

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF
NATIONAL RETRIEVER CLUB, INCORPORATED
~~As revised November 15, 1971 and as amended November 10, 1985, November 15,
1987, November 13, 1988~~

ARTICLE I
Name

Section 1. The name of this Club shall be the NATIONAL RETRIEVER CLUB, INCORPORATED.

ARTICLE II
Objects

Section 1. The objects of this Club shall be:

- (a) To promote the breeding and field training and to protect and advance the interests of pure-bred retrievers of all breeds.
- (b) To conduct each year one Field Trial, to be known as the National Championship Stake, open to retrievers which qualify therefore under the rules of the American Kennel Club, and the rules and By-Laws of this Club.
- (c) To do all such acts and things as are incident to or conducive to the premises noted in (a) and (b) above, and generally do all acts and things, and to exercise all the powers now and hereafter authorized by law necessary to carry on the said corporation or to promote any of the objects of said corporation, all of which shall be conducted without pecuniary profits.

ARTICLE III
Membership

Section 1. Any Club authorized by the American Kennel Club to hold a Member Field Trial or a Licensed Field Trial is eligible to submit to the Secretary of this Club a written application or letter requesting to be a Member Club, of this, the National Retriever Club. Upon receipt of such application or letter by the Secretary of this Club, said application or letter shall be put before the Board of Directors of this Club for consideration of

membership. Upon a majority vote of the Board of Directors for membership and upon the payment by the requesting club of the established initiation fee and established annual dues, said Club shall become a Member Club of this the National Retriever Club.

~~Any Club, which holds an American Kennel Club member or licensed retriever trial during the year prior may be invited to join by a majority vote of the members of this Club, and, if so invited, the Secretary shall forthwith extend such invitation to such Club, and upon acceptance by such Club and payment of the initiation fee, shall forthwith become a member of this Club, and may thereupon designate in writing one of the its members to become a delegate, and, as such delegate, to represent it as member of this Club.~~

Section 2. As a new Member Club of this, the National Retriever Club, said new Member Club shall have all of the rights, privileges and responsibilities as all other Member Clubs and may thereupon designate in writing one of its members to become its delegate, and, as such delegate, to represent said Member Club as a member of this Club.

~~Any Club being an American Kennel Club member and having a licensed retriever trial, desiring to become a member of this Club, shall submit to the Secretary of this Club a written application to be a member of this Club, and upon receipt of the initial fee, shall forthwith become a member of this Club, and may thereupon designate in writing one of its members to become a delegate, and, as such delegate, to represent it as a member of this Club.~~

Section 3. Any Club which is a Member Club may from time to time change its delegate to this Club by revoking in writing its designation and designating in writing another of its members to become a delegate, and, as such delegate, to represent it as member of this Club.

Section 4. Each Member Club in good standing shall be entitled to one vote by its delegate or by written proxy at all meetings of this Club. No person can represent more than three (3) Clubs as a delegate or by proxy.

Section 5. Each Member Club and each delegate shall receive a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE IV
Initiation Fees and Dues

Section 1. The amount of the initiation fee and annual dues may be changed at any Annual Meeting. If no action is taken at any meeting, they shall continue in amounts as last previously established. Notice and demand for payment of such dues shall be given by the Treasurer to each Member Club on ~~January~~ May 1 of the year to which the dues are applicable and shall be payable forthwith upon receipt of such notice and demand. Nothing in this Section shall be construed as preventing the Member Clubs at the Annual Meeting, by majority vote of delegates and proxies present, from ~~according~~ granting to the Board of Directors the authority to fix the initiation fee or dues within specified limits.

ARTICLE V
Resignation

Section 1. Any Member Club in good standing and not indebted to this Club may, in writing, resign at any time and upon receipt thereof, such resignation shall take effect immediately.

ARTICLE VI
Non-Payment of Fees and Dues

Section 1. Any Member Club whose dues are unpaid as of September 1 of any given year shall be declared to be delinquent. Any Member Club whose dues remain unpaid on October 1 of any given year shall be notified by the Treasurer of this Club of such delinquency and shall further be notified that if such dues remain unpaid for thirty (30) days after forwarding said notice, that said Member Club will be subject to being voted out as a Member Club and dropped from the roll of this Club. Said notice shall be sent to said Member Club's Secretary by U.S. Mail and/or email on file with this Club's secretary. After said thirty (30) day period and after confirmation of the receipt of said notice by the Member Club's Secretary, the Board of Directors, by a majority vote, may remove said

Member Club as a Member Club and said Club shall thereupon be removed from the roll of this Club.

~~Any Member Club whose dues remain unpaid on November 15 of the current year, that Club's Secretary and that Club's delegate shall be notified by the Secretary by registered mail to their last known addresses, and, if such dues remain unpaid for thirty (30) days after receiving the notice, such member Club shall be dropped from the roll of this Club.~~

Section 2. If a Member Club's dues are in arrears at the time of the Annual Meeting of the ~~NRC~~ National Retriever Club, the ~~Secretary~~/Treasurer of the ~~NRC~~ National Retriever Club shall give notice ~~that the~~ by oral announcement that the concerned Member Club may ~~will~~ be dropped from the rolls of the ~~NRC~~ National Retriever Club and that championship points earned at the Club's Field Trials in the following year will not be counted in qualification for the National Championship Stake if the delinquent dues are not paid.

ARTICLE VII Suspension and Expulsion

Section 1. ~~The member Club~~ A Member Club may be suspended or expelled by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of ~~this~~ the National Retriever Club ~~may suspend or expel any member Club~~ for conduct on its part, or its delegate's part, which, in the opinion of the Member Clubs, ~~members~~ endangers the welfare or character of this, the National Retriever Club. No Member Club shall be suspended or expelled without the opportunity to appear and defend itself.

ARTICLE VIII Government

Section 1. The control and general management of this Club shall be vested in the voting members of the Board of Directors, consisting of the officers of this Club, i.e., the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. Also included on the Board of Directors as voting members will be the Directors from the other two zones not covered by the President and Vice-President. Non-voting members of the Board will be the previous year's President of the Club and the Field Trial Chairman for the current year's National

Championship Stake. ~~Incoming Director for the current years National Champion Stake as well as for the following years National Championship Stake.~~

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall have full power to conduct the business of this Club and shall have complete control over its property, policies and any and all of its business dealings.

Section 3. Officers of this Club may or may not be delegates to this Club, but must be members of one of the Clubs, which is a Member Club in good standing of this Club. The officers of this Club shall consist of the following:

- (a) A President, who must be a resident of the ~~Time~~ Zone, ~~(as defined in Article X Section 1 of Article X hereof)~~ herein, in which the National Championship Stake shall be conducted during his/her term of office.
- (b) A Vice-President, who must be a resident of the ~~Time~~ Zone, ~~(as defined in Article X Section 1 of Article X hereof)~~ herein, in which the next succeeding National Championship Stake is to be conducted.
- (c) A Secretary and Treasurer, both of which offices may be held by the same individual, who may be elected irrespective of residence.

Section 4. The Officers and Board of Directors shall be elected by ~~plurality~~ a majority vote of the Member Clubs at a meeting to be called annually by the President to be held in conjunction with the National Championship Stake, for a term of one (1) year, commencing at the conclusion of that year's National Championship Stake ~~at the time of their election~~ and serving until the conclusion of the following year's National Championship Stake. The slate of Officers and Board of Directors to be voted on by the Member Clubs shall be selected by a majority vote of the current year's voting members of the Board of Directors. Before a vote by the Member Clubs, the floor may be opened for additional nominations.

- Section 5. The President shall preside at all meetings of this Club, and of the Board of Directors. He/she shall have power to appoint committees, ~~such as the Nominating Committee (which shall consist of the current President and the three preceeding Presidents of the National Retriever Club~~ conduct investigations and to carry out any other duties or actions necessary to carry out the objectives of the National Retriever Club as outlined in Article II above. He/she shall be a member of all committees and shall perform all the duties incident and customary to his/her position and office, or which are required by law. The President shall be a member of the Field Trial Committee.
- Section 6. The Vice-President, in the absence of or inability of the President, shall perform all the duties of the President, and shall be a member of the Field Trial Committee.
- Section 7. The Secretary shall keep a complete record of all Member Clubs and of their delegates, the address of the Secretary of each Member Club ~~with their addresses~~, and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by this Club. The Secretary ~~He/she~~ shall review the credentials of any new Club requesting ~~candidates for~~ membership and upon acceptance of such credentials and receipt of the necessary initiation fee and annual dues, ~~he/she~~ the Secretary shall request the Board of Directors for a vote on said Club's membership ~~notify each candidate of its election.~~ ~~He/she~~ The Secretary shall notify the Member Clubs and the Board of Directors of this Club, in writing, of all meetings of the ~~and the~~ Member Clubs, giving the time and place thereof. He/she shall be custodian of the seal and records of this Club and perform all duties customary to his/her office, and shall also be a member of the Field Trial Committee.
- Section 8. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due to or belonging~~s~~ to this Club and shall send out all notices ~~determining~~ regarding dues and assessments. He/she shall deposit all moneys in such banks as shall be designated by the Board of Directors in the name of the National Retriever Club. He/she shall have authority to sign checks for the withdrawal of funds from the National Retriever Club's bank accounts. The same

authority is given to the President, or to the Vice-President, whom the Directors designate. His/her books shall at all times be open to inspection by the delegate of any Member Club, and he/she shall report to the Member Clubs and to the Board of Directors at every meeting the condition of the finances of this Club, when requested to do so. He/she shall prepare a report of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. This report shall be completed as soon as possible after the end of the fiscal year and shall be presented by the Treasurer ~~delivered to the Secretary for presentation~~ at the next succeeding Annual Meeting. He/she shall perform such other duties as may be directed by the Board of Directors and shall be a member of the Field Trial Committee.

Section 9. The fiscal year of the Club shall end on ~~December~~ April 30 of each year.

ARTICLE IX Meetings

Section 1. The Annual Meeting of Member Clubs shall take place each year on the day before the first day of the National Championship Stake, at a location which shall be as close as practicable to the location of such Stake, and at such time as shall be designated by the President. As far as possible, the time and place shall be such as to be convenient to, but not in conflict with, the meeting of the Retriever Advisory Committee of the American Kennel Club.

Section 2. Special meetings of this Club may be called as follows:

- (a) By the President
- (b) Upon receipt of requests in writing from not less than five (5) Member Clubs.
- (c) Before any special meeting is held, the Secretary shall forward all Member Clubs notice by U.S. Mail and/or email on file with this Club, designating the time and place of the meeting and stating the purpose thereof. Such notice shall be forwarded at least thirty (30) days before the scheduled meeting. The time, date, and location of any meeting shall be set by the President.

- ~~(a) By the President on thirty (30) days written notice to all Member Clubs and their delegates, designating the time and place and stating the purpose thereof:~~
~~(b) Upon receipt of requests in writing from not less than five (5) member Clubs it shall be the duty of the Secretary of this Club to call and duly give notice of any meeting of this Club stating the purpose thereof.~~

Section 3. The majority of Member Clubs must be represented by their delegates or written proxy to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 4. Thirty (30) days advanced ~~written~~ notice by U.S. Mail or email on file with this Club of each Annual Meeting shall be given to each Member Club ~~and each delegate~~ by the Secretary of this Club.

Section 5. As indicated in Article VIII Sections 3 and 4 above, at the meeting to be called annually by the President to be held in conjunction with the National Championship Stake, the Member Clubs of the National Retriever Club, by a majority vote ~~plurality~~ of those represented by delegates or by written proxy shall elect a Board of Directors consisting of the President ~~(from the Time Zone of the next year's current National Championship Stake),~~ the Vice-President from the ~~next year's Time Zone of the National Championship Stake) to be held in two (2) years),~~ ~~as well as the incoming director from the Time Zone of the current year's National Championship Stake and the incoming director from the following year's Championship Stake~~ the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Directors from ~~of~~ the remaining two Zones. ~~As well as the Incoming Director from the Time Zone of the current years National Championship Stake and the Incoming Director of the following years Championship Stake.~~ The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the control and general management of the National Retriever Club. The Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of one year commencing at the conclusion of that year's National Championship Stake and serving ~~commencing at the time of their election at the general meeting of the NRC~~ until the conclusion of the following years National Championship Stake.

Section 6. The Board of Directors shall select three judges for the National Championship Stake to be held during the following calendar year. The judges shall be Amateurs, thoroughly experienced in handling and training of retrievers and in the requirements of retriever work, and each of them shall have judged at least ~~eight~~ twenty (20) stakes carrying Championship points at American Kennel Club licensed or Member Club Trials. It is recommended but not a requirement, that any judge selected have previously handled a dog in a least one (1) National Championship Stake or National Amateur Championship Stake. In the event that any of the persons selected as judges are unable to serve, or resigns, the Board of Directors shall have power to make further appointments. There is no residence requirement in the selection of the judges. However, it is contemplated that when, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, such a course would in no way adversely affect the Stake, the three judges would ordinarily be selected from the three zones, respectively, other than that in which the National Championship Stake, for which the judges are selected, is to be held.

Section 7. Vacancies occurring ~~in~~ on the Board of Directors and the respective offices in connection therewith, may be filled by a majority vote of the remainder of the Board of Directors for the respective unexpired term of the individual being replaced. The replacement Board of Director or Officer should meet ~~by appointment of a replacement Director meeting~~ the residential requirements of the Director or Officer whom he/she replaces.

Section 8. Appointment of the Field Trial Committee

- (a) Prior to the Annual Meeting each year the Board of Directors shall appoint, by a majority vote, a Field Trial Committee for the upcoming National Championship Stake. ~~The Board of Directors at their annual meeting shall elect a Field Trial Committee.~~ The Field Trial Committee shall be responsible for the conduct and management of the National Championship Stake. The Field Trial Committee shall be elected for a term commencing from the time of their appointment by the Board

of Directors until the conclusion of their duties as outlined in the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Retrievers. ~~December 31st of that year~~ The Field Trial Committee shall consist of the Field Trial Chairman, ~~(who must be a resident of the~~ ~~Time Zone in~~ which the National Championship Stake is held), the Chief Marshal(s), all Assistant Chief Marshalls, the voting members of the Board of Directors, ~~of the~~ ~~NRC~~ and any other person appointed by the Board of Directors needed to ensure efficient management of the National Championship Stake.

- (b) The Field Trial Committee shall have full charge and authority over the conduct of the National Championship Stake to be held in that calendar year subject to the Policies ~~procedures~~ for the conduct of such trials as may be adopted or amended by the Board of Directors ~~member-Clubs~~ of the National Retriever Club ~~NRC from~~ ~~time to time~~. In the event of a tie vote of the Field Trial Committee, the vote of the President of the National Retriever Club ~~NRC~~ shall determine the action of the Field Trial Committee.
- (c) In the event that a member (or members) of the Field Trial Committee for any reason cannot be present for the entire National Championship Stake, the Board of Directors may appoint an additional member (or members as the case may be). It is suggested but not a requirement that the replacement member(s) be from the same Time Zone as the Field Trial Committee member being replaced.

ARTICLE X The National Championship Stake

Section 1. For purposes of conducting the National Championship Stake, the country shall be divided into four Zones as follows:

- (a) The ATLANTIC ZONE comprising the states of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Maryland,

Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

- (b) The EAST CENTRAL ZONE comprising the states of Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Wisconsin, Illinois, Mississippi, Minnesota, ~~(plus Fargo, North Dakota and that portion of North Dakota lying within the radius of 30 miles of Fargo)~~ Iowa, Arkansas, Louisiana and Missouri ~~(except for Kansas City, Missouri, and that portion of Missouri lying within a radius of 30 miles of Kansas City).~~
- (c) The WEST CENTRAL ZONE comprising of the states of North Dakota ~~(except for Fargo and that portion of North Dakota lying within a radius of 30 miles of Fargo)~~, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas ~~(plus Kansas City, Missouri and that portion of Missouri lying within a radius of 30 miles of Kansas City)~~, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.
- (d) The PACIFIC ZONE comprising the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and Alaska.

Section 2. The site of the National Championship Stake shall be rotated annually between the various sections of the country, on the following basis:

- (a) In 1969 the National Championship Stake shall be held at a site in the Atlantic Zone to be designated by the Field Trial Committee.
- (b) In each succeeding year, the site of the National Championship Stake should be selected by the Board of Directors ~~Field Trial Committee~~ in Zones according to the following ~~scheduled of~~ rotation:
 - (1) EAST CENTRAL
 - (2) PACIFIC
 - (3) WEST CENTRAL
 - (4) ATLANTIC-etc.

Notwithstanding the above, if the Board of Directors after reasonable effort ~~is~~ are unable to obtain a site in the prescribed Zone, which it considers suitable for the National Championship Stake, ~~such~~ the Board of Directors may select a site in another Zone provided that the consent of the voting Board of Director Member from that Zone is obtained. In selecting such site, care should be exercised that: 1) no site will be used in two consecutive years, and 2) return to the prescribed schedule of rotation can be most promptly and easily accomplished.

Section 3. Number of Contestants, Eligibility, and Entry Fees:

(a) Contestants shall be limited to the following:

- (1) The winner of all ~~the?~~ previous year's National Championship Stakes.

This issue will be decided by separate vote before the revised By-Laws are voted on.

- (2) The winner of the current year's National Championship Stake of Canada if reciprocal qualification for the Canadian National Championship Stake held that year was granted to current National Champion of the U.S.A ~~and~~.

- (3) Those dogs which win a first place carrying five championship points plus two additional championship points in Open or Limited or Special or Restricted All-Age Stakes in trials that are approved by the AKC American Kennel Club as a Member Field Trial or a Licensed Field Trial. Said trials must be held within the year preceding the National Championship Stake and must be ~~which are held staged~~ by Clubs which are members of the National Retriever Club. ~~of or licensed by the American Kennel Club.~~ For purposes of this sub-paragraph three (3) the words "held within the year preceding the National Championship Stake" are hereby defined to mean: trials that start on or after the first Thursday following the conclusion of the previous year's National Championship Stake and trials that conclude no later than the Sunday preceding the start of the current

year's National Championship Stake. Under extenuating circumstances, the Board of Directors, by a majority vote, may extend the cutoff beyond Sunday.

- (4) The winner of the National Amateur Championship Stake that is held the same year as the National Championship Stake. Dogs qualifying under this paragraph (4) must be handled by an Amateur in the National Championship Stake.
- (5) If a judge of the previous year's National Championship Stake or any member of that judge's family had a dog or dogs qualified for that year's National Championship Stake but was unable to compete due to the ~~NRC~~ National Retriever Club Judging Commitment, then that dog or dogs shall be qualified to run in the next succeeding year's National Championship Stake. For the purposes of clarification, the words "any member of that judge's family" shall include spouse, a sibling, a parent or a child whether natural or adopted, of the judge in question.

- ~~(b) No placement in trials which are run later than the week end preceding the National Championship Stake shall be considered in determining eligibility for the National Championship Stake.~~ Each entrant must pay an entry fee, determined by the Board of Directors of the ~~NRC~~ National Retriever Club.

~~(c) Each entrant must pay an entry fee, determined by the Board of Directors of the NRC National Retriever Club.~~

Section 4. Duration of Trial:

- (a) There shall be ten series equally divided between land and water unless the judges deem additional series on either land or water are necessary. The work of contestants on land and in water shall be given equal weight.
- (b) If, and only if weather conditions are such as to make it impractical to have at least five series on land and at least five series in water, the members of the Field Trial Committee and the Judges present by a two-thirds vote may in their discretion alter

this ratio of land and water series in such manner as they may deem fair and equitable to all contestants under the circumstance. Then, as far as they consistently can, the judges shall give equal weight to land and water work.

Section 5. Order of Running: Departures from the order of the draw or the order of the draw as rotated, are permitted:

- (a) When in the opinion of the Judges or the Field Trial Committee, such will result in a reasonable or desirable saving of time in the conduct of the trial. The final decision regarding such departures shall be with the Field Trial Committee.
- (b) When in the opinion of the Judges, such will avoid unfairness or prejudice to any competing dog resulting from an event which has occurred in the trial.

~~The Judges and/or the Chief Marshall in conjunction with the Field Trial Committee may at any time change the order of running established by the draw to such an extent as in their judgment will prevent favor or prejudice that might arise were the order of the draw adhered to.~~

Section 6. Elimination of Contestants:

The American Kennel Club Standard Procedure for Non-Slip Retriever Trials shall govern the elimination of contestants. Contestants not eliminated in accordance with said procedure shall compete in all series, both on land and water, provided that the judges may eliminate any contestants proving in their unanimous judgment to be unworthy of further trial.

Section 7. Places and Prizes:

Only one dog shall be placed namely the winner. No cash prizes shall be awarded but the winner and the handler of the winner, may be awarded such trophies as the Club and the Board of Directors may decide upon.

ARTICLE XI
Seal

Section 1. The corporate seal of this Club shall be two concentric circles between which shall be inscribed New York 1941, and such seal as impressed on the margin hereof is hereby adopted as the corporate seal of this Club.

ARTICLE XII Amendments

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended at any scheduled meeting of the Member Clubs. Notice of any proposed amendments should be filed in writing with the Secretary by any committee appointed by the President, or by at least two Member Clubs in good standing, at least 55 days prior to any meeting, and a copy thereof shall be sent by the Secretary by U.S. Mail or email to each Member Club and to each delegate, at least 40 days before such meeting. Proposed amendments may also be submitted to the meeting without such notice being filed prior to the meeting.

Section 2. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Member Clubs represented at any meeting shall be necessary for the adoption of any amendment, notice of which has been given in accordance with Section 1. Any Club may vote on any By-Law Amendment, that has been proposed in writing, by mailing its vote to the Secretary ~~at least 10 days before such meeting~~ or by electronic ballot, such mail vote or electronic vote to be recorded as that Member Clubs vote in preference to any vote by its delegate or proxy. Amendments, notices of which have not been so given, shall be defeated if there are five votes against them.

ARTICLE XIII Policies of the National Retriever Club

The Board of Directors of the National Retriever Club shall from time to time pass resolutions at their annual meeting. These resolutions will be considered policies of the National Retriever Club to facilitate the performance of the National Championship Stake as well as the governance of the National Retriever Club. These resolutions will be documented in the minutes of the annual meeting of the National

Retriever Club Board of Directors and then included in the Policies of the National Retriever to be sent to all Directors each year.

Adopted 1941

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Revised November 10, 1985

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