

# Imperial Radio Control Club

## By-Laws

As of May 6, 2022

Revised May 2022  
Revised April 2021  
Revised January 2019  
Revised October 2015  
Revised December 2013  
Revised October 2004  
Revised June 2004  
Revised December 2003

*All revisions to this document have been voted on and passed by the IRCC membership*

### **BY-LAWS OF THE IMPERIAL RADIO CONTROL CLUB, INC.**

#### **ARTICLE I; NAME**

The official name as recorded with the Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations is:

**The Imperial Radio Control Club, Inc.**

P.O. Box 6662  
Lakeland, Fl. 33807

#### **ARTICLE II; PURPOSE**

A. Objectives: To promote the safe and enjoyable sport of radio-controlled flight to the members of our organization, and to potential members from the community at large.

#### **ARTICLE III; MEMBERSHIP**

##### **A. QUALIFICATIONS:**

1. Proof of AMA membership required.
2. A new members name shall be submitted to the membership at the meeting following receipt of an application. The new member shall be granted full club privileges from the time of dues payment.
3. Membership Application Challenge Procedures: Any member of the Imperial RC Club may challenge the acceptance of a new member to the IRCC. In the event that a new membership is challenged, the proposed new member's application will be reviewed by the Imperial RC Club Executive Committee to understand the challenges associated with the proposed new member; the Executive Committee will in-turn bring the proposed new member's application to the membership of the Imperial RC Club for a vote with a full understanding of why the application is being challenged by an Imperial RC Club member. Once the concerns associated with the proposed new member has been vetted by the Executive Committee, The product of that vetting will be presented to the membership. The prospective member's application will be voted upon by the IRCC membership at any monthly meeting where a quorum is present. In order to be accepted as a member of the Imperial RC Club, the membership application must be approved by 2/3 vote of the Imperial RC Club in the meeting where a corum is present. In the event that the applicant is not voted into the IRCC after a membership challenge, the applicant must wait 2 years before applying again for membership to the IRCC. The intent of this membership challenge is to keep harmony within the membership of the Imperial RC Club and allow for

a process to review candidate members who may have been expelled from another club for AMA safety violations or poses a behavioral problem to the Imperial RC Club due to their prior actions or has a criminal history that would pose a threat to the good order of the Imperial RC Club. In the event that the proposed member is a former IRCC member who has previously been expelled from the IRCC, then paragraph D of the Imperial RC Club By-Laws is applicable, and the member is not eligible for reinstatement to the Imperial RC Club.

**B. RESIGNATION:**

1. Any member may resign his/her membership by giving written or verbal notice to any club member of the IRCC.

**C. EXPULSION:**

1. If any member ceases to have the qualification necessary for membership in the AMA, his/her membership in the Club shall be terminated.

2. This section provides for enforcement of the Safety Rules or any other unacceptable behavior or action by an individual member or members. Any individual may be expelled from the Club by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of the membership if in the Executive Committee's determination, such individual willfully commits any act which is a violation of the terms of these By-laws, the rules of the AMA, or which is detrimental to the IRCC, the AMA, or model aviation.

3. Membership in the IRCC is valid for one calendar year. Renewal of that membership may be brought to the IRCC Executive Committee for review by any member and membership may be temporarily denied by the Executive Committee pending a vote by the IRCC membership. If the Executive Committee refers a membership renewal for non-renewal, the membership renewal shall be a majority vote to allow or disallow the former member in question to be allowed access to the IRCC membership roster. If denied, the former member shall be considered expelled from the IRCC and banned from flying at the IRCC. If the expelled member comes to the IRCC, he/she will be considered as a trespasser and the Polk County Sheriff's Office shall be called to remove the individual(s) for trespassing.

**D. REINSTATEMENT:**

1. A member of the IRCC who's membership has been terminated or refused membership shall not be reinstated.

2. Expelled Members List: Ex-Imperial RC Club members who have been expelled from the club shall have their names permanently recorded in the IRCC Treasurer's Roster as an expelled member and the members' names below shall not be removed from this excluded parties list upon verification of their death:

**E. DUES:** The cost of each classification of membership is listed in the club policies and shall consist of:

1. **Adult Member** Entitled to all rights and privileges without limitation, Voting.

2. **Junior Member** A family member less than 19 years of age with a valid AMA card. Must be supervised by an adult family member and checked out by an instructor. A Junior Member is entitled to full club privileges, Non-Voting. Other children must have proof of parental authorization to fly or train at IRCC.

3. **Associate Member**

A. A non-flying member who may participate in club activities, Non-Voting.

B. Spouse of a current IRCC member. Entitled to full flying and all club privileges. Proof of AMA membership required. Non -Voting.

4. **Lifetime Member** On March 6, 2021 the IRCC voted unanimously to do away with the lifetime membership for any future members enrollment. Current IRCC members who have been made a Lifetime Member, who are listed in the Treasurer's Official IRCC Roster will remain Lifetime members and are "Grandfathered-in" to the Lifetime Member status. Remaining lifetime members shall retain all rights and privileges, and are Voting members.

5. **Complementary Member** An adult member who has dues waived. Includes Lifetime Members and any member with exceptional service to the Club. Comp Member list will be reviewed annually and

approved by the Executive Committee. All rights and privileges, voting. Any eligible club member must request Comp Membership to be considered.

Comp Membership classification may be abolished by two thirds vote of a quorum of the club membership during periods of club economic hardship.

6. Snowbird membership An adult member who resides in Florida during the winter months and out of state during the summer months. A snowbird member must prove their status by showing one or more of the following:

- a. A powerbill in their name at the non-Florida residence
- b. A non-Florida Driver's License with their out of state residence address.

7. 75/\$75 Membership An adult member whose permanent residence is greater than 75 miles from the Imperial RC Club may join the IRCC for \$75 per year with full voting rights. The mileage is easily calculated by any application from an android or iPhone.

8. Visitor Membership An adult member who is a current AMA member and traveling to Florida may fly at the IRCC for a period of 30 days for \$25. Visitor member will not have any voting rights.

F. SAFETY RULES: For safety rules and procedures refer to the IRCC FIELD RULES.

#### **ARTICLE IV; Officers, Board of Directors, Executive Committee**

A. Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the Officers are to oversee that the club goals and vision of its members are carried out, and that the rules and policies (By-laws) are followed by all members. The elected officers are to provide an example to the members, and are not to be set apart and beyond reproach.

B. Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall consist of no less than three (3) members plus the current President. The Directors are to be elected for a three (3) year term by the club membership. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once per year and are responsible to evaluate the clubs goals, objectives and vision, and to verify that the club is being operated in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws. Minutes of this meeting shall be kept and placed in the Corporate Minutes Book.

C. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall consist of all Officers and Directors of the club. The Executive Committee shall meet at least yearly and is responsible to approve financial budgets, propose club policy, and handle routine operational matters. In addition, the Executive Committee shall coordinate all grievance and disciplinary procedures. The Executive Committee may authorize up to \$300.00 in addition to the President's spending authority of \$200.00 (\$500.00 total). Any club member may attend Executive Committee meetings with a request to the President. Any visiting club member will be given the opportunity to discuss their views with the Executive Committee. Also any club member may request that an item be added to the agenda.

D. Term of Office: The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are to be elected for a one (1) year term by the club membership. The Directors are to be elected for a three (3) year term by the club membership. Officers shall serve from the first (1st) day of January to the last day of December through the calendar year following their election. A Director shall serve from the first (1st) day of January to the last day of December for three (3) consecutive years following election. Directors may not succeed themselves, or fill un-expired terms until a period of one year has passed after serving as a director.

#### **Duties: The duties of the executive officers are as follows:**

1. The President shall:
  - a. Preside at all club meetings.
  - b. Appoint committee chairmen.
  - c. Have the Authority to spend up to \$200.00 between meetings.
  - d. Have the authority to sign checks in the Treasurers' absence.

e. Confirm at every January meeting of the IRCC that the IRCC taxes have been completed by the treasurer.

2. The Vice President shall:

- a. Preside at club meetings when the President is absent.
- b. Perform duties as assigned by the president.

3. The Secretary shall:

- a. Keep minutes of all club meetings.
- b. Maintain a file of all club records.
- c. Handle club correspondence when so directed by the president.
- d. Take over the duties of Treasurer in the event the Treasurer is unable to perform his duties.

4. The Treasurer shall:

- a. Keep adequate records of income, expenses, and treasury balance.
- b. Collect and be responsible for the safe keeping of all club dues, fees and other monies.
- c. Make all authorized disbursements consistent with the yearly budget.
- d. Establish a yearly budget to be approved by the Executive Committee.
- e. Any current member of the Imperial R/C Club, Inc. may request to view the financial records and arrangements will be made through the President.
- f. File annual taxes with the Federal Government and State of Florida.

E. Appointed Officers: The president shall have the authority to appoint special officers to govern aspects of the club operations. Some such officers are safety officer, chief flight instructor, field maintenance officer, newsletter editor, and webmaster. However, he may appoint other officers, as he sees fit or the need arises, to conduct normal club business.

F. Financial arrangements:

1. All Imperial RC Club budgeted club financial issues that have been approved by the IRCC Executive Committee and/or IRCC membership shall be handled by the Treasurer and/or President in the event the Treasurer is unavailable.

2. Any special disbursements not already approved by the club shall require the approval of the Executive Committee prior to arrangements being made. Any disbursement in excess of \$500.00 shall require a two thirds vote of a quorum of the membership.

3. Club activities or events which require obligation of club personnel or funds greater than \$500.00 shall not be undertaken without a two thirds vote of a quorum of the club membership. Dollar amount for expenses to be incurred plus expected profits must be discussed with the membership for approval before the activity will be authorized.

4. The Executive Committee may authorize disbursement of club funds not to exceed \$300.00 during any monthly period for club purposes without prior membership vote. The President may authorize disbursement of club funds not to exceed \$200.00 during any monthly period for club purposes without prior membership, or Executive Committee vote.

5. All checks issued in the name of the club shall be signed by the club Treasurer or President.

G. Vacancies: A vacancy in the office of President is filled by the Vice President. Vacancies in the office of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Director are filled by special election.

## **ARTICLE V: MEETINGS**

A. Regular meetings of the Imperial Radio Control Club, Inc. shall be monthly. The time and place, due to circumstances, to be determined by the President.

B. Normally, all business of the club will be transacted at the regular meetings. However, the President shall

have the authority to call special meetings when necessary. Such special meetings will carry the same authority as the regular meetings.

C. A quorum shall be compromised of 20% of the club voting membership including at least two (2) officers to conduct an official meeting provided all members were notified in advance. An officer must conduct an official meeting.

#### **ARTICLE VI: RECORD KEEPING**

All club records for the Imperial R/C Club, Inc. shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be passed from the previous Secretary to the newly elected Secretary upon completion of his tasks as Secretary. This will take place during the normal transfer of duties in January of the new Secretary. Any current member of the Imperial R/C Club, Inc. may request to view the records and arrangements will be made through the President.

#### **ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES**

A. Standing Committees: Standing committees are comprised of a chairperson and the members who he appoints to carry out the tasks. The committee chairperson shall report progress to the Executive Committee as well as the needs to perform the tasks.

B. Special Committees: Special committees may be formed by the Executive Committee to meet the goals of the club. The Executive Committee shall appoint a committee chairperson to oversee the tasks involved and that person is responsible to report the progress of the committee to the Executive Committee.

C. Committee Membership: Committee membership shall be comprised of members as appointed by the committee chairperson.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: NOMINATION, ELECTIONS and RECALL**

A. Nominations:

1. Nominations for office shall be made at the regular meeting during October. A nominating committee consisting of the club officers and directors shall prepare a list of willing candidates, at least one for each office, for presentation at the meeting. Nominations shall be accepted from the floor to complete the final slate of candidates. All nominees must be current AMA and adult club members for the immediate past twelve months.
2. The complete slate of candidates shall be published in the subsequent issue of the newsletter. A ballot, with a voter signature block, shall be provided to each club member with voting privileges.

B. The election of officers and directors shall be held at the regular club meeting in November. The total ballot count shall include all mail-in ballots received at the clubs mailing address by the meeting date, as well as ballots cast at the meeting - only one vote per member. A majority of the votes cast is required for election. If no candidate receives a majority, a run-off election between the two candidates receiving the most votes shall be held at the December meeting.

C. Recall by Election: A recall election for elected office only, may be pursued by any club member. A petition for recall which will require signatures of two-thirds (2/3) of the active members shall be presented to the Executive Committee. Upon receipt of the petition and verification of the petition request, the Executive Committee will organize a special recall election. This election must take place within sixty (60) days after the certification by the Executive Committee.

#### **ARTICLE IX: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

A. Fiscal Year: The fiscal year shall begin at 12:01am on January 1<sup>st</sup> and conclude on December 31<sup>st</sup> at midnight.

B. Use of Club Mark and Logo: The usage of club insignias and logos for reasons other than aircraft markings

is prohibited. The usage of printed materials must be approved by the Executive Committee or shall be considered a copyright infringement.

C. Standing Rules: The Club Policies and Field Safety Rules shall be considered binding as any part of these By-laws. Any infringement of the policies or rules shall be deemed as a violation of membership and a grievance for action.

D. Dissolution of Club:

In accordance with and at the direction of Article 4 of the IRCC Articles of Incorporation filed with the State of Florida in January 1969 , which states that the IRCC was organized to remain in existence in perpetuity.

For the purpose of defining dissolution of the IRCC as it pertains to these Imperial RC Club By-laws the following shall be deemed to be the sole circumstances which if contravened either individually or severally occurring ,must exist to dissolve the Corporation .

1-The AMA requires a minimum 5 members to constitute a duly Chartered club . Of those 5 , 3 shall be officers one of whom shall be designated the safety officer .Said Charter shall be renewed as required by the AMA .

2-The IRCC shall maintain its corporate status with the State of Florida Division of Corporations and file its required Federal Tax Returns on a timely basis .

3- The IRCC shall remain solvent . Any and all accumulated assets shall remain in the custody of the IRCC and used for the purpose of attaining the afore mentioned organizational requirements .

4-It is deemed that only in the circumstance of non-conformity with any the aforementioned standards (1, 2 and 3 above) that the IRCC be formally dissolved, and its net assets accrue to the benefit of the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

#### **ARTICLE X: AMENDMENT OF THESE BY-LAWS**

- A. Proposed: Any section of these By-Laws may be amended or repealed at any regular monthly meeting of the membership by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum provided that the proposed amendment or repeal has been published at least once in the Newsletter or by special notification preceding the meeting for adoption or presented to the full membership at a prior meeting.
- B. Approved: Any approved bylaw change shall be added to the bylaws and available to the membership as a revised bylaw document within 60 days.
- C. Balloting: All bylaw changes shall be voted upon by the membership after newsletter or special notification at the next regularly scheduled club meeting. You may, however, mail in a ballot or give the ballot to a member of the Executive Committee if you will be unavailable for the meeting.

#### **ARTICLE XI: GRIEVANCE and DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE**

The grievance procedure provides a mechanism to enforce existing safety rules or to eliminate behavior or actions detrimental to the IRCC by providing a disciplinary system when needed. Any member can initiate a grievance procedure with at least one witness required. Although most complaints can be resolved informally, if a complaint is serious or cannot be resolved informally, the matter should be referred to the Executive

Committee for its consideration by means of a Grievance Form. The Executive Committee shall use its judgment in carrying out action on the following:

A. Procedure for filing a Grievance Form

Step One:

Should any member want to start an expulsion process against another member for unacceptable behavior, he/she would submit the IRCC Grievance Form to the Executive Committee (with proper witness signatures). The Executive Committee would evaluate the grievance and if in agreement, notify the offender in writing that a Grievance has been filed against him. The offender would be given the opportunity to present to the Executive Committee his side of the story.

This part of the process would remain confidential and not presented to the club membership. Hopefully the unacceptable behavior will then be stopped and no further action would be required.

Step Two:

Should the unacceptable behavior continue, any member can submit a second IRCC Grievance Form to the Executive Committee (again with witness signatures). If the Executive Committee agrees that the unacceptable behavior has continued, the offender will be notified in writing that an Expulsion Vote will be conducted by secret vote at the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the IRCC. The Expulsion Period will be determined by the Executive Committee and may be indefinite.

The club membership will be notified in the Monthly Newsletter that an expulsion vote will be conducted at the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the IRCC. A two thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of the adult membership will be required for expulsion. After the expulsion period, a two thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum of the adult membership would be required for reinstatement.

B. 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 Executive Committee.

# IRCC Grievance Form

(Not part of the By-laws)

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

**Nature of Violation:**

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

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

**Additional Witnesses:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(not required)

*This form must be submitted to the IRCC President or Executive Committee. Three copies required.*