

Sippican Rod and Gun Club



Corporation By-Laws Amended September 12, 2024

As amended September 2024

Article I

Section I: Name, Location and Purpose

The name of this organization shall be "Sippican Rod and Gun Club", hereinafter referred to as the "Corporation" .

The Corporation shall be located in the Township of Rochester, County of Plymouth, Commonwealth of Massachusetts and shall be incorporated under the provisions of Chapter 180 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

The purpose of this corporation shall be to promote the interest of legitimate sport with rod and gun, to encourage organized rifle, pistol, revolver, shotgun and archery shooting, with adherence to the rules and regulations of the fish and game laws of the state of Massachusetts. With a view toward a better knowledge on the part of each member for safe handling and proper care of firearms, and improved marksmanship. It will be the organization's further objective and purpose to promote characteristics of honesty, fellowship, self-discipline, team play, and self-reliance, which are the essentials of good sportsmanship and the foundation of true patriotism. *(Amended Sept. 2021)*

Article II

Section I: Seal

The Corporation shall have a seal which shall bear such inscription as the Board of Directors may determine and which shall remain in the custody of the Secretary *(Amended Nov, 1989)*

Article III

Section I: Officers

The elected officers of the Corporation shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Chair Person. Further, eight members who are not officers shall be elected as members of the Board of Directors.

All Officers and Board Members shall be paid up members of the Corporation in good standing for a minimum of (3) three consecutive years, this requirement may be waived by two thirds vote of the Board of Directors. All Officers and Board Members shall have an equal vote at the Board of Directors Meetings. *(Amended Nov, 1989, Amended Sept. 2021)(Amended Sept. 2024)*

Under such circumstances that an issue would be to the personal benefit or gain of a Board Member(s), such Board Member(s) shall abstain from said vote and voting authority shall be passed to the Executive Officer should the Board be dead locked in its vote. *(Amended April, 1993)*

Section II: Elections

All Officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting. In case of a tie vote the Board of Directors shall determine the winner by vote.

Absentee ballots will be considered based on personal application to the general membership at the August General Meeting. A majority vote of the general membership present will be sufficient to authorize an absentee ballot. Persons applying for an absentee ballot must pay their dues in full on or before the issuance of said ballot. *(Amended April, 1993, April 1996 & June 2014, Amended Sept. 2021)*

All Officers elected shall enter upon the discharge of the duties of their respective offices at the next regular meeting following such election, and shall hold office for two years thereafter. *(Amended Sept. 2021)* The President, Secretary and 4 Board members shall be elected on even numbered years and the Vice President, Treasurer and 4 Board members shall be elected on even numbered years. *(Amended Sept, 2024)*

Section III: Vacancy

Any vacancy other than the office of President shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Article IV

President

Section I:

The President shall preside at all meetings of said Corporation and of the Board of Directors and shall exercise such other powers as may from time to time be vested in him by vote of the Corporation.

Section II:

The President shall appoint the Chairperson of the various committees and shall also serve, Ex-Officio, on the Board of Directors for one year following the expiration of his elected term of office. *(Amended April, 1993)*

Article V

Vice-President:

Section 1:

The Vice-President shall, in the event of the President's absence, death or resignation, assume all of the responsibilities and duties of the office of President. *As amended June, 2014*

Article VI

Treasurer:

Section 1:

The Treasurer shall, subject to the direction and control of the membership, collect, receive and safely keep all monies, funds and securities of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall keep a full account of his / her transactions and the pecuniary standing and business of the Corporation, and generally attend to all its financial affairs so as to best promote its interests. *(Amended Sept. 2021)*

Section II:

The Treasurer may make payments, sign, endorse, and accept checks, notes and drafts in behalf of the Corporation to the extent authorized and approved by the Corporation or its Board of Directors.

Section III:

The Treasurer shall furnish the Board of Directors, upon request, such abstracts of his / her records as may be necessary to a full exhibit of the financial condition of the Corporation. *(Amended Sept. 2021)*

Section IV:

The Treasurer shall, when and if required by a vote of the Corporation or its Board of Directors, submit his /her books and records to the auditing committee for examination and approval once a year, 30 days prior to the annual meeting. *(Amended Sept. 2021)*

Article VII

Secretary:

Section I:

The Secretary shall keep a full and accurate account of the proceedings of each general meeting of the Corporation and shall act as clerk for the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall receive and file all reports offered and accepted by the Corporation, post notices of meetings and perform other such duties as may be required. The secretary shall also keep a record of the Post Office addresses and email addresses of all members. *(Amended April, 1993, Amended Sept. 2021)*

Article VIII

Board of Directors:

Section I:

The Board of Directors consisting of four officers and seven elected members shall have superintendence and control of all business and activity of the expenditure of more than \$2,500 and conveyance or

disposition of any corporate assets. *(Amended April 1996 & June 2014)* Corporation. excluding, except in an emergency,

Section II:

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to carry out policies and submit new policy to the general membership for approval. *(Amended April, 1996)*

Section III:

The Board of Directors shall meet monthly on the first Sunday at 11 :00 A.M. or any other reasonable time deemed necessary. Unless canceled for holidays, inclement weather or lack of agenda. *(Amended June 2012)*

Section IV

Five members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. *(Amended April, 1993)*

Section V

Attendance by Board members is expected, members that can not be at meetings must step down or be asked by the board why they are unable to attend. The board shall decide to excuse the absence or not. *(Amended Sept 2022)*

Article IX

Section I: Membership

Qualification for Membership

The members of the Corporation shall be citizens of the United States of America who have attained the age of eighteen (18) years, are members of or have made application through this Corporation for membership in the National Rifle Association, and who have complied with all other qualifications and criteria for membership expressed herein. *(Amended May, 1990)*

Classification of Membership:

Membership in this Corporation shall be classified as follows:

General Membership:

Any person who makes proper application and qualifies according to the criteria established herein as a general member of this Corporation and shall be entered upon the roster of active members and have all rights and privileges of membership including the right to vote within the Corporation. *(Amended May, 1990)*

Armed Forces Members:

Any club member who is deployed overseas and whose membership lapses during his deployment will have his membership extended for one year when he / she returns home.

(Amended February, 2006, Amended Sept. 2021)

Family Membership:

A person and his or her spouse who are desirous of attaining family membership in the Corporation and who have made proper application and qualify according to the criteria established herein may enter under family membership.

Both persons entering under a family membership shall enjoy a full general membership in the. (repealed as of January 2025) (amended Sept. 2024)

Corporation, however, the Board of Directors, may from time to time, alter, exempt or discount their dues fees and/or other assessments. *(Amended May, 1990 & April, 1996)*

Senior Membership:

Any Corporate member of five (5) consecutive years directly preceding his sixty-fifth (65th) birthday, who conforms to all other qualifications for membership and is desirous of attaining a senior membership in the Corporation shall make application in writing to the Secretary, in such form as shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Senior membership of the Corporation shall enjoy a full general membership in the Corporation and shall pay the prevailing dues, however, they shall be granted, automatically, any and all incentive credits which may be applied to the payment of dues and they shall not be subject to any assessments imposed on the general membership, without specific mandate of the Corporation. *(Amended May 1990)*

Life Membership:

Applications for new life members shall be discontinued after April 4, 1996. *(Amended April 1996)*

Associate Membership:

(Repealed June, 2012)

Section II: Application for Membership

A person desirous of becoming a member of this Corporation shall make application in writing to the Chairperson of the Membership Committee in such form as shall be prescribed by the Board of Directors. Such application must be accompanied with a sum of money sufficient to pay the application fee and dues in advance for the year next ensuing. Renewal of membership and payment of the applicable fee and dues is due twelve months from the date of membership. (Amended Sept. 2024)

Applicants who are N.R.A. members or have applied for N.R.A membership through the Corporation and who have paid all applicable fees dues and assessments and otherwise qualify for membership as per Article IX, Section I of the Corporate By-Laws may be accepted for membership.

Rejection of an applicant by the Corporation shall thereupon result in a refund of said applicants application fee and dues.

Applicants being accepted by a confirming vote of the Corporation shall attend a new member orientation course at which they have acknowledged by signature that they have read and accept the by-laws, rules, regulations and policy of the corporation prior to firing on any of the ranges and enter upon a twelve (12) month probationary period. (Amended April, 1996) Upon expiration of the new member's probationary period, the Board of Directors shall review said member's record of activity and determine at that time, if the best interests of the Corporation would be served by permitting the renewal of such membership. (Amended May 1990) *(Amended June, 2012)*

Section III: Nomination for Membership
(Repealed June, 2012)

Section IV: Limitation of Membership The membership of this Corporation shall be limited to seven hundred and fifty (750) paying members. *(Amended May, 1990 (Amended June, 2012, Amended Sept. 2021)*

Section V: Expulsion of Members

Any member who shall conduct him/herself in a manner which is unbecoming or to disturb the harmony or impair the good name of the Corporation may, after a determination by the Board of Directors be reprimanded, fined, suspended, denied renewal or immediately expelled from membership in the Corporation.

Section VI: Election of Members

(Repealed June 2012)

Section VII: Guests

All members in good standing may during any of the prescribed operating hours and at anyone time bring up to two (2) guests to the Corporation ranges or club house and there will be no fee charged for the guest's use of Corporation property. Such guest shall remain with the club member, further the club member shall be responsible for all actions or omissions of his or her guests and indemnify the corporation for any and all losses suffered caused or associated with the presence of their guests on corporation property. All club rules apply to all guests. When any guest is shooting the member must be present and acting as coach. No member shall allow more than one guest to shoot at a time. No guest is to be left unsupervised at any time when on club property. A member and their guest are allowed use of one shooting station only. *(Amended June, 2012)*

Section VIII: Assessment

All members in good standing may be assessed annually such an amount as shall be deemed sufficient to purchase corporate identification, which must be worn by members while on Corporation grounds. *(Amended April, 1993)*

Assessments may from time to time be imposed on the membership in order to ensure the continued survival of the Corporation and/or to attain funds deemed necessary for repairs or improvements to Corporation property. No assessment may be imposed without an approving vote of the Corporation. *(Amended April, 1993)*

Article X

Treasurer for his/her review and approval monthly. (*Amended April, 1996*)

Meetings:

Section I: General Meetings

General Meetings of the Corporation shall be conducted on the second Thursday of August, September, November, February, April, and June at 7:30 P.M. unless suspended by the board of directors for holidays or inclement weather. (*Amended September, 2005*) (*Amended June, 2012*)

Section II: Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation shall be conducted on the second Thursday in the month of September.

Section III: Special Called Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the President or the Board of Directors, when in their opinion the best interests of the Corporation demand such a meeting. No action at such a Special Meeting involving the expenditure of money shall be in order unless written, printed, or electronic notices shall have been sent to each member at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to any meeting wherein such an expenditure is considered. (*Amended April, 1996, Amended Sept. 2021*)

Section IV: Quorum (General Membership Meetings)

A quorum of members shall consist of eleven members of the Corporation in good standing (*Amended April 1993 & April, 1996, Amended Sept. 2021*)

Section V: Board Meetings

The Board of Directors shall meet generally once a month (as needed) at a day and time to be posted by the President, after the first board meeting in October or any other time called by the President or the board as deemed necessary. (Amended Sept. 2024)

Section VI: Quorum (board of Directors)

A quorum of the Board shall consist of six members. (Amended Sept. 2021)

Article XI

Article XI

Committees:

Section I:

The Board of Directors may from time to time create such committees as may be deemed advisable and shall define their powers and duties. Committees required to receive or otherwise handle funds in the discharge of their duties shall submit in writing, that portion of its report regarding finance to the Corporate

Section II:

Chairmen shall be responsible for their committees. No action shall be taken by any member of a committee without the approval of at least two (2) other members of that committee, one of which must be the chairman. The committee chairman is responsible for submitting a written report of its activities to the Board of Directors monthly.

(Amended April, 1996)

Section III: Nominations Committee

A Nominations Committee may be appointed by the Board of Directors to solicit members in good standing to accept nominations for Officers and Board Members. *(Amended April 1993)*

Nominations for Officers and Board Members are to be made at the General Meeting in August.

The Nominations Committee may submit the name of the member in good standing in nomination for a position without the members presence at the General Meeting in August, provided the nominee has expressed his/her acceptance of the nomination to the Nomination Committee. *(Amended April, 1993)*

Article XII

Dues:

Section I:

Each member of the Corporation shall pay annually on the renewal date of membership in each year such sum of money as, from time to time, may be fixed by corporate vote.

Article XIII

Section I: By-Law Amendments

These By-laws may be altered, amended or repealed at The Annual Meeting of the Corporation, by a two thirds(2/3rds) majority of the members present, provided that notice of such a meeting and of the proposed alterations, amendments or deletions be presented to each member of the Corporation, in a manner provided as per Article X, Section III, Para. 1 contained herein. *(Amended June 2014)*

ARTICLE XIV: RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Section I: Member Responsibilities

Members are expected to:

- Challenge unknown persons making use of club ranges. If non-members refuse to leave, get their registration number, call the Rochester police. The grounds are for members only.
- Observe the 30-mph speed limit on Dexter Lane. (*Amended June, 2012*)
- Control their guests. Guests are welcome only when accompanied by a member. Members are held responsible for the actions of their guests.
- Control their children. Children are not permitted on active ranges without proper supervision, proper supervision for this article will require a minimum of one parent or guardian for each child under 16 years of age, any person 16 years and up are considered as a guest, see art IX sect VII (*Amended Sept. 2021*)
- Care for all club equipment and to return all items used to their proper places.
- Keep club house, grounds and ranges clean by removing their own trash and making use of receptacles provided for the same.
- Keep off Berms and keep others off. Climbing berms will destroy ground cover and lead to erosion.
- Remove all live ammo from ranges. Do not deposit misfired or unwanted ammo in trash cans, place duds in dud boxes supplied on each range. (*Amended Sept. 2021*)
- Support your club in its efforts to preserve our right to keep and bear arms and to support a full line of shooting sports.
- Maintain the strictest of safety standards while on club grounds.
- Check ranges before use; children may be playing behind back stops or targets.
- Adhere strictly to established range hours. Our ranges are open 7 days a week from 10:00 A.M. to times posted. (*Amended June, 2012*)
- Members are permitted to utilize the Archery range from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset, as stated by the local paper, with the understanding that noise levels are to be kept to a minimum.

Section II: Range Rules

PURPOSE: The following Range Rules and Regulations are established to insure safety and discipline for members and guests on Club Ranges and on Club Property as well as safety for our neighbors and the surrounding community. (These rules may be amended by the Board of Directors at anytime in the interest of public safety. Said changes will be in effect only until the next annual meeting when the rule change must be approved by the membership.) (*Amended Sept 2022*)

ENFORCEMENT: *All* Members are required to enforce these rules. *All* members in good standing are expected to politely point out to any shooter in violation of these rules, the nature of the violation, request that they stop and report the incident along with the violator's name to a Board member for review.

PENALTY: The Board of Directors will review all reports of range violations and after meeting with the member or members in question, will take one of the following actions:

A) No Action; B) Written Reprimand; C) Temporary Suspension; D) Expulsion from the Club.

RANGE RULES:

- The Range Officer in charge has total control of all activities on the range and must be obeyed.
- Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction (down range) at all times.
- Keep finger off the trigger until ready to fire.
- Keep all firearms unloaded and all actions open until on the firing line and ready to fire.
- No alcohol is permitted on any range.
- The use of illegal drugs is forbidden on club grounds (automatic expulsion).
- Members must conspicuously wear membership card while on club grounds.
- Remove all live ammo from range.
- Inspect range for hazards (and children) prior to use.
- Glass targets are not permitted on any range at any time.
- Only commercially manufactured steel (gun) targets are allowed on any range and must be shot from the shooting bench. (*Amended Sept. 2021*)
- All targets must be within four feet of the berm. Hand guns must be used within twenty-five yards of the target. (*Amended Sept. 2021*)
- Shooters must clean their area after each use.
- Politely and positively respond when corrected concerning a violation of club rules.
- Legal firearms and ammunition shall not be restricted from range.
- It is mandatory that any person making use of or being present on an active range wear
• appropriate eye and ear protection
- NOTE: Appropriate black powder muzzle-loaders up to .50 caliber are permitted on ranges 1 – 4, and must follow all range rules. (*Amended Sept. 2021*)

RANGE USAGE: Note: All scheduled use of any range shall take precedence over individual or personal activities. (*amended June, 2014*)

RANGE USE RULES

(Amended June, 2012, Amended Sept. 2021)

25 YARD PISTOL (HANDGUN) RANGE #4

Pistol, Revolver, and .22 caliber rifle only. Paper targets only. NO shotguns. NO high power rifles. No center fire rifles. No Fully Automatic guns. No rifle calibers.

50 YARD PLINKING RANGE #3

Sundays when trap range is in use coordinate cease fires to safely go down range

Any legal gun **EXCEPT Restricted firearms** (see section III A). Any safe target. E.g. Plastic Bottles, jugs etc. or tin/aluminum cans. To be placed between the target frames not on or in front of the frames. Ideally placed on a shooter supplied shelf or bench, all items used as targets MUST be cleaned up by member when finished, failure to do so may result in loss of membership. **NO** Glass, Food, Hazardous materials (e.g., paint cans, batteries, aerosol cans etc.) are allowed, Only commercially manufactured steel (gun) targets are allowed **Shotgun patterning is permitted only on this range. Member to bring their own target frame.**

100 YARD RIFLE RANGE #2

Sundays when trap range is in use coordinate cease fires to safely go down range

Paper targets and commercially manufactured steel (gun) target only (steel target may only be used from shooting bench). Permitted: rifles, shotguns with slugs only, handguns chambered for rifle caliber cartridges, No other handguns are allowed.

200 YARD RANGE #6

Sundays when trap range is in use coordinate cease fires to safely go down range

Use restricted to qualified members only. Member must demonstrate proficiency on the 100 yard range to the President or his/her designee.

High powered rifles only.

The red range in use flag must be raised prior to any shooting and lowered when finished shooting. Anyone going down range must activate the red strobe light.

All shooting must be done from the shooting station in the bench rest position.

(amended June, 2014, Amended Sept. 2021)

SHOOTING TRAP

Coordinate cease fires with the 50,100, and 200 yard ranges

Shotguns only. Ammunition restricted to 7 1/2, 8, 9 shot. Clay targets only.

The hours of operation are determined by the Executive Board.

When on the firing line shotguns will have no more than one round in the gun at anyone time. The loading of more than one round at a time is prohibited unless the course of fire dictates otherwise.

Actions must remain open until it is your turn to shoot.

When changing positions, shotgun must be unloaded, actions open and muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

EXCEPTION: The mid-range area (AKA Professional Range) is designated for law enforcement training. Law enforcement training and will not be conducted on the other ranges. The local law enforcement agencies approved to use this range have written rules for its use. Permission is granted by the President or the Chief Range Officer. This range is off limits to all other club members when scheduled law enforcement training is present.

PROFESSIONEL RANGE

All use of this range must be scheduled with the President or his designee.

The priority for use of this range are as follows:

- Weekends Trap
- Law enforcement
- Professional training groups
- Club Members using “restricted firearms”

Section III Restrictions:

A) MACHINE GUN AND OTHER RESTRICTED FIREARM USE AND POSSESSION
Machine Gun Use and Possession **shall be restricted** to club members possessing a valid current “License to Posses a Machine Gun” issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, a copy of which must on file with the Board. The member shall submit a written request to the Board of Directors for each membership period. Use of restricted firearms shall be restricted to the Trap / Law enforcement range only. The maximum distance from the target shall not exceed 25 yards.
All restricted firearms use must be scheduled in advance with the Board of directors and / or the President as is done with all law enforcement agencies. Members using restricted firearms shall not have guests when these firearms are present.
An exception shall be made for active-duty law enforcement military and homeland security who may use agency authorized guns during agency authorized training. These members must notify the Board of Directors prior to such use.

B) Binary trigger guns and any other that simulates a fully automatic firearms shall be restricted in the same manner as Machine Guns (see A. above) .

C) Members using restricted firearms must carry current written permission when said firearm is in use.

D) Restricted firearms may only be used on the trap / law enforcement range.

E) All members, law enforcement, and military using restricted firearms shall follow the scheduling, use and all other protocols set by the Board of Directors and the President. (Amended Sept. 2021)

ARCHERY RANGE #5 RULES

1. All type bows are allowed. No restriction is placed on the draw/pull weight.
2. Field Points **ONLY** are allowed to be shot at hay bales.
3. Broad heads and Razor points are allowed to be shot at specifically designed targets to handle the use of same **ONLY. DO NOT** shoot Broad heads or Razor points at hay bales.
4. Tarpaulin must be removed prior to using the range and then replaced when finished shooting.
5. Targets are to be placed as low as possible on or against the backstop.
6. The use of firearms on the archery range is **PROHIBITED**. The use of same will be cause for **IMMEDIATE** dismissal from the club.
7. Exploding targets are prohibited.
8. **NO** Cross shooting.
9. **NO** Tree stands.
10. Use the "Common Shooting Line" at all times.
11. Club owned 3D Targets shall be used **ONLY** under the direction of the Chairperson of The Archery Committee or designee or The President of The Sippican Rod & Gun Club.