

WESTERN RESERVE FISH AND GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Dissolution Statement

- I. In the event the club is no longer functional, all remaining assets would be auctioned off or sold. The monies received from the sale of all assets will be placed in a trust controlled by three trustees. The funds should be distributed by request and unanimous trustee approval for activities that promote hunting, fishing, shooting sports, archery sports, youth education in these sports, and environmental issues, until all funds are depleted.

ARTICLE II

Name and Office Location

- I. The name of this non-profit organization shall be Western Reserve Fish and Game Protective Association, Inc.
- II. This organization is incorporated in the state of Ohio. It's office is located at 1058 West Third Street Niles, Ohio 44446.

ARTICLE III

Purpose

- I. The purpose of Western Reserve Fish and Game Preservation Association, Inc.:
 - A. To further the knowledge, consideration, restoration, and propagation of natural resources and the environment through:
 1. Active participation in the protection of fish and game, soil, water, and forest which constitutes its natural habitat.
 2. Promotes and maintains adequate wildlife legislation and laws.
 3. Promote education of the public.
 4. Maintain a working relationship with the state of Ohio Department of Natural Resources, its divisions and officers.
 - B. This organization shall maintain a good relationship with:
 1. Other sporting and conservation clubs.

2. The Trumbull County Federation of Sportsmen.
 3. Maintain good relations with adjacent and other landowners.
- C. This organization shall have the authority to purchase, lease, own, possess, hold, and supervise properties, chattels, and real estate.

ARTICLE IV Organization

- I. The board of trustees shall have charge of and transact the business of this organization. All the authority of this organization shall be exercised by or under the direction of the board of trustees.
- II. The officers shall handle the daily affairs of this organization under the direction of the board of trustees.
- III. Committees shall be appointed by the president subject to the approval of the membership. These committees shall advance the functions and activities of this organization. Special rules shall be established by each committee to enable it to operate efficiently and safely.
- IV. Emergency purchase of one item or service with the approval of two officers and one trustee shall not exceed \$3000.

ARTICLE V Membership

- I. An application must be completed by a candidate wishing membership. The application will be reviewed by the membership screening committee composed of the President and Vice President. If approved, the applicant is presented at a regular meeting. A unanimous vote of members in good standing present is required for acceptance. Membership in this organization shall not be transferred or assigned.
- II. If a "No" vote is cast during the consideration of a prospective new member:
 - A. Discussion and Resolution: The prospective new member or members shall be asked to leave the room, and the remaining members shall discuss the concerns surrounding the "No" vote. Efforts will be made to resolve the issue through open discussion.

- B. Unresolved Concerns: If the concerns cannot be satisfactorily resolved, the prospective member will not be eligible for membership at this time.
 - C. Explanation to the Prospective Member: The Membership Committee will meet privately with the ineligible member to explain the situation and provide feedback regarding the decision.
 - D. Multiple Candidates: If there are multiple prospective members, the ineligible member shall remain outside the room, while the rest of the candidates return for the formal vote.
- III. Membership shall be limited to two hundred and fifty active voting members, excluding life members.
- IV. Membership is available to persons at least 18 years of age with no felony weapons convictions or disqualifying conditions.

Membership dues will be \$75 for new members. Work hours are also required to be completed annually to maintain membership in good standing. Dues and work hour requirements are outlined as follows:

Years of Membership	Annual Dues	Required Work Hours
0 - 1	\$75	10
2 - 3	\$65	6
4+	\$35	6

Trustees may increase dues because of inflation or increased expenses.

- V. Members aged 65 possessing fifteen years consecutive membership in good standing or any member with twenty years consecutive membership in good standing shall be considered a life member. Annual dues and work hour requirements shall be waived.
- VI. Honorary memberships shall be awarded by unanimous vote of membership attending a regular meeting. Honorary members shall not vote, pay dues, or complete work hours.

- VII.** Members whenever possible shall assist with any work necessary for the improvement or sustenance of this organization.
- VIII.** A member in good standing is a duly accepted member of at least two consecutive years who has paid their membership dues no later than the February meeting. Any member that has not paid their dues by the February meeting shall be considered no longer a member and must re-apply as a new member unless the executive board is made aware of medical issues or extenuating circumstances.
- IX.** Annual membership year is December to December.
- X.** Regular membership meetings shall be the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. All meetings shall be conducted under Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VI

Removal of a Member

- I.** Any member found in violation of club bylaws or safety rules will be subject to the disciplinary process. The disciplinary process is as follows.
 - A. Any member(s) violating club bylaws or safety rules will be suspended by the executive board effective immediately pending an investigation completed by the executive board.
 - B. Once the investigation is completed, the executive board will notify the member(s) of the investigation findings and disciplinary punishment.
 - C. The executive board will notify membership of investigation findings and discipline at the next monthly meeting.
 - D. The membership may overrule board decisions by a vote of majority of the membership body present.
 - E. Any appeals may be presented to the membership body at the next monthly meeting.
 - F. Membership will decide on appeal by a vote of majority of the membership body present.
 - G. Once discipline is served (if applicable) the offending member(s) must be reinstated at a monthly meeting by vote of majority of the membership body present.

- II. A member may be dismissed for any wildlife violation resulting in a felony conviction, a felony conviction in any court, or disobeying club rules and bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

Elections

- I. Elections will be supervised by one member in good standing selected by the membership at the November meeting and one trustee not running for reelection.
- II. Officers and one trustee will be elected by majority vote at the December meeting and will take office at the regular meeting in January.
- III. Elections shall take place on the day of the December meeting. Members may vote at the club house from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm or at the regular meeting. Members must sign a voting logbook or have attended at least two regular meetings in the past year, (unless work schedule or health issues have prevented attendance), and identify themselves as members in good standing.
- IV. Nominations will be from the floor at the regular meetings in September, October, and November. The nominee must accept or decline at this time to be placed on the ballot. No nominations shall be accepted in December.
- V. A formal membership slate with nominees will be published on the club website and/or in the clubhouse after the September, October, and November meetings.
- VI. To be nominated for officer or board of trustees, a member must be in good standing as defined in Article V, Section VII and have attended at least six of the twelve monthly meetings in the year the office is requested.

ARTICLE VIII

Board of Trustees

- I. The board of trustees shall consist of three members. One trustee will be elected annually for a three-year term.

- II. The board of trustees shall hold no less than three quarterly meetings per year. Minutes from trustee meetings must be delivered to the recording secretary prior to the next monthly meeting.
- III. Any two Trustees constitute a quorum for a trustee meeting.
- IV. Trustees are to keep a record of all club equipment and property, document findings, and report its condition at the January meeting.
- V. If a trustee fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings, the position of that trustee shall be considered vacant. Vacancies in the board of trustees shall be filled by the membership at the next regular meeting via nominations from the floor. If there is more than one nominee a special election will be held at the next monthly meeting. The newly elected trustee shall serve the unexpired term of the vacancy.
- VI. It shall be the function of the board of trustees to:
 - A. Transact general business for the benefit of this organization on behalf of the membership.
 - B. Fill any vacancies of the officers by appointment of another member to fill the unexpired term of office. If an officer fails to attend three consecutive meetings that position of that officer shall be considered vacant.
 - C. Be prepared to complete an audit at the request of the executive board at any time.
 - D. Complete a quarterly financial audit. Results of the audit should be presented at the next monthly meeting.
 - E. Assure the maintenance of proper liability and property insurance on behalf of this organization.
 - F. Conduct any other order of business to ensure the existence of this organization.

ARTICLE IX

Officers

- I.** The officers of this organization shall consist of:
 - A. President
 - B. Vice President
 - C. Recording Secretary
 - D. Treasurer
 - E. Sergeant at Arms

- II.** Duties of the President shall be:
 - A. Preside at and conduct all regular meetings.
 - B. Preside at and conduct special meetings that have a quorum of at least seven members.
 - C. Attend the regular meetings of the trustees to preserve the interest of the membership.

- III.** Duties of the Vice-President shall be:
 - A. Assume the duties of the president in the event the president is absent or incapacitated.
 - B. Supervise new membership applicants and hold interviews.

- IV.** Duties of the Recording Secretary shall be:
 - A. Maintain a complete and accurate record of the meetings and business of the organization.
 - B. Compose and maintain a record of the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all members.
 - C. Take charge of all correspondence relating to this organization.
 - D. Hold all membership cards until payment of dues and assessments is received.
 - E. Issue applications for membership.
 - F. Receive all monies due this organization on behalf of the treasurer. This money shall be turned over to the treasurer upon delivery of a receipt.
 - G. Verify members in good standing in attendance from the sign in sheet.

V. Duties of the Treasurer shall be:

- A. Serve as custodian of all funds and securities of this organization.
- B. Maintain an itemized account of all receipts and expenditures.
- C. Issue receipts to the recording secretary for all monies received.
- D. Pay all bills of this organization monthly by check or electronic transfer.
- E. Deposit all funds monthly in this organization's bank as authorized by the board of trustees.
- F. A written report of the last month shall be presented to the officers and trustees and given orally at the regular monthly meeting.
- G. Have all supporting vouchers and receipts for an annual audit to be conducted in the month of November by an audit committee appointed by the president.
- H. Checks shall be signed by any two of the following three officers: President, Recording Secretary, or Treasurer.

VI. Duties of the Sergeant at Arms:

- A. Maintain and preserve a sign in sheet of members at each monthly meeting.
- B. Present a copy of the sign in sheet to the recording secretary when needed.
- C. Arrange tables, chairs, or other equipment as needed for each meeting.
- D. Escort out of the meeting anyone causing a disturbance.
- E. Manage the 50/50 raffle at monthly membership meetings.

VII. All outgoing officers, trustees, and committee members shall turn over to their replacement or the president of the club all pertinent and relevant club information and/ or property in formal transition meeting(s). Any outgoing officer, trustee, or committee member who does not complete a formal transition will no longer be considered a member in good standing.

ARTICLE X

Removal of an Officer or Trustee

- I. An officer or trustee of the organization may be removed from their position if they are found to be in violation of the organization's bylaws, rules, or code of conduct. Grounds for removal include, but are not limited to, misconduct and/or failure to perform duties.

- II. A removal process may be initiated by a formal letter presented to the executive board. The letter must clearly state the reasons for the proposed removal. The letter must be given to the executive board at least eight days prior to the monthly meeting.
- III. Upon receipt of a formal letter, the executive board shall notify the officer or trustee in question of the letter and the specific allegations against them. Notification must be given at least seven days prior to the monthly meeting. The officer shall be given an opportunity to respond at the next monthly membership meeting.
- IV. At the second next monthly meeting, membership will discuss the removal of the officer or trustee and vote on removal. Voting shall be conducted by paper ballot. The removal of an officer or trustee requires a vote of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting.
- V. If the vote passes, the officer or trustee shall be immediately removed from their position, and the trustees shall appoint an interim officer until a permanent replacement is elected or appointed, as per the organization's bylaws.
- VI. Any officer or trustee removed from their position shall be ineligible for reappointment and/or nomination for any officer or trustee position within the organization for a period of two years from the date of removal.

ARTICLE XI

Changes

- I. Changes to the constitution and bylaws shall be in writing, signed by three members in good standing, read at three consecutive meetings, and approved by a vote of majority of members present at the third meeting.

ARTICLE XII

Indemnification

- I. No officer, trustee, or member shall be held liable for any damages arising from any lawsuit brought against Western Reserve Fish and Game Protective Association unless criminal charges are filed against a member, guest and the member, guest is convicted in a court of law. Upon conviction of such

charges, the member /or guest agrees to indemnify (free from liability) all officers, trustees, and members of Western Reserve Fish and Game Protective Association from all responsibility for any damages arising from any legal action.

Constitution and Bylaws dated February 5, 2025.

Approved by membership at the monthly meeting on May 13, 2025.

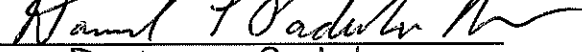
SIGNATURE PAGE

Adoption of Bylaws

The undersigned, being duly authorized and acting as members of the Western Reserve Fish and Game Protective Association, hereby acknowledge and agree to the foregoing Bylaws, and adopt them as the official Bylaws of the organization.

Executed on this 10 day of June, 2025.

Member 1

Signature: 

Printed Name: Daniel L. Padula Jr.

Title: President

Member 2

Signature: 

Printed Name: Pamela J. Scholl

Title: Trustee

Member 3

Signature: 

Printed Name: Lauren Domes

Title: Member in Good Standing

