

# **Red Dirt Hunting Club, Oklahoma**

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## **Article I - Name**

The name of the organization shall be "Red Dirt Hunting Club of Oklahoma, commonly called the "Red Dirt Hunting Club," and herein referred to as the Club.

## **Article II - Purpose**

1. To form a club of people with common interest in hunting sports, with the primary focus on Deer and Waterfowl hunting, that conducts all its business in a transparent manner, while respecting each other, the game we pursue, and the land that we use.
2. Improve the land that we utilize for both game and nongame animals.
3. Maintain relationships that reflect positively on the hunting sports with landowners, community, and potential new hunters.
5. Promote hunting safety and ethics.
6. Train new and young hunters in the safe and ethical pursuit of game.
7. Foster and promote the hunting sports.
8. Promote hunter safety, and promote and defend hunting as a viable and necessary method of fostering the conservation and wise use of renewable wildlife resources.
9. Members are encouraged to practice Quality Deer Management.

## **Article III - Membership**

### **Section 1 - Eligibility**

- a.) Any citizen of the United States who is 18 years or older and subscribes to the purpose of this Club shall be eligible to be a member of this Club.
- b.) No person who is a member of any organization or group having as a purpose, the elimination of hunting or the limitation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights, shall be eligible for membership.
- c.) A family membership shall include the paying member, their spouse and any children or grandchildren under the age of 23.
- d.) An individual membership shall only include the paying member.

### **Section 2 - Admission to Membership**

- a.) Member admission shall be recommended by at least two current members and ratified by the majority of the membership present at a special or regular meeting.
- b.) Memberships will be offered on a first come first serve basis after the 1<sup>st</sup> of May each year.

### **Section 3 - Dues and Fees**

- a.) The dues and fees and renewal dues shall be determined yearly before April 30th by the executive committee and ratified by majority vote of the membership present at a special or regular meeting.
- b.) Annual renewal dues shall be paid in full no later than the last day of July. A minimum of one third of the total dues must be paid by April 30th, two thirds of the total dues must be paid by May 31st, with the remainder due no later than July 31st. A membership year will be from May 7th to May 6th.
- c.) If a member has prepaid dues for the next membership year and previous to the beginning of that membership year terminates their membership:
  - 1. on or before April 30<sup>th</sup> all prepaid dues will be refunded.
  - 2. after April 30<sup>th</sup> and before June 1<sup>st</sup> one third of the next years membership dues are forfeited.
  - 3. after June 1<sup>st</sup> and before August 1<sup>st</sup> two thirds of the next years membership dues are forfeited.
  - 4. After August 1<sup>st</sup> no dues are refundable.

#### **Section 4 - Privileges, Rights and Duties of membership**

a.) All members:

1. Shall be issued an appropriate evidence of yearly membership.
2. Shall have the right to utilize all lands leased by the club in accordance with the applicable club rules.
3. Shall have the right to vote in Club elections and other matters brought in writing before the club.
4. Shall have the duty to uphold Club rules and regulations.
5. Shall have the right to attend any meeting held to conduct club business.
6. Shall be required to participate in 16 hours of club improvement activities approved by the executive committee. Any Member not meeting this requirement will be fined \$200. An exemption will be made for any active duty military serving overseas.

#### **Section 5 – Communication of official business with membership**

- a.) The primary method of communication for club business will be via email. It is the responsibility of each member to ensure that their email is up to date and any filters placed by their internet service provider allows for the delivery of club communications. Club business will also be posted on the club website.
- b.) For the purposes of this charter the term in writing means the communication will be delivered via email.
- c.) The club secretary shall maintain a current list of emails and phone numbers available to all members.

#### **Section 6 - Termination or Forfeiture of membership**

- a.) Any individual may terminate membership at any time in writing to the secretary of the Club. Any member who terminates membership during the membership year automatically forfeits all dues paid for that membership year.
- b.) Any member that has not paid his 1/3 of the yearly dues by April 30<sup>th</sup> will automatically be dropped from the roll and thereupon forfeit all rights and privileges of membership for the following membership year beginning May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- c.) Any officer may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members in good standing present at any special meeting called for this purpose. No vote on suspension or removal may be taken unless at least fifteen days notice in writing shall have been given to the

officer of the reasons for his removal and of the time and place of the special meeting at which such ballot on his removal is to be taken. At such special meeting the officer shall be given a full hearing.

d.) Any member may be suspended or expelled from the club for any cause deemed sufficient by the rules and ethics committee by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members of the rules and ethics committee present at any regular or special meeting, and ratification of decision by the executive committee. No vote on suspension or expulsion may be taken unless at least fifteen days notice in writing shall have been given to the member of the charges preferred and of the time and place of the meeting of the rules and ethics committee at which time such charges will be considered. At such a meeting the member under charges will be accorded a full hearing. The accused member may then appeal a suspension or removal to the club membership, ratification of the rules and ethics committee decision is done by a by a simple majority of the voting members.

e.) Any member in good standing may prefer charges against any officer or member. Charges shall be in writing clearly stating the facts relied upon and accompanied by all affidavits or exhibits which are to be used in their support. Such charges shall be filed with the secretary, who will immediately notify the president or vice president if the charges are against the president. The president or vice president will call a meeting of the rules and ethics committee for review of facts and determination of warranted charges and to recommend punishment to the executive committee for ratification by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive committee members present. The secretary will give at least fifteen days notice of the meeting to each member of the rules and ethics committee and to the accuser and to the accused. The notice shall be in writing and will include a true copy of the charges and of the supporting affidavits and exhibits. The rules and ethics committee will review the affidavits and exhibits, hear the accuser and the accused, and render recommended judgment to the executive committee by a two-thirds affirmative vote of committee members present. Punishment up to and including expulsion from the club may be recommended. The accused may appeal the judgment to the club membership during a regular membership meeting. A simple majority of the members present can overrule all or parts of the judgment. The accused will give notice in writing within seven days after the judgment to the secretary of intent to appeal. If the accused has not given notice to appeal the judgment on the eighth day the Secretary will register the judgment.

## **Section 6 – Membership Limitations**

a.) Membership will be initially capped at 50 unless otherwise voted on and ratified by the membership. Max number of members should be a factor of available lands and increased opportunity for hunting. Membership will not be increased unless there is sufficient opportunity for members to hunt without their hunting experience being impacted.

## **Article IV - Financial transactions and obligations**

### **Section 1 - Club expenditures**

Expenditures of Club funds shall be governed by the following procedures:

- a.) All checks must have the signature of the president or vice-president, and the treasurer.
- b.) The treasurer shall make expenditures specifically approved by a majority vote of the Club membership at a regular or special meeting.
- c.) The treasurer shall make emergency expenditures as are approved by the executive committee. Emergency expenditures are expenditures required for continued operation of the Club between special or regular meetings. Approval shall require a majority vote of the executive committee at a regular or special meeting of the executive committee. Any Club member may present a request for expenditure to a member of the executive committee for consideration by the executive committee.
- d.) The treasurer may purchase postage stamps, stationery, and other supplies for any amount less than \$100.00 total between regular meetings including reasonable payments to the custodian of the Club owned equipment for the specific purpose of maintaining this equipment in good working order.
- e.) The treasurer shall keep a true and accurate record of income and expenditures of the Club. The treasurer shall present a detail of the previous income and expenditures at any official Club meeting. The treasurer's statement shall be available for examination by all Club members. Within 30 days of the end of each quarter, the treasurer will submit a financial statement on the activities of that quarter to the members. Each year, during the month of December, the treasurer shall compile a financial statement on the activities of the previous year. The executive committee shall verify the financial statement. The financial statement shall be available for examination by all Club members.

### **Section 2 - Land Use and Lease Agreements**

- a.) Land use agreements, inter-club use agreements, and facilities leases shall be defined in writing. The agreements or leases shall, as a minimum, define the following:
  1. Identification of all persons or organizations subject to the agreement.
  2. Period covered, with provisions for extension(s), if applicable.
  3. Description of facilities or services being provided.
  4. Cost for period(s) covered.

5. Club liability.
6. Special land owner requirements and procedures.
7. Access.
8. Protection and insurance for club property.
9. Termination criteria and process.

b.) Lease terminations shall be submitted for approval vote of 2/3 majority at a regular or special meeting following majority approval recommendation by the executive committee.

c.) Agreements or leases shall be activated through the president's signature following approval and direction of the lease acquisition committee.

d.) A copy of all agreements will be maintained by the secretary. .

## **Article V - Meetings**

a.) All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules.

b.) Regular meetings of the Club shall be held every month of the year, except October, November and December. The March meeting shall be for the purpose of nomination of officers, the April meeting shall be for election of officers. Notice of the time and place of the meeting shall be given to all members in good standing not less than fifteen (15) days, if possible, prior to date fixed for holding of the meeting. Typically a meeting will be held the first Thursday of each month except for the months of October, November and December. The executive committee shall be responsible for establishing the place and time for meetings and notifying all members. Incoming officers shall take office fifteen days after the election.

c.) Special meetings. A special meeting of the Club may be held at any time upon the call of the president, executive committee, or upon demand in writing by any member, stating the object of the meeting and endorsed by not less than 1/3 of the membership. Notice of the time, place and object of the meeting shall be given to all members in good standing not less than seven (7) days, if possible, prior to date fixed for holding of the meeting. The executive committee shall be responsible for establishing the place and time for meetings and notifying all members.

d.) Quorum. A quorum of a regular or special meeting shall consist of at least a majority of the executive committee and the members of the Club in attendance at that meeting.

e.) Voting. Voting on major changes to the Charter or rules will be done via an email vote and all members will be afforded the opportunity to vote. These changes will be

ratified by a majority of the voting members. Members will be afforded a minimum of seven days to send in their vote. Members are responsible for maintaining their email with the secretary in order to vote. Only 1 vote per paying membership will be accepted. Voting on regular club business will be completed during the regularly scheduled meetings and will require a quorum to ratify the vote.

f.) Meeting Attendance. Any member in good standing shall be allowed to attend any meeting called for by the executive committee.

## **Article VI - Officers**

a.) The officers of this Club shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Deer Committee Chair, Waterfowl Committee Chair, Land Acquisition Committee Chair, and Rules and Ethics Committee Chair, who, when acting together, shall constitute the executive committee. The executive committee shall be elected by the majority vote of the members in good standing via email during April meeting each year. They shall hold offices for one year or until their successors are elected.

b.) The executive committee shall have general supervision and control of all the Club activities.

c.) Meetings of the executive committee shall be held regularly at such time and place as the executive committee may determine. Special meetings of the executive committee may be held at any time on call of the president or on demand by two members of the executive committee.

d.) A majority of members of the executive committee shall constitute a quorum of the executive committee.

e.) Resignation of any officer may be accepted by a majority vote of the remaining members of the executive committee.

f.) A vacancy in the executive committee shall be filled by nominations and elections via email or at the next regular or special club meeting.

g.) The executive committee has the authority to appoint an interim officer, up to 60 days, to perform the specific duties of the appointed office until that office can be filled by an election. The interim officer can be appointed by a majority vote of the executive committee.

## **Article VII - Duties of officers**

a.) President. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the executive committee as defined by Robert's rules. They shall be a member ex officio of all regular and special committees, and shall perform all such duties as usually pertain to their

office. The president shall appoint standing or special committees as may be required by the bylaws or as they may find necessary.

b.) Vice-president. The vice-president shall perform the duties of the president in their absence or at their request, and shall perform other duties as assigned by the president. They shall provide responsible oversight of all capital equipment owned by the Club.

c.) Secretary. The secretary shall conduct all official correspondence pertaining to the Club and shall maintain a complete record of all correspondence. They shall keep a true record of all meetings of the executive committee and Club. They shall have custody of the books and papers pertaining to the Club. The Secretary shall maintain the accounting of member participation in the club improvement activities.

d.) Treasurer. Shall maintain a complete record of all transactions and shall keep a true record. Shall be responsible for collection of dues, paying of bills, and preparing a detailed accurate account of all funds of the Club and place same in such bank or banks approved by the executive committee. The Treasurer will prepare monthly and yearly financial statements to be shared with the club membership. The Treasurer must be bonded.

e.) Deer Committee Chair. The Deer Committee Chair shall maintain a subgroup of members to carry out the duties of the Deer Committee. The Deer Committee shall be responsible to coordinate all activities on club lands pertaining to the improvement of deer hunting. Recommend rules and utilization restrictions for the pursuit of deer on club lands.

f.) Waterfowl Committee Chair. The Waterfowl Committee Chair shall maintain a subgroup of members to carry out the duties of the Waterfowl Committee. The Waterfowl Committee shall be responsible to coordinate all activities on club lands pertaining to the improvement of waterfowl hunting. Recommend rules and utilization restrictions for the pursuit of waterfowl on club lands.

g.) Land Acquisition Committee Chair. The Land Acquisition Committee Chair shall maintain a subgroup of members to carry out the duties of the Land Acquisition Committee. The Land Acquisition Committee shall be responsible to actively locate and initially evaluate lands for lease. The Land Acquisition Committee Chair shall be permitted to make initial agreements with landowners within the limits prescribed by the executive committee.

h.) Rules and Ethics Committee Chair. The Rules and Ethics Committee Chair shall maintain a subgroup of members to carry out the duties of the Rules and Ethics Committee. The Rules and Ethics Committee shall be responsible to initially develop rules for the reservation of hunting slots and pursuit of game on Club land and conduct membership votes to ratify all changes made to the rules and regulations of the Club. All regular rules changes are presented at the July meeting for ratification. Violations of club rules are brought before the Rules and Ethics Committee for review of facts and

determination of warranted charges and to recommend punishment to the executive committee for ratification.

i.) All Club officers are required to attend all meetings and appointed committees. If an officer misses three consecutive meetings without reasonable cause, that officer will be removed from office and nominations for that office will be taken at the next regular or special meeting.

## **Article VIII - Hunting Rules**

All hunting by the Club will be governed by the rules and regulations laid down by the appropriate state in which the activity takes place and any rules or regulations adopted by the club to cover any activity by members, family members, family guest, and member guest on club lands. Such rules shall be readily available to any member.

## **Article IX – Guest Rules**

### **Section 1 - General**

- a.) For each paid membership there shall be 3 single day guest passes.
- b.) Guest passes may not be used during the opening weekend of any game season or the first weekend of Deer Primitive or Deer Gun Seasons.
- c.) Guest under the age of 16 do not require a guest pass but must be accompanied at all times by the paying member.
- d.) Additional Guest passes may be purchased from the treasure. The cost for additional passes will be defined in the hunting rules.

## **Article X - Amendments**

Any proposed amendments to these bylaws may be introduced by any member of the Club at any regular meeting or special meeting and submitted to the rules committee. A copy of any proposed amendment shall be provided to the general membership at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting during which the vote will be taken. A 2/3-majority vote of the members in good standing via email will be necessary to pass a proposed amendment.

I hereby certify that this Club has adopted these bylaws and amendments and that a copy of these bylaws has been made available to all Club members.

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President

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Vice-President

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Secretary

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Treasurer