Grievance Form**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time : \_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Violation:

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Witnesses (not required):

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**ARTICLE 16: Field Usage and Guest**

1. The flying field(s) obtained by MRCS shall be used exclusively by current membership.
2. Guest are permitted for flying purpose up to a maximum of three (3) visits per guest per calendar year ( other than contest or fly-ins).
3. Guest must be AMA licensed and be familiarized with the MRCS field rules.