

**“COLORADO MOUNTAIN MUSHERS”  
BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE I.  
NAME AND LOCATION**

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation filed with the Secretary of State of Colorado, the name of this organization shall be:

"COLORADO MOUNTAIN MUSHERS"

hereinafter referred to as CMM.

The principal address of the corporation shall be known as Post Office Box 476, Conifer, Colorado 80433, but Meetings of members and directors may be held at such places as may be designated by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE II.  
OBJECTIVES**

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, the primary objectives of this organization shall be:

- A. To encourage and promote the sport of sled dog racing, to do all in its power to advance the interests of the sport by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at sponsored events.
- B. To foster the education and training of novice and experienced mushers and their dog teams.
- C. To conduct sled dog races and other family oriented events for both fun and competition.
- D. To protect and promote the well-being of the dogs used in the sport of sled dog racing.

**ARTICLE III.  
MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

**Section 1. MEMBERSHIPS**

- A. **Individual Membership** is available to anyone who subscribes to the purposes of this club. Racing privileges and the newsletter are benefits of membership. Individual Memberships are entitled to one (1) vote in the general election.
- B. **Family Membership** is available to immediate family living within the same household: limited to two adults and all children under the age of 18 years. Racing privileges and the newsletter are benefits of membership. Family Memberships shall receive 2 (two) votes in the general election.

- C. **Business Membership** is available to any business that subscribes to the purposes of this club. Racing privileges for business employees, business advertising (up to ¼ page) for the year, and the newsletter are benefits of membership. Business memberships shall receive one (1) vote in the general election.
- D. **Associate Membership** is available to any individual or organization subscribing to the purposes of this club and wishes to be kept informed of CMM activities. Associate members will receive the newsletter but will not receive racing or voting privileges.
- E. **Honorary Membership** is available for individuals whom the Board finds deserving through actions and commitment to the club and the ideals with which the club is dedicated to. Honorary Membership shall be treated as an Individual Membership with all its privileges for up to 5 years.

**Section 2. DUES**

- A. Colorado Mountain Mushers is a non-profit organization. Membership dues, donations, and other funds are used strictly for the organization of mushing-related events, seminars, and equipment belonging to the club, as decided by the Board.
- B. The membership year will run from September 1 through August 31 of each year. Dues shall be payable on or before September 1 for each year, along with an application / information sheet. Those members whose dues have not been paid by September 30 shall be stricken from the membership records.
- C. Rates for annual dues shall be set by the Board. New memberships received during the year will have dues prorated according to the month of payment. (*This applies to first time applicants only*).
- D. Membership dues for currently serving Board Members shall be waived for their term in office. The amount of dues waived shall be equal to that of an Individual Membership and is not transferrable to another member. For those elected officials wishing a Family or Business Membership only the difference in amounts will be due. If an official is unable to complete their duties, they will then be required to pay their dues in full in order to receive club privileges.

**Section 3. REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP**

- A. A member may be suspended or expelled for committing acts which discredit CMM and/or the sport it represents. The Board of Directors will examine evidence against the member to decide if a vote to suspend or expel is warranted.

**ARTICLE IV.  
MEETINGS**

**Section 1. GOVERNING BODY**

CMM shall be governed by a Board of Directors. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership during a Special Election can recall a Board Member. (See Article V Section 4)

**Section 2. ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of the membership of CMM shall be held during the month of May at a time and place determined by the Board of Directors. The notice for such a meeting shall be sent to members not less than ten (10) days prior to the meeting date.

**Section 3. REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS**

Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held bi-monthly or when deemed necessary and are open to all members in good standing. A quorum of Board Members must be present in order to conduct business.

**Section 4. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

Special meetings of the members may be called at any time by the president or by a majority of the Board of Directors, or upon written request of 20% of the General Membership. The president shall set the time and place for such meetings. Notice of a special meeting shall state the time, place and the purpose for the meeting. No business other than that indicated in the notice of special meeting shall be conducted at such meeting.

**Section 5. QUORUM**

At any meeting of the general membership, a quorum shall be the presence of twenty percent (20%) of the current members. For the Board of Directors, Four (4) voting directors shall comprise a quorum.

**Section 6. VOTING AT MEETINGS**

At any meeting of the Board, the presiding officer shall have no vote, except in the case of a tie vote. All votes shall be carried by a majority unless otherwise provided for in the bylaws.

**ARTICLE V.  
NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Section 1. NOMINATIONS**

- A. The Nominating Committee shall nominate members for each position on the board. Eligible candidates should be a current CMM member in good standing for a minimum of three (3) months prior to the election. After securing the consent of each nominee the Committee shall immediately report their nominations to the secretary in writing. Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee report, the

secretary shall notify each member, in writing, of the candidates so nominated. Notice may be by publication in the newsletter.

- B. Additional nominations may be made at the General Meeting by any member in attendance provided that the person so nominated has given their consent. No person may be a candidate for more than one position, unless enough candidates are not available to fill all positions. But only the offices of secretary and treasurer or newsletter editor and secretary, may be held by the same person. No person may be a candidate in a CMM election who has not been nominated. The subsequent issue of the CMM newsletter shall contain a complete list of all nominees and a brief statement from each.

**Section 2. ELECTIONS**

The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each position shall be elected.

**Section 3. VOTING**

Voting shall be limited to those members in good standing. Eligible members for general elections will receive the ballot through the mail by April 15. It may then be returned to the P.O. Box indicated above prior to the annual meeting or the ballot may be brought to the meeting, in order to be counted. All ballots cast by mail must be received before the opening of a meeting and must remain unopened until the counting of ballots begins. Two (2) inspectors shall be selected from the membership present to count the ballots.

**Section 4. RECALL**

A recall of any Board Member requires a petition to be presented to the Secretary with signatures of 20% of the membership. The secretary shall prepare a ballot with the recall question, which then shall be distributed to all members. A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the CMM membership shall be required to effect a recall. Rules applying to elections and voting shall govern any such recall..

**ARTICLE VI.  
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**Section 1. NUMBER AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

- A. There shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Race Coordinator, and a sufficient number of directors at large to total nine (9) elected officers and directors
- B. Each shall be elected by the General Membership at the Annual Meeting. Directors shall serve a one (1) year term. President, Secretary, Newsletter Editor shall serve a two (2) year term, elected during ODD years, and Vice President, Treasurer, and Race Coordinator shall serve a two (2) year term, elected during EVEN years.

**Section 2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Board of Directors is responsible for conducting the day-to-day business of CMM. No director or officer of CMM shall be personally liable for the acts, debts, liabilities or obligations of CMM.

- A. **PRESIDENT.** The President shall be the principal executive officer of CMM and shall have such powers and responsibilities as set forth in these bylaws. The President shall be the presiding officer at all meetings of the membership and of the Board of Directors. The President shall be a signatory on all financial accounts.
- B. **VICE PRESIDENT.** The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President at meetings of the membership and of the Board of Directors and shall assist the President in the performance of duties.
- C. **SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall keep all minutes for the Board meetings or special meetings, shall keep all records regarding insurance and club safety issues, and shall file the necessary paperwork yearly to maintain official Club status with the State of Colorado. The Secretary shall be responsible for correspondence and act in the capacity of Corporate Secretary in all corporate matters. This office may be combined with that of Treasurer or Newsletter Editor and held by the same individual.
- D. **TREASURER.** The Treasurer shall keep all financial records for CMM in such a manner that they can be continued from year to year, and shall cooperate with the Financial Committee in conducting the annual financial review. The Treasurer shall receive and record all club moneys, and forward membership information to the Secretary. The Treasurer shall keep CMM insurance updated and forward proof of insurance to the Secretary. The Treasurer shall prepare and file financial reports as required by state and federal governments, including tax returns. Copies of each report shall be filed with the Secretary after approval by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be a signatory on all financial accounts of CMM. The position of Treasurer may be combined with either Secretary or Newsletter Editor and held by the same individual.
- E. **NEWSLETTER EDITOR.** The Newsletter Editor shall publish the newsletter no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Months of publication shall be voted on at the first Board Meeting after the yearly elections are completed. Included in the newsletter shall be race results, meeting minutes, treasurer's report, membership information, and other pertinent information. Any member in good standing may submit an article for the newsletter. The position of Newsletter Editor may be combined with that of the Secretary or Treasurer and held by the same individual.
- F. **AT-LARGE DIRECTORS** There shall be three (3) directors at large except when offices of Secretary and Treasurer are combined or Newsletter Editor and Treasurer are combined and held by one person. In which case, the Board shall be

comprised of the officers and four (4) Directors-at-large. Directors shall serve in the following capacities:

1. **Sponsorships:** To gain monies for races/events and help with fund raisers.
2. **Equipment Manager:** Inventory, update/repair, or purchase equipment
3. **Public Relations:** membership drives, exposure via media (newspaper, magazines, broadcast and electronic media).

Directors shall either execute or coordinate these tasks and keep records of all tasks completed for the next season.

**G. RACE COORDINATOR** Race Coordinator shall organize and schedule races for the race season. Publish a tentative race schedule no later than September and a final schedule no later than October for publication in the next newsletter. The Race Coordinator shall also have the authority to contract with any Race Giving Organization (RGO – See Article VIII) and offer said RGO any assistance or advise that might be needed in planning and executing such race. The Race Coordinator shall make sure that all paper work (including permits & insurance) is complete and in place before each race.

**Section 3. VACANCIES.**

A vacancy in the Presidency will be filled by that of the Vice President, any other office shall be filled by appointment of the president. The officer or director so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

**Section 4. REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Any Board Member that does not show an effort to participate or is disabled and can not complete their duties may be removed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

**Section 5. COMPENSATION**

No officer or director shall gain materially or financially from his or her position in the CMM. Actual expenses incurred with prior Board of Director approval may be reimbursed from CMM funds.

**Section 6. ACTION TAKEN WITHOUT A MEETING**

The Board Members may take any action in the absence of a meeting which they could take at a meeting by obtaining the approval of all the Board Members. Any action as approved shall have the same effect as though taken at a meeting of the Board Members. This shall include any business taken care of over the internet. After ample time for replies a vote shall be taken and recorded by the secretary. All actions and results of votes shall be reported to the board and posted in the newsletter.

**ARTICLE VII  
COMMITTEES & APPOINTMENTS**

**Section 1. SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

The Board may appoint special committees when circumstances arise and it is deemed necessary.

**Section 2. STANDING COMMITTEES**

The president shall annually appoint chairpersons before the end of March for the following standing committees:

**A. NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee shall comprise of two directors and at least two other CMM members. The Committee shall report to the secretary with nominations for each position to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting.

**B. FINANCIAL COMMITTEE**

The Financial Committee shall comprise two members. The Committee shall, at the end of each fiscal year, review the income and expenses for CMM with the cooperation of the treasurer. The treasurer shall not be a member of this committee but shall serve in an advisory capacity. The Committee shall report on the financial condition of the club and give its recommendations for the next year's budget to the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting.

**Section 3. CLUB HISTORIAN**

The historian shall keep a scrap book containing photographs, newspaper clippings, and other items of historical interest about CMM and the sport of sled dog racing.

**ARTICLE VIII  
Race Giving Organizations (RGO)**

A RGO is defined as any person or persons responsible for putting on a Sled Dog Race. The RGO shall appoint a race marshal who shall have overall responsibility for the management and conduct of each race. Each race marshal shall appoint such officials as determined necessary, including a trail boss, safety advisor, a chief timer, a chief recorder, a race secretary, and race stewards. The RGO shall coordinate with the Race Coordinator in getting Permits and Insurance for the race.

**ARTICLE IX.  
CHANGES TO BYLAWS**

Changes to these bylaws may be proposed by either the Board of Directors or by a written motion, properly signed and seconded from the general membership. An affirmation vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Board will cause the amendment to be effective.

**ARTICLE X  
ANIMAL CARE & WELFARE POLICY**

Cruelty to/or inhumane treatment of dogs is hereby recognized to be a conduct prejudicial to the best interests of “Colorado Mountain Musers” and to the best interest of the sport of sled dog racing. Pursuant to the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of “Colorado Mountain Musers” any cruelty or mistreatment of dogs are punishable by suspension or expulsion from the club and all of its activities. These include all races, voting in elections and any other functions that the club may be involved in.

Any allegation of abuse or cruelty shall be presented to the Board for review. The Board shall notify, in writing, the person under review and give them a chance to respond to or rebuke evidence presented to the Board. Upon hearing both sides the Board shall decide if suspension or expulsion is deserved.

A conviction or admission in a court or tribunal of competent jurisdiction or a finding by a State or Federal administrative agency for cruelty to animals, inhumane treatment of animals or similar offenses involving inhumane or cruel treatment of dogs shall be deemed conclusive proof and subject to sanctions. **NOTE:** *A violation of a county zoning regulations does not necessarily constitute cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs.* If such a conviction is reversed or vacated on appeal, and there is no further prosecution of the charges, and CMM is presented with proof of same, the person’s privileges with CMM shall be reinstated.

**ARTICLE XI.  
PUREBRED CLASSES**

In CMM purebred classes, only American Kennel Club (including ILP numbers) and Canadian Kennel Club registered northern breed dogs may be considered eligible for purebred awards.

**ARTICLE XII.  
DISSOLUTION**

CMM may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the current members. In the event of the dissolution of CMM, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property of CMM or any proceeds thereof, nor any assets of CMM shall be distributed to any members of CMM. After payment of the debts of CMM, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization as qualified under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) or any similar future revenue law for the benefit of dogs, to be selected by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE XIII.  
ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Any matter not defined in these bylaws will be governed by "ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED"

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**CMM Aggressive Dog Policy – adopted 4/17/05**

CMM events involve spectators, volunteers, other mushers and race officials who are around and sometimes helping with our dog teams. CMM is dedicated to fostering a safe environment, and therefore can not allow dogs who are aggressive towards humans or other dogs at our club events. It is important to distinguish between aggressive behavior, and “normal” behavior brought on by the excitement of a race, which may also include growling, baring teeth and jumping excitedly. All reports of aggressive dogs will be investigated by a delegate of the Board of Directors.

A report of suspected dog aggression must be made **in writing** to the CMM Board by someone who observed the aggressive act first hand **within one week** of the incident. Details on the situation leading up to the incident should be given if possible. A delegate from the Board will inform the driver or owner of the dog that a concern has been filed, at which time the driver or owner may submit a written statement regarding an explanation of the situation and any mitigative measures that will be taken to ensure the dog will not be aggressive in the future. If the Board delegate finds the concern to be valid, the Board will recommend appropriate action, which may include banning the dog in question from future CMM events for no longer than a 5 year period.

Any decision made by the Board will be conveyed to the dog’s owner and recorded with the CMM Secretary.

Any report of a dog **bite** involving a human will be reviewed by the Board. The dog’s history, any extenuating circumstances, and the nature of the bite will be taken into consideration.