

RAINIER AGILITY TEAM, INC. CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Amended May 2001

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ARTICLE I: Name

The name of this club shall be RAINIER AGILITY TEAM.

ARTICLE II: Objectives

The objectives of the club shall be:

- A. To promote the sport of international style dog agility for participation by all dogs regardless of pedigree or breed(s);
- B. To educate members and public about the sport of international style dog agility for participation by all dogs regardless of pedigree or breed(s);
- C. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of international style dog agility for participation by all dogs regardless of pedigree or breed(s) by encouraging sportsmanlike competition and responsible dog ownership.

ARTICLE III: Nonprofit Status

The club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder of residue from dues or donations to the club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

ARTICLE IV: Membership

A. **ELIGIBILITY.** There shall be two types of membership, individual membership and family membership.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP shall be open to all families who subscribe to the purposes of this club. Family membership shall be limited to two voting members per family and the voting members must be eighteen years of age or older.

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP shall be open to all families who subscribe to the purposes of this club. Family membership shall be limited to two voting members per family and the voting members must be eighteen years of age or older.

B. **RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES.** Members in good standing may enjoy the privileges of the club. To maintain good standing a member must have no outstanding debts to the club and must attend a minimum of one general meeting (other than the Holiday Banquet) and contribute substantially to the club by working at club-sponsored events during the preceding twelve (12) months. The definition of "substantial contribution" is set fourth in the Membership Policy and may be revised by a vote of the members in good standing, as needed.

All types of members (Individual, Limited, and Family) are entitled to participate in all events sponsored or cosponsored by the club and to attend meetings held by the club. In addition, al members (other than Limited Members who are competitors or students) are entitled to receive the club newsletter. Individual and Family Members are also entitled to attend club-sponsored practices, subject to the practice guidelines adopted by the members.

Members in good standing are entitled to the following additional privileges:

1. Discounts on tuition fees and entry fees at classes or events sponsored by the Club. the amount of the discount and the events eligible for discounts shall be determined by the Board.
2. Priority admission to those club-sponsored seminars, and events for which admission is limited (if permitted by the governing organization).
3. Right to vote at all meetings of the Club. Each member in good standing is entitled to one vote; Family Members are limited to a maximum of two votes per family.

C. ELECTION TO MEMBERSHIP. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this constitution and bylaws. The application shall state the name and address of the applicant and it shall carry the endorsement of a member-sponsor. Members acting as a sponsor for prospective members should assist the prospective member with becoming acquainted with other members, the rules, customs, and practices of the Club. The prospective member shall submit the application and dues payment for the current year to the Membership Committee. Prior to being accepted into the club the applicant must attend one general meeting.

D. APPLICATION. All applications are to be filed with the Membership coordinator and each applications to be read at the first meeting of the Club following its receipt. Once the attendance requirement has been fulfilled, the applicant's name and some general information about them will b published in the club newsletter. Unless the Membership coordinator receives written objections, the applicant will automatically become a member 30 days after publication of the newsletter. Any written objections will be passed to the Board, which will consider the objection and inform the applicant if their application is rejected. For one year from date of admission, new members will automatically be entitled to all of the privileges of membership, including the additional privileges described inSectionB.1. and B.2. above, except they will not be entitled to vote until they have satisfied the requirements to be members in good standing, subject to the conditions described in the Membership Policy, as revised form time to time.

Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the club may not reapply within six months after such rejection.

E. DUES. Membership dues will be determined by the Membership at the October meeting for the ensuing year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of November, the Recording Secretary publish in the newsletter a statement of each member's dues for the ensuing year.

2. Section E of Article V: **Meeting and Voting** shall be revised as follows:

E. VOTING. Each member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Club at which he/she is present. One written proxy vote per member will be permitted at any Club meeting.

F. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP. Membership may be terminated:

1) by resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Recording Secretary; but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Club and they become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.

2) by lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 90 days after the first of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant an additional 90 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case will a person be entitled to vote at any Club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.

3) by expulsion. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article IX of these constitution and bylaws.

ARTICLE V: Meeting and Voting

A. CLUB MEETINGS. Meetings of the club shall be held in the Greater Puget Sound area at a time and place determined by motion from a previous meeting.

B. SPECIAL CLUB MEETINGS. Special Club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the Board, or by the Recording Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five members of the Club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held in the Greater Puget Sound area and at such an hour and place as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings.

- C. **BOARD MEETINGS.** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held prior to the General Meeting.
- D. **SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS.** Special meetings of the Board shall be called by the President or by the Recording Secretary at the request of at least three members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held at such an hour and place as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such a meeting.
- E. **VOTING.** Each member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the Club at which he/she is present. A member must attend a minimum of two meetings and work at two events to be entitled to vote at the annual meeting. One written proxy vote will be permitted at any Club meeting.
- F. Ballots will be mailed to all members in good standing for election of officers.

ARTICLE VI: Directors and Officers

- A. **BOARD OF DIRECTORS.** The Board shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer and three (3) directors, all of whom shall be members in good standing who are residents of the United States. They shall be elected for one-year terms at the Club's annual meeting as provided in Article VII, and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.
- B. **OFFICERS.** The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, recording Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the Club and its meetings and the Board and its meetings.
- 1) The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these constitution and bylaws.
 - 2) The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence, or incapacity.
 - 3) The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club. He/She shall notify members of meeting, notify new members of their election to membership,

notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these constitution and bylaws. Secretary shall have charge of the correspondence and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these constitution and bylaws.

- 4) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the Club. He/She shall deposit the same in a bank satisfactory to the Board, in the name of the Club. The books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board and he/she shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting he/she shall render an account of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.

C. VACANCIES. Any vacancies occurring on the Board during the year shall be filled for the unexpired term of office by a majority vote of all the then members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy.

ARTICLE VII: The Club Year, Annual Meeting, Elections

- A. CLUB YEAR. The fiscal year shall begin on the 1st day of January and end on the 31st day of December. The Club's official year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election at the annual meeting and shall continue through the election at the next annual meeting.
- B. ANNUAL MEETING. The annual meeting shall be held in the month of January at which officers and directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret, written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section D of this Article., They shall take office immediately upon the conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to his/her successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.
- C. ELECTIONS. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. The three nominated candidates for other positions on the Board who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.

D. NOMINATIONS. No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated. By the first day of September, the Board shall select a nominating committee consisting of three members and two alternates, no more than one of whom shall be a member of the Board. The Recording Secretary shall immediately notify the committeemen and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a Chairman for the Committee and it shall be his/her duty to call a committee meeting which shall be held on or before October 1st.

- 1) The committee shall nominate from one to three candidates for each office and board positions, and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Recording Secretary in writing.
- 2) Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Recording Secretary shall on or before October 31st notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- 3) Additional nominations may be made at the November meeting by any member n attendance provided that the person nominated does not decline when his/her name is proposed and provided further that if the proposed candidate is not in attendance at this meeting, his/her proposer shall present to the Recording Secretary a written statement from the proposed candidate signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate. No person may be a candidate for more than one position, and the additional nominations which are provided for herein may be made only from among those members who have not accepted a nomination of the Nominating Committee.
- 4) Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

ARTICLE VIII: Committees

- A. The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as agility events and tests, trophies, annual prizes, membership and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid it on particular projects.
- B. Any Committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written notice to the appointee; and the board may appoint successors to those persons whose service has been terminated.

ARTICLE IX: Discipline

- A. **CHARGES.** Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the sport of agility. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Recording Secretary together with a deposit of \$10 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained. The Recording Secretary shall promptly notify the Board which shall meet and fix a date of a Board hearing not less than 3 weeks nor more than 6 weeks thereafter. The Recording Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in his/her own defense and bring witnesses if he/she wishes.
- B. **BOARD HEARING.** The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the Board may by a majority vote of those present suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. Or, if it deems that the punishment is insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his/her fellow members at the ensuing Club meeting which considers the Board's recommendation. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary, in turn shall notify each of the parties of the Board's decision and penalty, if any.
- C. **EXPULSION.** Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at a meeting of the Club following a Board hearing and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Section C of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the club to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his/her own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak on his/her own behalf if he/she wishes. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the Board's suspension shall stand.

ARTICLE X; Amendments

- A. Amendments to the constitution and bylaws may be proposed by the Board of directors or by written petition addressed to the Recording Secretary signed by twenty percent of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Recording Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Recording Secretary.
- B. The constitution and bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote by written ballot of the membership, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the election.

ARTICLE XI: Dissolution

The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the total membership. In the event of the dissolution of the Club whether voluntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the Club shall be distributed to any members of the club but after payment of the debts of the club, its property and assets all may be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs, selected by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII: Order of Business

- A. At meetings of the Club, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of last meeting
- Report of the Recording Secretary
- Report of the Correspondence
- Report of the Treasurer
- Report of the Committees
- Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting)
- Election of new members
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

B. At meetings of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- Minutes of last meeting
- Report of the Recording Secretary
- Report of Correspondence
- Report of the Treasurer
- Reports of the Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

ARTICLE XIII: Non-covered Items

Anything not covered in this constitution and bylaws shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.