

CONSTITUTION OF BLAIR COUNTY GAME, FISH AND FORESTRY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Article I

Name and Location

The Association shall be known as the Blair County Game, Fish, and Forestry Association, Inc.

Location: 301 Riggles Gap Sportsmen Road, Antis Township, Blair County, Pennsylvania.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

1. The purpose of this Association shall be the preservation and conservation of our game, insectivorous birds, fish, and our forest.
2. The promotion of good sportsmanship.
3. The encouragement of a greater respect and appreciation of the outdoors and all forms of wildlife.
4. The enactment and enforcement of legislation to protect these heritages.
5. The suppression of forest fires.
6. The promotion of all phases of sportsmanship.

No amendment or alteration of the Constitution or By-Laws of this Association shall be permitted that will in any way cause the above objects to become secondary to any other.

ARTICLE III

Government

Section 1. - OFFICERS. The officers of the Association shall be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Solicitor, and nine Directors, each of whom shall be a citizen of the United States of America, and reside in Blair County, Pennsylvania.

Section 2. - BOARD OF MANAGEMENT. The foregoing Offices shall constitute the Board of Management and shall perform the duties and have the power of Corporate Directors. It shall elect its own Presiding Officer at the first meeting of the Board following the annual election of Officers, and shall hold at least one meeting each month in addition to the regular monthly meeting of the Association.

Section 3. - ELECTION OF OFFICERS. The annual election of Officers shall be held on the first Thursday of each October. Nomination of Officers shall open at the September meeting of each year and be closed at that meeting.

Officers, excepting Directors, shall be elected for the fiscal year. Directors shall be elected for a period of three fiscal years in such manner that the office of three directors shall be filled each year.

No person shall be eligible for election to any office except those nominated at the September meeting.

No person shall be nominated unless he or she has agreed to serve in writing or is present at the nomination of officers and agrees at that meeting to serve.

Section 4. - VACANCIES. When an Officer shall have been absent for THREE consecutive meetings of the Association, or of the Board of Management, without sufficient excuse, the President shall declare the office vacant. Any vacancy of an office shall be filled by the Board of Management and shall be in office until the completion of the term for which the office declared vacant was elected. Such appointment shall be approved by the Association before same shall be effective.

Section 5. - STANDING COMMITTEES. The Conservation Committee, Activities Committee, Property Committee, and Budget Committee shall be standing committees. At the November meeting following the election, the President shall appoint a Chairman of each of the Standing Committees. The members thereof shall be appointed by the Chairman of each committee. Any committee failing to function at any time during the year may be replaced by the President at his discretion.

The Chairman of each Committee shall make a report at the regular monthly meeting of the Association.

Section 6. - FISCAL YEAR, The fiscal year shall begin on the first Friday of each October immediately following the election of Officers.

ARTICLE IV

Moved to Article I, Section 2 of Bylaws

ARTICLE V

Moved to Article IV, Sections 1, 2 & 3 of Bylaws

ARTICLE VI

Amendments and Alterations

No amendments or alterations of the Constitution shall be made unless the proposed amendments or alterations shall have been presented and read at THREE consecutive regular meetings and notice of same published in a newspaper of general circulation ten days or more prior to the meeting at which final action shall be taken.

BY-LAWS OF BLAIR COUNTY GAME, FISH AND FORESTRY ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE I

Meetings

Section 1. - The regular meeting of the Board of Management shall be held on the third Friday of each month, unless otherwise determined by the Board of Management and notice thereof provided to the membership (by posting on the club website and through social media). Special meetings can be held as necessary when the members of the Board of Management have been properly notified.

Section 2 - Monthly membership meetings shall be held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Such meetings shall be held at the Association Lodge, unless weather prevents, or meeting place is changed by the President, and due notice published.

ARTICLE II

Duties of the Officers

Section 1. - **PRESIDENT.** The president shall see that the business and activities of the Association are conducted in the interest of the members of the Association, and that the property of the Association is maintained and operated for their benefit and pleasure.

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association except the Board of Management and promote the general efficiency and well-being thereof. He shall appoint all Standing Committees and perform any other duties required of a President.

Section 2. - **VICE-PRESIDENT.** A Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence.

Section 3. - **TREASURER.** The Treasurer of the Association shall hold all funds of the Association except Trust Funds and pay the bills approved by the Association therefrom.

No invoice shall be paid by the Treasurer unless having attached thereto a sales slip signed by the purchaser. The Treasurer shall render a report at each regular meeting of the Association and when requested by the Board of Management.

Section 4. - **RECORDING SECRETARY.** The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Association and the Board of Management, and also a record of financial transactions and any amendments or additions to the Constitution or By-Laws. He or she shall conduct all correspondence as directed and file copies of the same. He or she shall render a report at each monthly meeting of the Association.

Section 5. - **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.** The Membership Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the membership and all data and facts pertaining thereto, collect all new membership and renewal Information. He/She shall issue a full report at each regular meeting of the Association regarding membership, etc., or when requested by the Board of Management.

Section 6. - **SOLICITOR.** The Solicitor shall act as legal advisor of the Association and transact all business requiring legal talent.

Section 7. - **BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.** The Board of Management shall maintain and administer all the property, effects, funds and other assets of the Association for the best interests of the members thereof, and for their benefit and enjoyment in accordance with the objects of the Association. No committee, group nor auxiliary shall be permitted to expend any funds or purchase any equipment without the consent of the Board of Management. The Board shall formulate all rules relative to the use of all property or equipment. In an emergency it may transact any of the business of the Association. Any five Officers may call a special meeting of the Board of Management.

ARTICLE III

Standing Committees

Section 1. - **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE.** The Conservation Committee shall have charge of the preservation and conservation of the wildlife, fish and all forms of vegetation on club grounds. The committee shall report on changes affecting the population and the health of the wildlife on our grounds, and the fish in our ponds and streams. The committee shall also report on the health of our forest, offer advice on timber cuts, and coordinate conservation projects with state agencies.

Section 2. - **ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE.** The Activities Committee shall be divided into seven subcommittees, via:

1. **TRAP SHOOTING COMMITTEE.** This Committee shall have charge of trap shooting activities: shall insure all equipment and facilities are properly maintained and adequate shooting supplies are available; shall maintain scoring records and reconcile all proceeds following each event; and shall render a monthly report to the Board of Directors.

2. **SPORTS COMMITTEE.** This Committee shall oversee all rifle, pistol, archery and novelty shooting at the different ranges; make sure a record of scores, prizes won, and proceeds obtained is kept, and render a monthly report to the Board.

3. **ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE.** This Committee, formerly known as the Auxiliary, shall have charge of organizing club dinners, membership picnics, parties, etc.; shall insure the equipment and kitchen facilities are properly maintained and keep necessary supplies for said events.

4. **PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.** This Committee shall have charge of publicity in connection with the activities and other matters of the Association. This includes, but is not limited to radio, print, website, Facebook, emails and newsletter.

5. **BLACK POWDER COMMITTEE.** This committee is also known as the Tuckahoe Valley Militia. This committee shall have charge of black powder shooting events, make sure a record of scores, prizes won, and proceeds obtained is kept, and render a monthly report to the Board.

6. **YOUTH SPORTS COMMITTEE.** This committee shall oversee all activities specifically designed for participants under the age of 18, including, but not limited to Air rifle and .22 rifle. The Committee Chair shall make sure the club is in compliance with state and federal guidelines in regard to working with minors.

7. EVENT COMMITTEE. This Committee shall have charge of large special events held such as Ox Roast Festival and Blair Women Take Aim. This Committee shall have oversight of all activities and shall coordinate the efforts of other committees and subcommittees.

A representative of each committee shall make a report at the regular monthly meeting of the Association.

Section 3. - PROPERTIES COMMITTEE. The Properties Committee shall see to the maintenance and improvement of the grounds, buildings, and equipment under the supervision of the Board of Management. The Committee shall render a report to the Board of Management upon request.

Section 4. - AUDITING COMMITTEE. The President may at any time appoint an Auditing Committee or Committees for such purposes.

Section 5. - BUDGET COMMITTEE. The Chairman of the Board of Management, subject to Board of Management approval, shall appoint a Budget Committee at the beginning of each fiscal year. The duties of this Committee shall be to prepare an annual operation budget for the Association for the fiscal year, and make their report at the January Board of Management meeting for approval.

ARTICLE IV

Memberships

Section 1. - ADULT MEMBERS. Any person 18 years of age up to age 64 may become a member of the Association by presenting a signed application card in regular form recommended by a member in good standing.

Section 2. - JUNIOR MEMBERS. Persons under 18 years of age may become Junior Members, and shall have limited privileges subject to the By-Laws and Rules and Regulations prescribed by the Board of Management.

Section 3. - HONORARY MEMBERSHIP. Persons who have accomplished some noteworthy achievement in the line of Science of Conservation may be elected honorary members and shall be exempt from paying dues, but shall not have a vote nor hold office.

Section 4. - SENIOR MEMBERSHIP. Persons age 65 and older may become a member of the Association by presenting a signed application card in regular form recommended by a member in good standing.

Section 5. - APPLICATION. The admission fee and one year's dues shall accompany application for membership. A vote of two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting of the Association shall grant membership to the applicant. The membership so granted shall include the use of the facilities, etc. by the spouse, and children under eighteen years of age who live with the member.

Section 6. - CONDUCT. Any member found guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct, or violating any of the Association's rules may be fined or suspended by the Association in the following manner; the accuser shall make the accusation in writing, bearing his or her signature, and present the same to the Board of Management. If the accusations are worthy of action, the Board shall notify both the accuser and the accused to appear before the board for trial. If the accused is found guilty, the Board of Management may fine or suspend the member by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Management present at such trial.

ARTICLE V

Quorum

Fifteen members of the Association in good standing shall constitute a quorum for transacting the business of the Association. Seven members of the Board of Management shall constitute a quorum for transacting the business of the Board.

ARTICLE VI

Order of Business

1. Pledge to the Flag
2. Roll call of Officers
3. Reading of minutes
4. Communications
5. Reports of Officers and Committees
6. Bills and accounts
7. Applications for membership
8. Unfinished business
9. New business
10. Good of the Association
11. Nomination or election of Officers
12. Adjournment

ARTICLE VII

Admission Fees and Dues

Section 1. - ADMISSION FEE. The admission fee shall be \$5.00 for adults and shall accompany application for membership.

Section 2. - DUES. The dues shall be \$55.00 per year for Adults, \$30.00 per year for Seniors, (65 and over) and \$5.00 per year for Juniors, (18 and under) and shall be paid in advance. A Worker's membership is available for \$25 if the member volunteers a minimum of 8 hours in each year.

Section 3. - MEMBERSHIP. The membership shall continue for one year after approval. Renewal of membership shall be dated from the date that previous year's membership expired. The Association is not responsible for lost cards or proof of payment.

Section 4. - NOTIFICATION OF EXPIRATION. The Secretary shall notify each member 30 days prior to the month in which membership expires, and if membership is renewed within 60 days after expiration date, the admission fee is waived.

Section 5. - LIFE MEMBERSHIP. Any regular member in good standing for one year or more may become a life member upon payment of \$550.00 and shall not be required to pay any further dues during his or her lifetime. Any senior member in good standing for one year or more may become a life member upon payment of \$300.00 and shall not be required to pay any further dues during his or her lifetime. The Association is not responsible for lost cards or proof of payment.

ARTICLE VIII

Resignations

Any member desiring to resign his membership or office in the Association shall notify the Secretary in writing. Said resignation shall be read at the following meeting and be accepted by the Association.

ARTICLE IX

Voting

No member shall be permitted to vote by proxy. It shall be the duty of the president to instruct the tellers conducting the voting for the election of Officers to see that all persons present at said meeting are Adult or Senior members in good standing with dues paid to date before receiving the ballots. The tellers shall tally the votes in the open meeting, and at the completion of the count shall announce the complete results of the vote.

ARTICLE X

Bonding

The Association shall place the Treasurer and Caretaker under a blanket bond of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). The Caretaker bonded for One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and Treasurer, Four Thousand Dollars (\$4,000.00).

ARTICLE XI

Politics

Section 1. – No candidate for political office shall be endorsed by the Association, nor shall any candidate for political office be permitted to use the name of the Association to further his or her political interests.

Section 2. – It shall be in the best interest of the Association to promote public policy issues that are in line with the goals of the Association. These include but are not limited to the promotion of rights retained by the people protected in Article 1, Section 21 of the Pennsylvania Constitution and Amendment 2 of the United States Constitution, and the promotion of fish and game laws that advocate for the interests of sportsmen while protecting the various wild and natural resources within the Commonwealth.

ARTICLE XII

Amendments

No addition or amendment to the By-Laws shall be made unless such proposed addition or amendment shall have been presented and read in full at a regular meeting at which the proposed addition or amendment shall be submitted to the membership for approval or rejection.

ARTICLE XIII

Donations

All properties and articles donated to the Association shall become the permanent property of the Association and be under the jurisdiction of the Board of Management.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE USE OF LODGE AND GROUNDS OF THE BLAIR COUNTY GAME, FISH AND FORESTRY ASSOCIATION, INC.

The following rules and regulations governing the use of same are set up to insure equal rights of all members.

These rules may be altered or amended from time to time as need may arise. Any such amendment shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Management. After approval of the Board, such amendments shall be read at any stated meeting of the Association when, if approved by the membership, it shall become part of these rules. The Board of Management shall be responsible for all property of this Association, see to the enforcement of the rules, and may set up rules to cover special occasions.

The caretaker shall see that these rules are enforced at all times. He/She shall be responsible to the Board of Management for all Association property at the lodge and on the grounds, and report any damage, theft of, loss of same. He/She is authorized to collect any necessary fees and pay same to the Treasurer. He/She shall be consulted by guests and visitors in any manner in which they may be in doubt, and must extend all possible courtesies. The Board of Management shall prepare a set of rules, regulations and duties for the caretaker and serve a copy of same to him. The caretaker shall receive instructions only from the President of the Association or his Designee.

No firearms shall be discharged on the premises (legal hunting excepted), except at the regular ranges provided.

Persons under the age of sixteen (16) years shall use firearms only under the direct supervision of a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older.

Persons sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) years of age may use the range unsupervised with possession of a valid hunting license.

Persons under the age of twenty-one (21) may not use a handgun on any range without direct supervision of a person twenty-one (21) years of age or older.

Firearms must be unloaded and either cased or actions left open when not in actual use. National Rifle Association and American Trapshooting Association Safety Rules shall be enforced.

No shooting matches shall be held without approval of the Board of Management.

The lodge and grounds shall be maintained for the use and pleasure of the members of the Association.

The ranges shall be open each day for the use of members, except during scheduled Association activities.

Those entitled to use the club premises, excluding trap ranges, are members, spouses, children under eighteen (18) years of age and guests. Range fees for guests must be paid.

Each member will be held responsible for the conduct of his or her guests.

All persons shall have due regard for the rights, safety, and privileges of others.

Children must be kept under control of the parents.

Cars shall be parked only in authorized places.

No person or group of persons shall monopolize the available facilities of the lodge or grounds.

Any party or parties, members or non-members who rent the lodge or other facility for their use, shall pay a fee in accordance with the schedule as determined by the Board of Management. Renters shall furnish their own cooking utensils and dishes, and a non-refundable deposit of one-half of the entire fee shall be paid to the caretaker at the time of reservation, unless prior arrangements have been made. The remainder of the rental fee is due the day of event. The person arranging for reservations shall be required to sign an agreement of responsibility for any damage to property, as well as assuming responsibility for the enforcement of rules of conduct upon the premises. Reservations shall be arranged for at least ten (10) days prior to the date desired. The rental of the Lodge does not include the use of the kitchen, the outdoor kitchen, or other parts of the club grounds.

At times of Association activities requiring the use of the kitchen, no other parties will be permitted to use those facilities. While the kitchens are in use by regular personnel, no one will be permitted to enter without the permission of the Steward or Stewardess.

All garbage and other refuse are to be placed in containers provided for that purpose.

No fires of any kind shall be kindled in or out of the lodge without permission of the caretaker, and then only in places designated by him/her.

No fire wood shall be collected without consent and supervision of the caretaker.

No shrubbery, flowers, trees, berries, or other fruit or vegetation shall be cut, destroyed or removed from the premises without the consent of the Board of Management.

No amphibians or reptiles shall be disturbed or removed from their habitat without the consent of the Board of Management.

Dogs will not be permitted inside the lodge without the caretakers consent.

Throwing of refuse, including sticks, rocks, etc. into the stream, is prohibited.

Intoxication will not be tolerated on these premises, nor shall any intoxicating beverages be brought upon or consumed upon the grounds. Any violation of this rule will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of these By-Laws.

Unlicensed poker games or gambling of like nature, profanity, or indecent conduct of any kind is prohibited.

This Association is not responsible for any injuries sustained upon the premises nor for any lost or stolen articles.

The use or construction of any tree stand that damages any tree shall not be permitted on Association property. Tree stands found in violation on Association property will be removed and destroyed. All stands should be removed at the end of big game season.

When in doubt, the caretaker or any member in good standing may require any person making use of the lodge or grounds to show a membership card indicating good standing.

All complaints or suggestions shall be brought to the attention of the Board of Management.

Any member violating these rules shall be tried before the Board of Management, and if found guilty, shall be fined or suspended as the Board may see fit.

Any person who intentionally damages Association property, or is found in violation of Association Range Rules may face expulsion, legal ramifications, and/or asked to pay for damages.

This Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations shall supersede and revoke all former Constitutions, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations adopted by this Association and may be changed or altered only in the manner herein prescribed.

Effective January 2022.