

# **Territorial Constitution (Bylaws) of the Minnesota Mounted Shooters Association**

This document includes amendments thru date signed

## **ARTICLE I STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The purpose of this club shall be to participate in the sport of cowboy mounted shooting. To provide an outlet for those persons wishing to compete in this sport, encourage safe handling of firearms and to help educate all individuals in all aspects of this sport including good horsemanship. We shall abide by the rules set forth in the Cowboy Mounted Shooting Rule book. We will promote family participation and the preservation of old west values and period clothing, good sportsmanship, and patriotism. The club officers will follow the guidelines set forth in the following articles and shall administer the affairs of this club.

## **ARTICLE II NAME**

The name of this club shall be MINNESOTA MOUNTED SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION. Also herein referred to as “the club”, or “MMSA”.

## **ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP**

There will be two classes of membership in the MMSA:

### **A. Single memberships**

Single membership is open to all persons 18 years of age and above. Single members will be eligible to vote and have one vote per membership.

### **B. Family memberships**

Family membership will include family members living at one address. Family members 18 years of age and above will be eligible to vote and have one vote per person. Family members under 18 years of age will not be eligible to vote.

## **ARTICLE IV DUES**

Membership dues for MMSA are to be paid annually for a 365-day membership. Membership dues for all classes of membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors. Resignation of a club member will not constitute the return of club dues.

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### **ARTICLE V SUSPENSION AND/OR EXPULSION OF MEMBERS**

Club officers may put any member, officer or director on suspension that has through his or her actions:

1. Caused or has the potential to cause personal injury to themselves, another person, property, or livestock
2. Has projected their actions to appear to be of undesirable character.
3. Has conducted themselves in a manner unbecoming of the MMSA.
4. Has been abusive or treated their horse in any otherwise inhumane fashion.
5. Has acted in an unsafe manner in the handling of firearms.

A member will be expelled from MMSA for total disregard for the welfare of the club, members, and/or the public for his or her actions of blatant disregard of safety, or multiple suspensions, by majority vote of members that are in attendance at a meeting called by club officers. Such a meeting called by the officers shall be convenient to the majority of club membership, with a minimum of 14 days' notice

An officer or director will be expelled from the MMSA for total disregard for the welfare of the club, members, and/or the public for his or her actions of blatant disregard of safety, or multiple suspensions by a quorum of board members (5 members). If a quorum of board members cannot be met, the dispute shall be voted on by a quorum of the general membership (11 members or more), with a minimum of 14 days' notice.

### **ARTICLE VI OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

A seven (7) person Board of Directors will govern the Minnesota Mounted Shooters Association, and they will be known as the Vigilance Committee. The Board will consist of the club officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and (3) three Directors at large elected by the membership. The President shall chair the board. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors to determine club policy and procedure. In the event of a vacancy in the Board, a membership meeting will be called to elect a new board member. If a conflict of interest where a board member may be a party or in the event that more than one board member is involved as party to a conflict of interest needing to be settled by a board vote, that member/members shall relinquish their voting rights to the remaining board members. There must be a quorum of board members to render a decision. A quorum of board members shall consist of 5 regular members. If a quorum of board members cannot be met, the dispute shall be voted on by a quorum of the general membership (11 members or more). The Minnesota Mounted Shooters Association will have four officers consisting of:

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**PRESIDENT** - The President will preside over and prepare agenda for all meetings. He will appoint committee chairmen for all committees to carry out the programs of the MMSA. Committee chairmen will select their own committee members and determine the correct number to conduct the task set forth. The President shall be the representative of the MMSA and have the authority to sign all papers required for ongoing business. The President shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie. In the case of the President's inability to act, the Vice President shall be the immediate successor. The President shall be responsible for approving any and all club expenditures over \$50.

**VICE PRESIDENT** - The Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President in his absence. Upon permanent absence of the President, the Vice President shall assume the duties of President for the duration of his term, declare the Vice President's office vacant, and call for election to fill the Vice President's office.

**SECRETARY** - The Secretary shall record the minutes of all general and board meetings. The Secretary shall also be responsible for keeping all membership records in order including the collection of all dues and entry fees. The Secretary shall also be responsible to collect all entry fees in the absence of the match director at a shoot. The Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence. The Secretary will also have authority, with board approval, to sign all papers required for ongoing business.

**TREASURER** - The Treasurer shall record all gifts, donations, and financial transactions of the Board in an accepted bookkeeping method. The Treasurer shall provide current financial reports at each regularly scheduled meeting and a yearly financial statement. All financial records will be available to the board and club members at regularly scheduled meetings. The Board of Directors and club members can also request to view the financial records, giving ample notice to the Treasurer. The Treasurer must concede to this request within 14 business days. The Treasurer shall deposit all funds of the Association in such bank or banks as designated by the Board. The Treasurer will have checking writing authority to conduct ongoing business for Board of Director approved expenditures. The Treasurer must have the written or electronic approval of the Board of Directors prior to writing any checks over \$100.00.

**OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS** - No officer, board member, or members shall be compensated for his or her services unless otherwise approved by the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE VII ELECTION AND TENURE**

**ELECTIONS** -The election of officers shall take place at the last scheduled shoot of the current year, and their office term will begin January 1st of the following year (ex. Elections held October 2008, officers/directors' terms begin January 1st 2009). In this time frame, the newly elected officials will work with the current Board of Directors to learn and become familiar with their position and responsibilities.

**TERM OF OFFICE** - The Term of office shall begin January 1st and end January 1st as follows: Officer/Directors will be on an alternating two (2) year term of office. Two (2) years for the President, Secretary, and one Director. Two (2) years for Vice President, Treasurer and two Directors. The two (2) year term of office will be retroactive to January 2005 for the President, Secretary and one Director. The two (2) year term of office for Vice President, Treasurer and two Directors will begin at the January 2006 election.

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**METHOD OF ELECTIONS/VOTING** - Nominations for officers will come from the general membership at the January meeting. Election of the Board of Directors and Officers shall be by the majority vote of the club membership.

**QUORUM** – A quorum of the membership is defined as a minimum of 11 members in good standing, physically in attendance at a meeting.

**MAJORITY VOTE** – A majority vote of the membership, at any club meeting, is considered to be the combined majority of the votes of members in attendance at an official meeting and the proxy ballot(s) of members unable to attend said meeting.

**VACANCIES** - Should the office of the President become vacant, the Vice President shall assume the duties of President and declare the office of Vice President vacant and call for election of a Vice President. Upon vacancy of any other office, the President shall declare the office vacant and call for an election for that office.

### **ARTICLE VIII QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS**

Club officers shall be elected from the general memberships, who are in good standing. An elected officer or director of the MMSA is to participate in 50 % or more of the club's functions and activities during each year of their term. These may include meetings, clinics, demos, shoots, or other club activities not listed. Each board member will be held accountable for participation at this level unless approved by the President and one other board member (or two board members in the case it is the President). If after the first year in office a board member has not demonstrated a desire to participate in the required capacity, it will be consent from them that they relinquish their position within the club and their position will be filled during elections for the upcoming year. No more than two active board members may reside in the same household during their term in office. Additionally, no more than one officer (President, Vice-President, Treasurer, or Secretary) may reside in the same household during their term in office.

### **ARTICLE IX INSURANCE**

All MMSA competitions or exhibitions involving horses and/or gunfire must have an event insurance certificate prior to the event taking place. This insurance certificate must be in possession of one of the board members prior to the beginning of any competition and/or exhibition.

### **ARTICLE X AMMENDING OF THE BYLAWS**

1. Board shall meet and draft a change and/or addition.
2. President shall call a general membership meeting to ratify the bylaw change and/or addition.
3. A quorum, (11 members), must be present to ratify a bylaw change.



