

**MIDLANDS STRIPER CLUB  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I**

**Name and Purpose**

**Section 1: Purpose**

Midlands Striper Club is a family oriented club open to all interested in striped bass fishing. Our purpose is to stimulate public awareness of striper fishing as a major sport, to offer our state conservation department our organized moral and political support and encouragement, to promote full adherence to all conservation codes and demand adequate water standards, to improve our skills as striper anglers through fellowship and friendly exchange of striper catching techniques and ideas.

Midlands Striper Club will comply with all Federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to non-discrimination and equal opportunity. Midlands Striper Club welcomes all people to join the membership, participate in leadership, and engage in Club activities and will not discriminate against any person on the basis of age, gender, race, ethnicity, creed, sexual orientation, color, physical condition, or national origin. However, to assure a fair competition, participation in tournaments and other events may be limited on the basis of gender and age.

**ARTICLE II**

**Membership**

**Section 1: Requirements for Membership**

To become an Active member, a person shall:

- a. Submit a membership application to the club secretary or other MSC officer.
- b. Pay their annual membership dues as set by the PAC at the time they complete their membership application. (Membership fee for new members joining after July 1 will be one-half the normal annual fee until the next calendar year begins.)
- c. Possess a valid state fishing license with no record of fish law violations for twelve (12) months from date of membership application.
- d. Sign an application as a verification that prospective member is in compliance with item c. above.

## **Section 2: Termination of Membership**

A person's paid-up membership may be terminated for only the following reasons:

- a. For any action that would reflect dishonor and disgrace on this club, as determined by 3/4 vote of all members present at any monthly meeting.
- b. For any accumulation within 12 months of 12 points of infractions as set forth in Article 2, Section 4: Membership Infractions, item e.

Regardless of points accumulated, if a member appears before the Board of Directors more than four times within a 24month period, the Board has the authority to revoke or suspend membership.

## **Section 3: Membership/Guest Restrictions**

The following membership and guest restrictions apply:

- a. Members and their families are considered as Active upon payment of dues and any initiation fees as set forth by the club. Members not paying annual dues by February of any calendar year are considered as Inactive members and may not vote in any club meeting, or participate in any club tournament except as a guest of an Active member.
- b. Inactive members may reclaim their continuous Active status by paying all back dues owed.
- c. Only Active members may vote (one vote per household, unless more than one member has paid annual dues), and only Active members and their families may be entered in the Team Of The Year Competition. The spouse, significant other and/or dependent children of an Active member are entitled to all Active membership benefits.
- d. Membership is closed to any applicant with a conviction for a fish law violation within twelve months of application.
- e. Active members are encouraged to bring guests to meetings and to invite them to fish with the club. However, after attending three meetings and/or events annually, guests will be asked to submit application to join the club if they wish to continue participating.

#### **Section 4: Membership Infractions**

- a. Four Point Infractions
  - 1. Citations for boat lighting, PFD's, registration
  - 2. Using foul language on radio
- b. Eight Point Infractions
  - 1. Fish possession violation (over limit, undersize)
  - 2. Fishing without a license
  - 3. Discharging or possessing a firearm illegally on waterway
  - 4. Setting a bad example while wearing club logo (subject to interpretation by Board of Directors)
  - 5. Harassment of other fishermen
  - 6. No wake/restricted area violation
- c. Twelve Point Infractions
  - 1. Citation for sale of game fish
  - 2. Illegally taking game or gamefish (trapping, trot-lining, shooting, shocking, explosives, etc.)
  - 3. Negligent boat operation endangering others or operation under the influence of alcohol or controlled/illegal substances
  - 4. Captain's failure to render assistance to any vessel in danger of sinking/capsizing on the water, or when a channel 16 SOS has been broadcast on VHF radio.
  - 5. Willful tournament cheating (adding weights to fish, attempting to defraud tournament director(s), pre-catching fish with intent of entering pre-caught fish)
  - 6. Loss of license through game and/or fish law violations
  - 7. Resisting arrest for fish violations by use of force, attempting escape
  - 8. Falsifying information for acceptance to club or failure to inform Board of Directors of violations.
- d. Points will be removed from a member's record one year from date of issue.
- e. Any member receiving twelve or more points will automatically be referred to the Board of Directors for review and possible loss of membership privileges.

## **Section 5: Active Membership Recognition**

Members with continuous active membership in the club, as well as any awarded lifetime status, shall be recognized as follows at the regular monthly Club meeting in January.

a. Lifetime Status - awarded with all future dues waved to any member deemed to have made significant contributions to the Club as determined by vote of 2/3 majority of membership present at the December meeting in secret ballot. Nominations must be made no later than the regular monthly Club meeting during November. Ballots shall be distributed for secret vote of membership present at the regular monthly Club meeting in December, with award made during the regular monthly Club meeting during January.

b. Brian Thomas Spirit Award - honors those truly special individuals who are constantly involved in the club and its activities while displaying the positive, caring attitude and interest in others and striper fishing that made all who met Brian Thomas call him their friend. Award is presented at the discretion of the club through committee. The BTSA selection committee is appointed annually by the club president. It shall consist of one club officer, one PAC member, and two at-large members of the club. In the event of a tie vote, the President or Vice President of the club will be called upon to break the tie. Deadline for nominations to receive the award is MSC's annual December meeting. Nominations must be in writing and anyone wishing to make a nomination may get a BTSA nomination form from the MSC Secretary or Treasurer.

BTSA Criteria:

- Must be a dedicated club member - involved in the club and its activities
- Must exert a positive influence on the club and sport
- Must have been a member for at least a full year
- Must be a member in good standing
- Cannot have received the award in the prior five years.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Officers, Elections, Vacancies and Eligibility**

#### **Section 1: Officers and Projects and Conservation Committee**

The officers of the club shall consist of:

a. President -- presides over all meetings and directs all official business. Supervises all club functions.

b. Vice President -- assists the President in his duties and presides in the absence of the President. The vice president also coordinates programs and guest speakers for all meetings throughout the year.

c. Secretary -- maintains accurate minutes of all meetings, reports at each meeting; handles club correspondence and bylaws/tournament rules changes, working with newsletter/webmaster.

d. Treasurer - is responsible for issuing checks and collecting funds while maintaining accurate financial records and reports at each meeting.

e. Tournament Director(s) - sets tournament schedule and conducts all official club tournaments in accordance with the club tournament rules.

f. Parliamentarian -- maintains order at club meetings, following Robert's Rules of Order.

g. Projects and Conservation Committee – The PAC committee is the legislative decision making body for the club. The PAC assists in the operation and running of club tournaments, conservation, legislative and membership/sponsorship projects; consists of all club officers and tournament director(s), plus six members-at-large elected from the general MSC Active membership during election of officers; PAC chairman shall be appointed from the full PAC by the MSC President, who sits on PAC but votes only in case of a tie vote.

## **Section 2: Elections**

The election of officers shall be held annually at a regular meeting during the month of December. Election shall be by simple majority of members present.

## **Section 3: Term of Office**

Officers shall serve for one calendar year, January 1 through the last day in December, or until successor assumes office.

## **Section 4: Vacancies**

In the event of an office or committee appointment becoming vacant, nominations shall be asked for and an election held to fill the unexpired term at the next regular meeting by simple majority vote.

## **Section 5: Eligibility**

To be eligible to hold club office or serve on a committee, a person must have been an active member for 6 months prior to the date of the election.

# **ARTICLE IV**

## **Method of Amending Constitution and Bylaws**

Any active member seeking possible bylaw changes must notify an officer or PAC committee member in writing of their proposal no later than September of the current year.

Submission for possible bylaws revisions will be reviewed by the PAC committee.

Upon PAC committee concurrence, the proposed Amendment will be posted prominently on the MSC website and/or forum at least two weeks prior to the regular club meeting at which a vote is to be held. The revision shall be brought before club membership vote. A vote in favor of the amendment by 2/3 majority of eligible membership present as defined in Article II Section 3c. above is required to pass the amendment.

Any Amendments passed will go into effect January 1, of the following calendar year.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall consist of the elected club officers and the Tournament Director(s). The Board shall serve as the advisory group for the President. The Board shall have sole authority over any tournament or membership protest. (Active members with questions about actions, eligibility or Active status of another member or guest are asked to bring their concerns, in private, to the President or a member of the Board.)

Last Amended – January 2017