



## **CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS**

Updated 2003, 2011, 2017, 2022

Last Review 2023

## **HOW TO INTERPRET THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THIS 2026 UPDATE**

Deletions:

~~Red strikethrough~~

Additions:

Black with Green highlighting

# CONSTITUTION

## Article I - Name

1.1 Official Name .....	3
-------------------------	---

## Article II - Affiliation

2.1 Affiliation .....	3
-----------------------	---

## Article III - Purpose

3.1 Purpose .....	3
-------------------	---

## Article IV - Membership

4.1 Membership .....	3
----------------------	---

<del>4.2 Membership Committee .....</del>	<del>3</del>
---	--------------

## Article V - Fiscal Year

5.1 Fiscal Year .....	3
-----------------------	---

## Article VI - Dues

6.1 Dues .....	3
----------------	---

## Article VII - ~~Non-Profit~~ Non for Profit Organization

7.1 <del>Non-Profit</del> Non for Profit Organization .....	4
---	---

## Article VIII - Meetings

8.1 Annual Meeting .....	4
--------------------------	---

8.2 Regular Meeting .....	4
---------------------------	---

## Article IX - Voting Rights

9.1 Voting Rights .....	4
-------------------------	---

## Article X - Amendments

10.1 Amendments .....	4
-----------------------	---

## **Article I - Name**

### **1.1 Official Name**

The Official Name of this organization shall be the Lamoille Valley Fish & Game Club, Inc

## **Article II - Affiliation**

### **2.1 Affiliation**

The Lamoille Valley Fish & Game Club, Inc. will be an affiliated Club and prescribe to the intent and purpose of the National Rifle Association.

## **Article III - Purpose**

### **3.1 Purpose**

On the local level: to maintain a clubhouse in which to hold meetings and events, a shooting range at which to hold events and to enable members to have a safe place to practice; to promote and encourage the safe and responsible handling of firearms through hunter safety education; to periodically invite guest speakers to come before meetings and discuss current laws, legislation and trends; finally, to hold events, conduct shoots and other fundraising activities to raise the funds necessary to keep the organization solvent.

On a broader scope: to promote and encourage the propagation of fish and game and aid in the management of their natural habitat; to provide support and encourage respect for our fish and game regulations; to promote interest in hunting, fishing, trapping and the shooting sports; to provide a voice for sportsmen so that their opinions and suggestions might be heard on a state level; and lastly, to keep abreast of current events which might affect sportsmen and to inform members in time to enable them to have a voice.

## **Article IV - Membership**

### **4.1 Membership**

Membership is open to anyone who is 18 years of age or older. Membership provides for the member and immediate family less than 18 years of age. Anyone over 18 must purchase their own membership.

### ~~4.2—Membership Committee~~

~~An individual seeking club membership must be sponsored by a regular MEMBER and must have his/her membership approved by the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee shall consist of Board of Directors, Secretary, and two regular members voted to position at each annual meeting.~~

## **Article V - Fiscal Year**

### **5.1 Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Club shall be January 1st through December 31st.

## **Article VI - Dues**

### **6.1 Dues**

Membership dues shall be assessed annually. Dues rate to be set by the Board of Directors and changed from time to time as may be needed.

## **Article VII - Non for Profit Organization**

### **7.1 Non for Profit Organization**

Lamoille Valley Fish & Game Club, Inc. is a non for profit organization. No Club members individually or collectively shall receive compensation for promoting and fundraising event, match or activity for the Club without prior approval of the Board of Directors and Executive Board.

## **Article VIII - Meetings**

### **8.1 Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting of the Club shall be held on the last Thursday of January of each year, at which time all Club officers shall be elected and they shall qualify by their acceptance thereof and hold their offices until their successors have been elected. The Annual Meeting shall be notified in writing to the membership, no later than 14 days prior the Annual meeting.

### **8.2 Regular Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Club shall be held on the last Thursday of each month except October, November and December.

## **Article IX - Voting Rights**

### **9.1 Voting Rights**

At a Club Meeting, each regular member shall have the right to cast one vote. Spouses shall not be allowed to vote unless listed as a member in their own name.

## **Article X - Amendments**

### **10.1 Amendments**

Club members in good standing must be notified by email, social media, and website, at least ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting of the proposed amendment to the constitution. At the annual meeting a quorum of the club membership eligible to vote must be present and the amendment must be approved by an affirmative vote of those present.

**These signatures verify that the changes made to this Constitution and Bylaws document accurately reflect those changes approved by the general membership at the annual meeting.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# BYLAWS

## Section 1 - History

1.1	History and Description .....	7
1.2	Membership.....	7
1.3	Life Membership.....	7

## Section 2 - Officers and Duties

2.1	Officers .....	7
2.2	Duties of the President.....	7
2.3	Signature .....	8
2.4	Duties of the Vice President.....	8
2.5	Secretary .....	8
2.6	Treasurer .....	9
2.7	Board of Directors .....	8
2.8	Executive Board .....	9
2.9	Vacancies.....	9
2.10	<del>Cannot Incur Debt</del> Debt and Expenditures.....	9

## Section 3 - Meetings

3.1	Annual Meetings .....	9
3.2	Regular Meetings.....	9
3.3	Order of Business .....	10

## Section 4 - Voting

4.1	Quorum .....	11
4.2	Majority Vote Required .....	10
4.3	Voting Rights.....	10
4.4	Tie Vote or Decision by Less Than a Majority .....	10
4.5	Conflict of Interest.....	10

## Section 5 - Standing Committees

5.1	Purpose .....	11
5.2	Committee Membership and Dues .....	11

5.3	Standing Committees and Duties.....	11
5.3.1	Membership Committee .....	11
5.3.2	Range Committee .....	11
5.3.3	Rifle Committee .....	11
5.3.4	Pistol Committee .....	11
5.3.5	Bow Committee .....	12
5.3.6	Hunter Safety Committee .....	12
5.3.7	Legislative Committee .....	12
5.3.8	Club House Committee .....	12
5.3.9	Shotgun Committee .....	12
5.3.10	Muzzleloader Committee.....	12
5.3.11	Gun Show Committee .....	12
5.3.12	Open House Committee .....	12
5.3.13	Fishing Derby Committee .....	13
5.3.14	Cowboy Action Shooting Committee .....	13
5.3.15	Lamoille Women's Shooting Group Committee .....	13

## **Section 6 - General Rules**

6.1	Adoption .....	13
6.2	Amendments .....	13
6.3	Removal and Severance .....	13

## **Section 1 – History**

### **1.1 History and Description**

To be brief, the Club got its start about 1928, when it was known as the Mt. Elmore Fish & Game Club. It continued with ups and downs until 1958. There was no clubhouse and at most times the Club was rather dependent upon local people to supply a place to meet and the grounds for activities.

In 1960, three loyal members took a note to purchase the land on the Garfield Road where the present clubhouse and range are located. In 1961, they deeded the title of the land over to the Fish & Game Club. Also, about that time a constitution was drawn up laying down guidelines and bylaws for the Club, and the present name "Lamoille Valley Fish & Game Club, Inc" was born.

The Club owns about 79 acres of mostly wooded land on the easterly side of the Garfield Road in Morrisville. About 3 acres of lawn surround the clubhouse which is near a paved road yet quite secluded and quiet. About 6 acres are cleared for the shooting ranges which consist of: rifle ranges, pistol ranges, a skeet field, and a bow range.

### **1.2 Membership**

Membership is open to anyone who is 18 years of age or older. Membership provides club privileges for spouses and children less than 18 year of age.

All Club members shall carry on their person a valid membership card when using Club facilities or when on Club grounds and present said card upon request of any Club member.

### **1.3 Life Membership**

A Club President who has served two or more consecutive terms may be appointed a Life Member of the Club by a vote of the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors may bestow Honorary Memberships. Life Memberships and Honorary Memberships shall be exempt for dues payments.

## **Section 2 - Officers and Duties**

### **2.1 Officers**

The membership shall elect by majority vote a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer annually. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by state law, and these rules. All Officers must attend a minimum of ½ of the monthly meetings. Excessive absences will result in forfeiture of position and benefits bestowed to officers. Excessive absences may be appealed to the Board for extenuating circumstances.

### **2.2 Duties of the President**

The President shall call meetings together, preside over all meetings of the membership, put questions, maintain order, decide all questions of order and procedure, subject to these rules, and shall appoint any committees found necessary to carry out the business of the Club.

### 2.3 Signature

The President's signature shall be the official signature of the Club.

### 2.4 Duties of the Vice President

The Vice President shall assume the duties and powers of the President in his or her absence.

### 2.5 Secretary

The Secretary shall: conduct all official correspondence subject to these rules and at the direction of the Club, issue the proper forms, compile all information and records for the Club to review, send out notices required by law and these rules of procedure, keep minutes of all Club actions and proceedings showing the vote upon every question, prepare reports, keep records of its official actions and perform other duties as directed by the President.

### 2.6 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall: receive all money of the Club and deposit all money in the name of the Club in such financial institution all the membership shall desire; shall issue the proper forms, compile all information and records for the Club to review, send out notices required by law and these rules of procedure; pay all debts of the Club in a timely manner and prepare reports and perform other duties as directed by the President.

### 2.7 Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of three past Presidents and two members elected from club membership at the annual meeting. The two elected board members shall meet the following criteria: 1) Must be a Vermont Resident, 2) Must be a club member for a minimum of two years, 3) Must have served or presently be serving the club in an official capacity for a minimum of one year and 4) Be elected annually. ~~The Board oversees:   
general workings of the Club~~

~~> The Board shall seek and nominate all Officers and Board Members at annual meetings  
> will act in the place of the membership between meetings~~

The Board shall: oversee the general workings of the Club, seek and nominate all Officers and Board Members at annual meetings and act in place of membership between meetings.

All elected Board Members must attend a minimum of 2/3 of the monthly meetings. Excessive absences will result in forfeiture of position and benefits bestowed to elected Board Members. Excessive absences may be appealed to the Board for extenuating circumstances.



## 2.8 Executive Board

The Executive Board shall consist of the Board of Directors, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Board in conjunction with the Board of Directors oversees the general workings of the club.

The Board Chairman shall preside over all Executive Board Meetings and is the final word on all major decisions.

## 2.9 Vacancies

Any vacancy among the officers shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired term

## 2.10 ~~Cannot Incur Debt~~ Debt and Expenditures

No officer of the club shall contract debts without the approval of the Board of Directors and the Executive Board.

Any Expenditure in excess of \$500.00 must be ~~submitted to the general membership of the Club for final approval~~ approved by the general membership or executive board.

## Section 3 - Meetings

### 3.1 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Club shall be held on the last Thursday of January of each year, at which time all Club officers shall be elected and they shall qualify by their acceptance thereof and hold their offices until their successors have been elected.

### 3.2 Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Club shall be held on the last Thursday of each month except November and December.

Meeting schedule

January–September:	Last Thursday of each month
October–December:	No Meeting

Meeting place

January–March:	As determined by the Board of Directors
April–September.	At our clubhouse

Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the President or Board of Directors and may be held at any time.

### **3.3 Order of Business**

The order of business at all regular meetings of the Club shall be as follows:

- Call to Order
- Reading and approval of the minutes of the preceding meeting
- Report of Treasurer
- Reports of Committees and Subcommittees when appropriate
- Old Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

Robert's Rules of Order shall prevail at the meetings when not covered specifically by these bylaws.

## **Section 4 - Voting**

### **4.1 Quorum**

A quorum, for the purposes of the By-Laws and Constitution of the Club, shall consist of three members of the Board of Directors and five other members, two of which must be current officers.

### **4.2 Majority Vote Required**

Determinations on any matter before the Club shall require the concurrence of a majority except those matters requiring a quorum of the members of the club.

### **4.3 Voting Rights**

At any Club meeting, each Member shall have the right to cast one vote. Spouse shall not be allowed to vote unless listed as a member in their own name.

### **4.4 Tie Vote or Decision by Less Than a Majority**

A tie vote by less than a majority of the Club constitutes no action.

### **4.5 Conflict of Interest**

No Club member shall vote on any matter in which he or she has a personal or direct or indirect financial interest.

If the President is disqualified, the Vice President shall preside. If the Vice President is disqualified, a majority of the Club members shall designate a new chairperson to hear and decide the issue.

## **Section 5 - Standing Committees**

### **5.1 Purpose**

To help the Club carry out its programs and to provide a strong base of support from the membership for such activities.

## **5.2 Committee Membership and Duties**

Committees will be made up of two or more Club members appointed by the President. The committee will gather information, formulate recommendations, make reports to the membership, Executive Board or Board of Directors, and carry out those that are approved.

Each committee shall keep written records of its meetings and recommendations. Minutes should contain significant statements, motions and who made them, and whether or not the motion passed.

No committee shall spend any single amount in excess of an amount to be determined from time to time by the Board of Directors and Executive Board without approval of the Board of Directors.

Reports at the annual meeting or to the Board of Directors or executive Board need only summarize the work of the committee and present any recommendations for action.

Copies of committee records will be maintained with the official records of the Club.

All Committee Heads must attend a minimum of 2/3 the monthly meetings. Excessive absences will result in forfeiture of position and benefits bestowed to Committee Heads. Excessive absences may be appealed to the Board for extenuating circumstances.

## **5.3 Standing Committees and Duties**

The following Standing committees are established and will be used to insure the orderly operation of the Club. The Club will call upon the services of a legal advisor to help it decide matters of law. Additional committees may be created as the need arises to carry out important policies and functions.

### **5.3.1 Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee is charged with ~~recruiting new members and screening applicants for acceptance according to Club bylaws~~ processing new memberships and renewals.

### **5.3.2 Range Committee**

The Range Committee is responsible for the range location, maintenance and improvements, safe use of firearms on all Club ranges, and range scheduling.

### **5.3.3 Rifle Committee**

The Rifle Committee is responsible for the establishment and conduct of rifle matches, range maintenance, and budget preparation. Sub-committees may be appointed for special matches.

### **5.3.4 Pistol Committee**

The Pistol Committee is responsible for the establishment and conduct of pistol matches, range maintenance, and budget preparation. Sub-committees may be appointed for special matches.

### **5.3.5 Archery Committee**

The Archery Committee is responsible for the establishment and conduct of Archery matches, range maintenance, and budget preparation. Sub-committees may be appointed for special matches.

### **5.3.6 Hunter Safety Committee**

The Hunter Safety Committee is responsible for the establishment and conducting Hunter Safety Courses.

### **5.3.7 Legislative Committee**

The Legislative Committee is responsible for monitoring the various bills brought before the Vermont Legislature and to keep the Club apprised of issues of import to the Club as regards hunting, fishing, firearms and firing range legislation.

### **5.3.8 Clubhouse Committee**

The Clubhouse Committee is responsible for the establishment, scheduling the use, overseeing general maintenance, and budget preparation. Sub-committees may be appointed as needed.

### **5.3.9 Shotgun Committee**

The Shotgun Committee shall be responsible for scheduling weekly skeet shoots, setting and collecting all fees for skeet shoots, and present the funds to the Clubs Treasurer. The Shotgun Committee shall also be responsible for maintaining all equipment and associated buildings.

### **5.3.10 Muzzleloader Committee**

The Muzzleloader Committee shall be responsible for scheduling all muzzleloader events, setting, and collecting all fees for matches and presenting funds to the Club's Treasurer. The Muzzleloader Committee shall maintain all materials associated to hold club events.

### **5.3.11 Gun Show Committee**

The Gun Show Committee shall be responsible for scheduling the Club's annual Gun Show, securing an ample facility in which to hold the show, as well as setting admission fees and present proceeds to the Club's Treasurer.

### **5.3.12 Open House Committee**

The Open House Committee shall be responsible for scheduling an annual open house event to be open to the Greater Lamoille County Area. Committee shall set what events will be available for guests to sample.

### **5.3.13 Fishing Derby Committee**

The Fishing Derby Committee shall be responsible for organizing and conducting an annual Fishing Derby on Fathers Day. Duties include ordering fish from the Vermont State Fisheries Department, as well as securing a suitable facility to hold the derby. Order trophies for prizes and advertising the event locally.

### **5.3.13 Cowboy Action Shooting Committee**

The Cowboy Action Shooting Committee is responsible for scheduling all cowboy action shooting events, setting and collecting all fees for matches and presenting funds to the Club's Treasurer. The Cowboy Action Shooting Committee shall maintain all associated materials to hold Club events.

### **5.3.14 Lamoille Women's Shooting Group Committee**

The Lamoille Women's Shooting Group Committee is responsible for planning and scheduling trainings, clinics and associated events. The Lamoille Women's Shooting Group shall maintain all associated materials to hold Club events.

## **Section 6 - General Rules**

### **6.1 Adoption**

Upon adoption, the secretary shall maintain a copy of these rules and all amendments. A copy of these rules and all amendments shall be given to each member of the Club at the time of their adoption. A copy of these rules and all amendments shall be made available to each new member at the time the new member is accepted into the Club.

### **6.2 Amendments**

These rules may be amended at the meetings duly warned by an affirmative vote of a quorum of the Club.

### **6.3 Removal and Severance**

The Club, by a quorum vote at any regular meeting, may expel a member, who by their conduct has become inimical to the purpose of the Club, provided notice has been given such member and he/she has offered an opportunity to show reason why they should not be expelled.

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**These rules of procedure were adopted by the Lamoille Valley Fish & Game Club, Inc.  
Last reviewed and accepted as legal constitution containing updates from 2003, 2011, 2017,  
2023 and amendments on January 26, 2023.**

#### **Current officers:**

President: Dean Shedd  
Vice President: Rick Reed  
Treasurer: Keith Ulrich  
Secretary: Fran Sladyk

#### **Current Board of Directors**

Chairman: Matt Nadeau  
Board member: Rame Kuney  
Board member: Richard Craig  
Board member at large: Larry Hamel  
Board member at large: Bob Lindemann