



BY-LAWS

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BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I (1) NAME

This Club shall be known as Connecticut's Bristol Old Tyme Fiddlers' Club, Inc. (C.B.O.T.F.C.)

ARTICLE II (2) PURPOSE

The purpose of this Club shall be:

- A. To promote and preserve Old Tyme Fiddling.
- B. To present concerts/performances in which Old Tyme Fiddling and old fashioned entertainment shall be promoted.

ARTICLE III (3) MEMBERSHIP

There shall be classes of membership as follows:

SECTION 1. ACTIVE MEMBER

Any person eighteen years of age or over who is interested in the purposes of this Club and who can either:

- A. Play five or more Old Tyme club tunes on the fiddle (violin)
- B. Play chords and be able to keep the rhythm on five or more Old Tyme club tunes on the Accordion, Banjo, Bass, Drums, Guitar, Harmonica, Mandolin, Piano and/or any stringed instrument may be considered for Active Membership.
- C. They shall enjoy all the rights and benefits of the Club, have voting privileges and can hold office.
- D. Accompanist Membership will be maintained to a maximum ratio of 30% of the fiddlers-violin members.

SECTION 2. LIFE MEMBER

- A. Any member age 80 and above, who has been a member of the Club for at least five years, will automatically become a Life Member.
- B. They shall enjoy all the rights and benefits of an Active Member.

SECTION 3. JUNIOR MEMBER

Any person seventeen years or younger who is interested in the purposes of this Club and who can either:

- A. Play five or more Old Tyme club tunes on the fiddle (violin)
- B. Play chords and be able to keep the rhythm on five or more Old Tyme club tunes on the Accordion, Banjo, Bass, Drums, Guitar, Harmonica, Mandolin, Piano, and/or any stringed instrument may be considered for Junior Membership.
- C. They have no voting privileges and cannot hold office, but shall otherwise enjoy all rights and benefits of the club.
- D. At age 18, a Junior Member attains Active Membership status.

SECTION 4. ASSOCIATE MEMBER

- A. Associate Members shall enjoy all the rights and benefits of the Club, but shall not have voting privileges or hold office.
- B. The spouse of any Active, Life, Junior or Associate Member is considered a Spouse-Associate Member.
- C. Spouse-Associate Member will become an Associate Member when the spouse of the Active, Life, Junior or Associate Member is deceased.
- D. Associate Membership, shall be limited to the existing members and no new applicants will be considered except for the spouse or surviving spouse of an Active, Life, Junior or Associate Member.

ARTICLE IV (4) APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 APPLICATION

- A. Application for membership may be considered by filling out an application form provided for such purpose.
- B. Such application shall be presented to the Chairperson of the Membership Committee.
- C. Procedure required for membership is explained on the application form.

ARTICLE V (5)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (B.O.D.)

SECTION 1 B.O.D. SHALL CONSIST OF:

- A. President
- B. Vice President
- C. Secretary
- D. Treasurer
- E. Five Active Members

SECTION 2 THE DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

PRESIDENT

It shall be the duty of the President to conduct all regular and special meetings, to decide all points of order, and to appoint all committees, except as otherwise provided in the By-Laws. The President may cast the deciding vote in case of a tie vote on any motion. In addition, the President shall oversee the functions and activities of the Club, providing such leadership and example as shall serve the objectives and welfare of the Club.

VICE PRESIDENT

It shall be the duty of the Vice President to assist the President as required in carrying out the duties of that office, and to assume those duties as the occasion may demand in the absence of the President. In the event of the death of a member or his/her spouse, children or parents, the Vice President shall arrange for the procurement of a tribute on behalf of the club. Upon learning that a member is in distress, the Vice President shall send a token of the Clubs concern and best wishes.

TREASURER

The Treasurer shall present to the Club all bills requiring payment, and upon approval of the membership, shall pay them. The Treasurer shall also receive all monies paid to the Club and deposit same in the bank, and shall keep appropriate and accurate records of all financial transactions. The Treasurer shall report the club's financial status at all regular meetings. Upon being replaced or terminated, the Treasurer shall pass to his/her successor all relevant papers, documents, records, money and other Club property. The Treasurer shall, at the request of the president, submit the financial records of the Club for an appropriate form of audit.

SECRETARY

The Secretary shall handle all communications, keep minutes of all meetings, maintain a record of the names and address of all members and perform other appropriate duties at the discretion of the President. The Secretary shall notify the members of upcoming meetings, concerts/performances, and special events.

SECTION 3 ELIGIBILITY

An Active Member must have one year membership in good standing to qualify as a Board Member.

SECTION 4 DUTIES OF B.O.D.

It shall be the duties of the B.O.D. to transact such emergency business as may arise between the regular meetings of the Club and to report any such action to the membership at its next meeting, at which time the Club members will have the option of accepting the report or may elect to vote on any portion of the B.O.D.'s report to determine the final outcome.

SECTION 5 ELECTION OF B.O.D.

Prior to the October meeting, the President will ask the Officers if they agree to run for re-election. If someone declines, the President will find another Club member willing to run for the position that will be vacated.

- A. At the October meeting, the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee will present the names of the candidates to the Club members, then ask if any members of the Club is interested in running for any of the positions and/or will accept nominations from the floor. The list of the names of all parties who are running for election will be announced in the newsletter that will be mailed prior to the November meeting.
- B. At the November meeting the election will take place. If there are no challengers for any of the positions to be filled, the Secretary will call for the acceptance of all candidates via one vote. If there are more than one candidate for any position(s) a run off election will be held.
- C. The newly elected Board of Directors shall take office effective January 1 of the following year.

SECTION 6 VACANCIES

The B.O.D. is authorized to fill any vacancies caused by the death, resignation or termination of any B.O.D. Member for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE VI (6)
COMMITTEES AND DUTIES

SECTION 1

The president is empowered to appoint such Special Committees as he may deem necessary and shall make appointments at the request of the membership at any duly constituted meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

A. MEMBERSHIP

Its duty shall be to provide application forms and then determine the correct membership classification and also to advise the applicant of the procedure required for membership.

B. AUDITION

Its duty shall be to evaluate each applicant to decide on the applicant's qualifications for membership. A majority vote of the full committee shall determine its recommendation.

C. ENTERTAINMENT

Its duty shall be to provide the place, date and type of entertainment including the annual picnic and annual meeting as the membership desires.

D. PROGRAM

1. Its duty shall be to secure and provide the necessary arrangements for concerts/performances or other programs that may be of interest to the membership.

E. EXECUTIVE

1. MUSICAL DIRECTOR

This person's duty shall be to direct the group playing at concerts/performances and practice sessions, and shall have the authority to observe the seating arrangements to determine the positioning of the accompanists as well as the fiddlers. He/she will determine the tempo of the tune to be played.

2. MASTER OF CEREMONIES

This person's duty shall be to introduce the Club and announce the name of the tunes to be played and also introduce the name of soloists to the audience. At no time should this position be used to promote any Club member's private enterprise. Also, in a manner appropriate to the type of concert being presented, he/she shall consult and co-operate with the Musical Director to arrange the group and solo numbers in order to suit the concert schedule to assure the best possible performance.

SECTION 2

Chairperson of all committees shall render an oral report to the membership at the monthly meeting and a written report to the President when necessary.

ARTICLE VII (7)
MEETING

SECTION 1

- A.** Regular business meetings shall be held monthly at a place designated by the President. Only members of the Club will be allowed to attend the business portion of the monthly meetings.
- B.** Significant Other and Life Partner of Active, Life, Junior or Associate Members and Parents or Guardians of Junior Members and a designated caregiver of a disabled member are allowed to attend the regular business monthly meetings.

SECTION 2

Special meetings can be held at the request of the President or by written request to the Secretary from five (5) Active members in good standing, provided written notice of the date and the purpose of the meeting is mailed to all the Club's members at least five (5) days prior to the meeting date.

SECTION 3

Meetings of the B.O.D. shall be held at the request of the President or by the verbal or written request to the President from any Board member, or by the verbal or written request to the Secretary from five (5) Active members in good standing. The President shall then provide verbal or written notice to all the Board members, advising them of the time and place of the meeting.

SECTION 4

At all meetings or concerts no liquor may be consumed by any member or guest.

SECTION 5

The President may, at his discretion, change the order of business as stated in Robert's Rule of Order.

**ARTICLE VIII (8)
QUORUM**

SECTION 1

A total of fifteen (15) Active Members including one officer shall constitute a quorum at all regular meetings of the Club.

SECTION 2

Five members of the B.O.D. of this Club shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the B.O.D.

**ARTICLE IX (9)
DUES**

SECTION 1

- A. The dues for all Active, Associate and Junior members shall be payable to the Treasurer, starting in the month of November and ending in the month of March of the following year.
- B. The Secretary will remind the Members that their dues must be rendered to the Treasurer by March 31. Failure to do so will result in the removal of their name from the Club's membership list.
- C. For members in arrears, refer to Article X (Misconduct) Section 2.

SECTION 2

Spouse-Associate shall pay no dues

SECTION 3

Life Members shall pay no dues

SECTION 4

- A. Newly voted Members will pay their membership dues on the day of acceptance.
- B. Dues paid by a new member accepted during the last quarter of the year (October 1 to December 31) will include the next year's dues.

**ARTICLE X (10)
MISCONDUCT**

SECTION 1

Any member, who fails to conduct himself/herself in accordance with the principles of this Club during club functions and whose behavior shall be deemed to cause serious harm to the good image and repute of the Club or to disrupt its harmony and thus threaten its continued well-being, shall be subject to the following procedure.

- A. Any Club member may send a letter to the President identifying the member who is accused of misconduct and listing the reasons why this action is deemed necessary.
- B. According to the Robert's Rule of Order pertaining to Misconduct, the President will select five people from the Club's membership to form an Investigative Committee. These five people will select one person to be the chairperson and one person to be the secretary of the committee.
- C. The Investigative Committee will schedule a meeting with the member who initiated the charge of misconduct and any additional members who could offer testimony regarding the charges.
- D. After hearing all the evidence pertaining to the formal charges, the Investigative Committee will send a registered letter to the accused advising that charges of misconduct have been made and that a meeting will be scheduled at which time the accused will be asked to defend his/her position before the Investigative Committee. If the accused fails to respond to the letter or fails to attend said meeting, then he/she forfeits their right to defend their position before the Committee.
- E. The members of the Investigative Committee will come to a decision on what necessary actions, will be taken against the accused (i.e. reprimand, suspend/expel).
- F. The accused will have the option of:
 - 1. Accepting the decision of the Investigative Committee, or
 - 2. Present/defend his/her position before the Club's membership at the next monthly meeting at which time each Active Member of the Club will cast a ballot vote to decide whether or not to accept the Investigative Committee's recommendation.

SECTION 2

Any member dropped from membership for non-payment of dues may be reinstated by either repaying the amount in arrears or re-applying for membership.

**ARTICLE XI (11)
OBLIGATIONS**

SECTION 1

All persons voted to membership of this Club agree to conform to the By-Laws and all regulations adopted by the Club.

SECTION 2

A member in good standing shall apply to those who are not under suspension of membership and whose dues are paid.

SECTION 3

No officer or Club member shall disburse any money belonging to the Club or obligate the Club without first obtaining authorization from the President, the B.O.D., or the Club's Membership.

SECTION 4

All money collected by the Club shall be used for such purposes as the Club shall direct, by a two-third (2/3) vote at any duly constituted meeting. In the case of major expenditures, all members entitled to vote must be given written notice of the purposed expenditure(s) at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting when the vote will take place.

SECTION 5

Any checks written for expenditures of the Club shall be signed by the President and the Treasurer. In the absence of either, the President's name may be replaced by the Vice-President and the Treasurer's name be replaced by the Secretary.

SECTION 6

Two (2) Active Members shall be appointed by the President at the January meeting to audit the financial records of the Club. They shall have the authority to inspect the books and records and shall make an oral report at the next business meeting.

SECTION 7

If the Club shall be dissolved, after payment of all debt and obligations, the remaining money and properties of the Club shall be donated to the State of Connecticut, Commission of the Arts, 340 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT.

**ARTICLE XII (12)
MISCELLANEOUS**

SECTION 1

Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority on all matters not covered by the By-Laws.

SECTION 2

No person shall use the Club's name, official insignia or mailing list for other than Club purposes.

SECTION 3

When a motion is made and seconded, after a period of discussion, the President or any Active Member may request that a written ballot vote be taken.

**ARTICLE XIII (13)
AMENDMENT**

Proposed amendments for the addition, revision or elimination of any portion of these By-Laws must be presented to the members at any duly constituted meeting of the Club and then voted upon at the next regular meeting, provided all members entitled to vote are given written notice of the proposed change(s) at least five (5) days prior to the date of said meeting. Amendments will require a two-third (2/3) vote of the Active Members in attendance at said meeting.

**ARTICLE XIV (14)
ADOPTION**

The initial Constitution and By-Laws were adopted at a meeting held on January 13, 1974 by two-third (2/3) vote of the members present.

Revised: April 10, 1983
January 19, 1997
November 14, 1999
May 6, 2000
May 6, 2007