

Sebasticook Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association

By-Laws

December 5th 2021

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Article I - Name and Purpose

Section 1 – Name

This organization will be known as "Sebasticook Chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association" (The Chapter).

Section 2 – Purpose

1. To educate all interested persons in the techniques of training, breeding, and caring for versatile hunting dogs, to conduct tests of versatile hunting dogs, and to promote selective breeding and population control of versatile hunting dog breeds.
2. To educate all interested persons in the use of versatile hunting dogs, which is hunting, and all related topics including but not limited to hunting techniques and ethics, firearms use and safety, history, game species, conservation of game and habitat, and the social and legal climate that hunting with versatile dogs occupies.

Section 3 – Limitations

No part of the net earnings of the Chapter may benefit, or be distributed to, its members, trustees, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Chapter is authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and reimbursements in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. Nothing herein contained will be construed as authorizing the Chapter to act contrary to the provisions of the law, but it will have all powers and privileges to do all acts not prohibited by the laws of the state of Maine.

Article II - Activation, Membership and Dues

Section 1 – Activation

The chapter will become active upon payment of annual dues by ten (10) or more persons.

Section 2 – Membership

There will be five (5) types of membership open to all persons 18 years of age and older and one (1) type of membership open to all persons under 18 years of age, who are in good standing with NAVHDA and this chapter and who subscribe to its purposes. While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the club's primary purpose is to serve people in its immediate area. Membership will be open to any person regardless of race, religion, gender, age or place of natural origin. All membership types must also meet membership requirements of and maintain membership in the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA).

(1) Regular Membership

Persons become Chapter members upon payment of annual dues.

(2) Family Membership

Two persons living at the same address whom are eligible for regular membership may become Family Members by paying annual dues as set by the Executive Board. Both Family Members will have all the rights and privileges of the Regular Membership.

(3) Junior Membership

People under eighteen (18) years of age are eligible for Junior Membership upon payment of dues as set by the Executive Board. Junior Members will have all benefits of Regular Membership except voting privileges. Members are no longer eligible for Junior Membership on December 31 following their eighteenth (18th) birthdays.

(4) Life Membership

An individual person will become a Life Member of The Chapter upon payment of Life Membership dues. No additional Chapter membership related dues will be collected from the member with Life Membership status.

(5) Honorary Life Membership

The Board may elect to provide a member Life Membership status without payment of dues a who makes an outstanding contribution to the purpose of The Chapter.

Section 3 – Dues

Annual Chapter dues will be due and payable on January 1 of each year and will apply for one (1) calendar year. A majority vote of the Board of Directors will set the amount of said dues that apply to all membership types. Members who do not pay dues within 60 days of the due date will be placed in a suspended status until the semi annual meeting. At which time if dues has not been paid member will be terminated. New members who pay dues after September 30 will be paid through the end of the subsequent year.

Section 4 – Expulsion

The Board may expel a member for misconduct, any action determined by The Board to be harmful to The Chapter, or any action contrary to the conduct of a sportsperson who respects and conserves the natural environment, for good cause shown. A vote of the majority of The Board will be required for expulsion of a chapter member. The chapter will not refund dues following expulsion. A member thus expelled may petition The Board for reinstatement after a period of one year. The Board will vote on the petition at the following Annual Meeting. Any member of The Board expelled from the chapter will also be expelled as a member of The Board.

Section 5 – Disputes

In the event of a dispute or grievance which is of such a serious nature as to damage The Chapter, the President may appoint a committee consisting of three members of The Chapter (one of which will be a member of The Board and will act as Chairperson). The purpose of this committee will be to gather facts and mediate the dispute. If committee cannot reach a settlement, it will present the matter to The Board for final arbitration.

Article III - Board of Directors

Section 1 – Description

A Board of Directors (The Board), not to exceed ten (10) in number, will manage the property and business of The Chapter. All Board members are required to comply with all Local and National membership requirements, in addition to the powers and authorities by these By-Laws expressly conferred upon it, the Board may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things that The Chapter may exercise or do, but subject, nevertheless, to the provisions of the statutes and of these By-Laws. The Directors will act only as a Board and the individual Directors will have no power as such. They should present at each Annual and Semi-Annual Meeting, and when called from the members, and at any special meeting of The Chapter, a full and clear statement of the business and conditions of The Chapter. All officers will perform duties determined by their position descriptions as defined in these By-Laws. The Board will have the power to establish standing or temporary committees for the purposes of conducting Chapter business.

Section 2 – Meetings of the Directors

A quorum will consist of five (5) members of The Board, except as needed to vote to adjourn until a time a quorum can be present, not to exceed ninety (90) days. A majority vote of the Directors present will decide all business of The Board. The Board may hold Meeting at any time and at any place as called for by the President on one (1) day's notice to each Director. Meetings may be held in person, via phone or electronic means. Such notice may be verbal or in writing. A Chapter member may request to attend a Board meeting for a specific purpose. The Board may grant permission to the requesting member to attend a Board meeting and present information but will not have voting privileges. The Board will meet a minimum of four (4) times per calendar year.

Section 3 – Resignation, Removal, Absence and Vacancy

Resignation

Any Director or other Officer may resign from office at any time by writing to the board. Such resignation will be valid without any acceptance by the Board.

Removal

The Board may remove any member of The Board for failure to perform duties, misconduct, or to protect the integrity or stability of the Chapter. Upon a majority vote of The Board, a special meeting of The Board held not fewer than seven (7) or more than (30) days from that vote will be held regarding the proposed removal. The Board will inform the member of The Board proposed for removal of the special meeting, and the nature of the charges, and invite the member of The Board to attend the special meeting. At the special meeting, both sides will have the opportunity to present evidence and witnesses. All interested Chapter members may attend and be heard. The Board will remove the member of the Board in question from office upon a 2/3-majority vote. Failure of the member of the Board in question to attend this special meeting will constitute a resignation. Any member of The Board will be removed without a vote if requested in writing from NAVHDA. Such removal will be effective immediately upon receipt of said notice.

Absence

In case of the absence of both the President and Vice-President, the remaining members of the Board may appoint a President for the time being. In the event of a permanent vacancy, this acting President will serve until the next regular election.

Vacancy

In case of any vacancy in any of the offices of The Chapter, the President may fill the vacancy by appointment with the approval of The Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a special board meeting called for that purpose. Provided, however that the Vice President will automatically fill a vacancy in the office of President and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President will be filled. The appointee will serve until the next election year.

Section 4 - Terms of Office

Directors will hold offices for two (2) years and until their successors are elected and qualified. Terms of office will begin in the election years on the day of the Annual Meeting and will expire on the subsequent election year on the day of the Annual Meeting. Terms begin immediately upon the conclusion of the election, and each retiring officer will turn over to the successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

Section 5 - President

The President will be the chief executive officer of the Chapter and, in recess of the Board, will have general and active management of its business and affairs, subject, however, to the right of the Directors to delegate any specific powers to any other officer or officers. The President, when present, will preside at all meetings of The Chapter, and/or the Board, and will appoint and determine the time and place of all meetings thereof, unless otherwise ordered by the Board. The President will make annual reports showing the condition of the affairs of the Chapter, make recommendations and bring before The Board information regarding the business and property of The Chapter. The President will be by virtue of position a member of all standing committees of The Board. The President will be the sole arbiter of any tie votes at any meeting.

Section 6 - Vice-President

The Vice-President will assume the office of President in the event of a vacancy occurring therein.

Section 7 - Secretary

The Secretary will attend all sessions of The Board, act as the Clerk thereof and record all votes and the minutes of all proceedings in a book kept for that purpose. The Secretary will give proper notice of all Chapter related meetings.

Section 8 - Treasurer

The Treasurer will keep and maintain financial records of The Chapter, maintain bank accounts, sign checks, and receive and disburse monies. The Treasurer will take the proper vouchers for disbursements of Chapter funds. In addition, the Treasurer will render to the President and Directors an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial conditions of the Chapter at the regular meetings of the Board, and whenever they may require it.

Section 9 - Director of Testing

The Director of Testing is responsible for the organization of all field tests given by The Chapter, except for the duties of the Test Secretary and Director of Judging.

Section 10 - Director of Promotions/Publications

The Director of Promotions/Publications will be responsible for the publication of The Chapter and its distribution to the membership. As well as the Chapter Web site.

Section 11 - Delegates at Large

Two (2) Delegates at Large will serve on the Board. The Test Secretary and the Immediate Past-President will be the two Delegates at Large, unless other candidates are nominated and elected.

Section 12 - Director of Judging

The Director of Judging is responsible for securing all judges for tests, arranging for their transportation, meals and lodging and for judge development within The Chapter.

Section 13 - Director of Training

The Director of Training is responsible for organizing all of the training clinics, securing the needed help and keeping and maintaining the training equipment of the Chapter.

Article IV - Field Testing**Section 1 - Governing Body**

The chapter must conduct all tests in accordance with the requirements established by NAVHDA.

Section 2 - Membership Rates for Tests

Membership rates for tests sponsored by The Chapter will be applicable to

1. Members of NAVHDA.
2. Persons handling dogs owned by members of NAVHDA.

Article V - Elections**Section 1 - Periodic**

The chapter will hold elections every other year

Section 2 - Nominations

Only a nominated person may be a candidate in a Chapter election. An active member of The Chapter may make nominations for office prior to an election if the person so nominated accepts. If the proposed candidate is not in attendance during the election, the nominator will present to the Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying willingness to be a candidate. One person may be nominated for more than one office; however, that person may only serve in one office at a time.

Section 3 - Ballot

The Board of Directors will present a ballot to the general membership at the election year Annual Meeting prior to voting. The ballot will contain the offices that are up for election. The name(s) of the nominee(s) for each office will be on the ballot or clearly displayed at the meeting.

Section 4 - Voting

Each member of The Chapter with voting rights will be entitled to one vote for each office. No member will be eligible to vote without first paying dues for the year corresponding with the meeting, as well as meeting all Sebasticook Chapter membership requirements. The Board may decide the order of the voting. The Board may present nominees for uncontested positions as a slate to be voted on. The Board may choose voting by visible hand count, secret ballot, by mail or in an electronic format. The results of such election, as determined by a majority of the votes, will be announced will be reported to the general membership within sixty (60) days. In the event that one person receives the most votes for more than one office, the nominee will be awarded the office won by the highest margin. The nominee(s) receiving the next highest number of votes will fill the remaining office(s).

Section 5 - Disputes of Election

The Board will be the sole arbiter of disputes regarding the validity of the election.

Article VI - Chapter Procedure

Section 1 - Procedure

AWith the exception of Article VII – Assets and real property. Chapter business may be conducted by use of the postal mail, electronic mail, electronic format or methods, or during regular and special chapter meetings .

Section 2 - By-Laws Amendments

Amendments to the By-Laws will be voted upon by the membership at a regular meeting or at a special meeting called for that purpose and will require two-thirds (2/3) majority to pass.

Section 3 - Financial Statement

The Treasurer will publish a financial statement of The Chapter annually. At least two members of the Board, other than the Treasurer will examine such financial report before the annual publication.

Section 4 - Regular Meetings

The Chapter will hold one Annual and one Semi-Annual Meeting.

Section 5 – Voting of General Chapter Business

The Chapter may vote on general chapter business during a scheduled Chapter regular meeting. The majority vote of the members present will decide all ordinary business of The Chapter provided thirty days written notice of the meeting, and all items on which to be on is given. A Quorum of general membership is the number of members in attendance. No member will be eligible to vote without first paying dues for the year corresponding with the meeting, as well as meeting all membership requirements.

Section 6 - Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, will govern the chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws and any other special rules of order the chapter may establish.

Article VII – Assets and real property

Section 1 – Management

The Board shall oversee and manage assets and real property belonging to the Chapter. This includes, equipment, real property, infrastructures and associated assets related to the purpose of The Chapter.

Section 2 – Sale

Sale of any individual land owned by The Chapter shall require a vote of the general membership. The proposed reason for the sale of land will be presented to the general membership by The Board of Directors. A vote of the general membership shall be required and conducted by either postal mail or in an electronic format sent to current Chapter members, and shall require 7/8 majority vote of the members of The Chapter.

Article VIII - Dissolution

In the event of total liquidation or complete dissolution of the Chapter, the balance of all money and other property received by the Chapter from any source, after payment of all debts and obligations of the Chapter, will be used or distributed exclusively for the purposes within those set forth in Article I, Section 2 at the discretion of The Board to any 501c3 which may be the combination of (1) another NAVHDA Chapter(s), 2) NAVHDA International, or 3) likeminded organizations within the State of Maine