

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I **NAME AND OBJECTS**

Section (1) The name of the Club shall be the "Golden Retriever Club of British Columbia" and its objects shall be to promote the interests of the Golden Retriever in British Columbia by:

- a) Developing to the highest standards of excellence the breed known as the Golden Retriever and recognizing and accepting the breed standard as approved by the Canadian Kennel Club as the only standard, by which the Golden Retriever shall be judged.
- b) Promoting and developing the interest of all owners and fanciers of the Golden Retriever in the versatile activities of the breed, including field trials, hunting tests, obedience trials, conformation shows, tracking tests, agility, flyball, search and rescue and use of the breed as guide dogs and assistance dogs.
- c) Providing positive public relations and educational programs for both the membership and the general public, to encourage all owners and fanciers of Golden Retrievers to strive to bring the natural qualities and abilities of the breed to perfection.
- d) Encouraging breeder-members to maintain the highest standards possible in breeding the Golden Retriever through adherence to the Code of Ethics of the Golden Retriever Club of British Columbia.

Section (2) Hereinafter in this document, the Golden Retriever Club of British Columbia will be referred to as the CLUB and references to it will be capitalized.

Section (3) The CLUB's area of operations shall be the Province of British Columbia.

Section (4) The CLUB shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profit or remainder of residue from dues or donations to the CLUB shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I **GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS**

Section (1) **Boundaries** - Provincially the membership of the CLUB shall be divided into six geographic areas:

- a) **REGION ONE - LOWER MAINLAND/HOWE SOUND**
Vancouver, Howe Sound, Fraser Valley to Hope.
- b) **REGION TWO - VANCOUVER ISLAND**
- c) **REGION THREE - SOUTHERN INTERIOR/OKANAGAN**
Vernon and Lumby, east to Arrow Lakes, west to Yale. Northern boundary 70 Mile House. South-east boundary Osoyoos. Includes Kamloops and Kelowna.
- d) **REGION FOUR - KOOTENAYS**
Eastern boundary - Alberta border, Western boundary Arrow Lakes, south to border. North includes Cranbrook, Revelstoke and Yellowhead area.
- e) **REGION FIVE - CENTRAL AND NORTHERN INTERIOR/CARIBOO**
South border 70 Mile House. East to Alberta border. North to Northern Provincial border.

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West to Houston.

- f) **REGION SIX - NORTH COAST**
Includes Terrace, Kitimat, Queen Charlottes, Smithers and Prince Rupert. Western boundary Houston. North to Lower Post. South to Bella Coola.

Section (2) **Region One - Lower Mainland/Howe Sound** - The Lower Mainland/Howe Sound region shall be the base of operations for the CLUB.

Section (3) **Out of Province Membership** - Preceding sections do not apply to out of Province members.

ARTICLE II **MEMBERSHIPS**

Section (1) **Membership Year** – Membership in the CLUB shall be based on the calendar year.

Section (2) **Membership - Classes of Membership** - There shall be six classes of membership in the CLUB; a) Ordinary Members; b) Family Members; c) Associate Members; d) Honourary Members; e) Life Members; f) Provisional Members.

Section (3) **Ordinary Membership** - Ordinary membership shall be restricted to persons 16 (sixteen) years of age or older, who are owners of a registered Golden Retriever and reside in the Province of British Columbia. Ordinary members are entitled to all privileges stated in the Constitution.

Section (4) **Family Membership** - Family memberships shall be available to two members, 16 (sixteen) years of age or older, of one family, one of which must be the owner of a registered Golden Retriever and reside in the Province of British Columbia. Each Family member shall be entitled to Ordinary Member privileges.

Section (5) **Associate Membership** - Associate membership shall be available to any person. Associate members are not eligible to vote or hold office on the executive.

Section (6) **Honourary Membership** - Honourary members shall enjoy all the privileges of membership in the CLUB except for the right to vote or hold Executive office. They shall be free from payment of fees, subscriptions and assessments. Honourary membership may be awarded to those persons who have made outstanding contributions to the CLUB. Any member of the CLUB may submit a nomination for an Honourary membership to the Executive. With the recommendation of the Executive, the nomination for Honourary membership shall be presented at an Annual General Meeting of the CLUB for majority consent of the members present.

Section (7) **Life Memberships** - Life members shall enjoy all the privileges of membership in the CLUB and shall be free from payment of fees, subscriptions and assessments. Life membership may be awarded to those persons who are or have been Ordinary or Family members in the CLUB for a minimum of 20 years and have made outstanding contributions to the Club. Any member of the CLUB may submit a nomination for a Life membership to the Executive. With the recommendation of the Executive, the nomination for Life membership shall be presented at an Annual General Meeting of the CLUB for majority consent of the members present.

Section (8) **Provisional Membership** - All new applicants for membership shall be granted a twelve month provisional membership upon receipt of the application and appropriate fee. Provisional members shall not be eligible to vote, hold office on the Executive, apply for the Magoffin Perpetual awards or be eligible for participation on the Club's breeder, puppy or stud dog referral listings.

Section (9) **Membership Fees** - The annual subscription for the coming year will be determined by the

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general membership at any general meeting and shall be payable January 1st of each year. Subscription of members joining on or after October 31 shall be deemed to cover the following year. A Family membership fee shall not exceed one and one-half times the Ordinary Membership fees.

Section (10) Application For Membership - Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as provided by the Executive and which shall provide that the applicant agree to abide by these Constitution Bylaws, Code of Ethics and the rules of the Canadian Kennel Club.

Section (11) Election To Membership - The names of all applicants for membership shall be published in the Newsletter. Each applicant for Club membership must complete a twelve month Provisional membership. Club members may submit any comments concerning prospective members, in writing, to the Executive for consideration. Provisional members are expected to attend and/or assist at one or more Club meetings or functions during their first twelve months of membership. Upon completion of the twelve month Provisional membership, candidates for membership shall be reviewed by the Executive and, if appropriate, granted applicable membership status.

Section (12) Rejection of Membership – Any applicant for membership who has been rejected must be provided in writing with a reason for such rejection.

Section (13) Ceasing to Own a Golden - In the event that an ordinary or family member in good standing ceases to own a registered Golden Retriever, his or her membership status shall remain unchanged until the end of the next fiscal year following the change of ownership status.

Section (14) Termination of Membership - Memberships may be terminated as follows:

- a) By Resignation - Any member who is not indebted to the CLUB may resign their membership by notice in writing to the Secretary. They shall continue to be a member until their resignation is accepted by the Executive, whereupon they shall cease to be a member, shall have no right or claim to the CLUB'S property, and shall not have any part of their membership fee for the current year returned.
- b) By Lapsing - Any member failing to pay their membership fee for a given year by January 31st of that year shall cease to be a member of the CLUB. In meritorious circumstances, the Executive may reinstate a lapsed membership, if the member's outstanding fees are paid in full by March 31st of that year. While their membership is lapsed, a member shall not enjoy the rights and privileges accorded to any class of member.
- c) By Expulsion or Suspension - A membership may be terminated by expulsion or suspension, as provided in Article XIII of these Bylaws.

Section (15) Use of Club Name - No member, except when authorized to do so by the Executive, shall use the name of the Club in any correspondence, communications or commitment of any kind with any publication, club, person, firm or body incorporated or unincorporated, except to indicate that they are a member of the Golden Retriever Club of British Columbia.

ARTICLE III MEETINGS OF THE CLUB

Section (1) Annual Meetings - An annual general meeting of the CLUB shall be held at such a place and on such a date as may be determined by the Executive. At such a meeting, the Executive shall present an audited report, together with a detailed statement of the accounts, assets, and liabilities of the CLUB for the past year.

Section (2) Region One-Lower Mainland/Howe Sound - A schedule of meetings shall be pre-determined by the executive on a yearly basis. This schedule shall be published in the newsletter.

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- Section (3)** **Region Two - Six** - The Regional Coordinators for areas other than the Lower Mainland/Howe Sound shall be required to call a minimum of one regional meeting per year. Notice of such a meeting to be received in writing by the Executive at least one month prior to the publishing of the next newsletter so the date may be published for the members' notification.
- Section (4)** **Special General Meetings** – The Executive shall be obligated to call a special general meeting, upon the Secretary receiving formal request, signed by at least 10% of the members in good standing. The notice of the meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other CLUB business may be transacted.
- Section (5)** **Other Meetings** - The Secretary may convene other meetings of the CLUB from time to time whenever required by the President or in the absence, inability or refusal to act of the President, by the Executive Vice-President.
- Section (6)** **Notice of Meetings** - Notice of the time and place of meetings shall be mailed to each Ordinary Member at his last known address at least seven days clear before the holding of such meeting. Members may, by writing, waive such notice.
- Section (7)** **Omission or Irregularity of Notices** - Any accidental omission to give notice or in the form of notice shall not invalidate any resolution passed or any proceedings taken at any meeting of the CLUB.
- Section (8)** **Voting at Meetings** - At all meetings of the CLUB, each member present with Ordinary member privileges shall be entitled to one vote. A declaration of the Chairperson of the meeting that a resolution has been carried or carried unanimously or by any majority shall be conclusive evidence of the fact.
- Section (9)** **Quorum** - Seven voting members present in person shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the CLUB.
- Section (10)** **Chairperson of Meeting** - In the absence of the President at any meeting, the Executive Vice-President shall act as Chairperson, or in the absence of the Executive Vice-President, the Ordinary members present there may appoint a Chairperson of the meeting from among their own number.
- Section (11)** **Committees** - Committees may be appointed by the Executive as required from time to time to run competitions, exhibitions, and trials. Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the Executive upon written notice being sent to the appointee, and the Executive may appoint a successor to the person whose services have been terminated.

ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE

- Section (1)** **Executive** - The management of the CLUB shall be conducted by an Executive composed a President, Past President, Executive Vice-President, three Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and two Regional Directors. The Executive shall establish general policies, procedures, and long range objectives of the CLUB and shall exercise any necessary authority for the CLUB which has not been expressly reserved to the general membership by these Bylaws. For further clarity, the Executive shall have the same purpose and responsibilities as a Board of Directors. There shall be no remuneration to those serving on the Executive.
- Section (2)** **Quorum of Executive** - Four Executive shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Executive.
- Section (3)** **Vacancies** - As long as a quorum of the Executive remains in office, vacancies may be filled in accordance with Article V, Section (10) of the by-laws.

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- Section (4)** **Notice of Meeting of the Executive** - Notice shall be given to each Executive not less than two clear days before the meeting is to take place. Meetings may be held at any time and place with formal notice if all Executive are present or if those absent have been notified of such meetings.
- Section (5)** **Resolution Signed by Executive** - A resolution in writing, signed by all the Executive shall be valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Executive duly called and constituted.
- Section (6)** **Indemnification of Executive** - Each present and future Executive of the CLUB shall be indemnified and saved harmless out of the funds of the CLUB from and against all actions, proceedings, losses, costs and expenses, claims and demands of every nature and kind which may be made, instituted, sustained, suffered or incurred by and such Executive for or introspect of any act, deed, matter or thing whatsoever made, done, permitted or omitted to be made done, or permitted by him or her in and about the execution of his or her office, save and except such actions, proceedings, losses, costs, expenses, claims, and demands as are occasioned by his or her willful neglect or default.

ARTICLE V **OFFICERS**

- Section (1)** **Officers of the CLUB** - The officers of the CLUB shall be: President, Past President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President-Show, Vice-President-Field, Vice-President-Obedience, Secretary and Treasurer.
- Section (2)** **President** - The President shall preside at all meetings of the CLUB and with the Secretary shall sign all By-Laws. The President shall exercise general supervision and control of the affairs of the CLUB.
- Section (3)** **Executive Vice-President** - The Executive Vice-President shall perform such duties and exercise such authority as shall be given to him by the President. In the absence, inability or refusal to act of the President, the Executive Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President. The Executive Vice-President is also responsible for the organization of the co-ordinated program of CLUB activities based on the recommendations of the Field, Show and Obedience committees.
- Section (4)** **Vice-Presidents** - Field, Show and Obedience - The Vice-Presidents shall perform such duties and exercise such authority as shall be given to them by the President. In addition, the Vice-Presidents shall establish and implement, with aid of a committee, programs of CLUB activities in the three respective areas.
- Section (5)** **Secretary** - The Secretary of the CLUB will keep a record of all meetings of the CLUB and of all votes taken and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the CLUB. He or she shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of the meetings, keep a roll of the members of the CLUB with the address, and publish the same annually, carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these Constitution and By-Laws.
- Section (6)** **Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the CLUB and receipt therefore. The Treasurer shall deposit the same in a bank satisfactory to the Executive in the name of the CLUB. The Treasurer's books shall at all times be open to the inspection of the Executive and the Treasurer shall report the condition of the CLUB's finances at every general meeting. The Treasurer shall have the right to exercise borrowing power in the name of the CLUB up to a maximum of \$500.00 and a term not to exceed six months, provided he or she has the majority consent of the Executive, in writing. The Treasurer shall have the authority to invest available CLUB funds with the majority consent of the Executive, in writing.
- Section (7)** **Past President** - The office of Past President is a non-elected position held by the immediate

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past president during the term of office of his/her successor, in order to promote continuity between previous and current executives. The Past President shall act as chairperson of the Nominating Committee and as Regional Coordinator for the Lower Mainland /Howe Sound region.

- Section (8)** **Regional Directors** – There shall be two Regional Directors representing the Canadian Kennel Club electoral zones of British Columbia Southwest and British Columbia Interior. Each Regional Director must reside in the area they represent, and shall be elected by the membership residing in their respective region. The Regional Directors shall act as the liaison between the Regional Coordinators in their area and the Executive.
- Section (9)** **Regional Coordinators** - There shall be one Regional Coordinator residing in each geographic region where membership or interest warrants. The Regional Coordinator shall act as a central co-ordinator and contact person for CLUB activities in his/her region and shall maintain liaison with their Regional Director and Executive. The Past President shall automatically become the Lower Mainland/Howe Sound Regional Coordinator.
- Section (10)** **Executive Unable to Carry Out Duties** - In the event that any Executive member or officer of the CLUB, excluding the President, shall become unable to carry out his/her duties or should any such position be vacant, the remaining Executive by majority vote shall appoint an Acting Executive member or officer for the balance of the year.
- Section (11)** **Executive Term** - No member may hold one or more Executive positions for more than five (5) consecutive years.

ARTICLE VI **ELECTIONS, NOMINATIONS, AND BALLOTING**

- Section (1)** **Elections** - The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected.
- Section (2)** **Nominations** - Any person nominated in a CLUB election must be an Ordinary member or have Ordinary member privileges as defined by the By-Laws and be a member in good standing. No member may be a candidate in a CLUB election who has not been nominated. During the month of November, a nominating committee shall be established composed of two non-executive CLUB members and the Past President. The Committee shall nominate one member as a candidate for each office, obtain written consent, and circulate a list of nominees to all CLUB members. CLUB members in good standing may forward to the committee additional nominees provided the nomination is accompanied by the written consent of the nominee and the signatures of two CLUB members as proposed and seconded. No member may stand for more than one nomination.
- Section (3)** **Balloting** – Elections must be conducted by secret ballot. A ballot containing the names of all nominees will be mailed to all CLUB members in good standing at least four weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting. The completed ballot is to be returned by mail to a Scrutineer, appointed by the President, and who is not a nominee. The Scrutineer will account for all ballots received and announce the results at the Annual General Meeting. Voting by proxy is not permitted.

ARTICLE VII **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- Section (1)** At meetings of the CLUB, the order of business shall be as follows:
Minutes of the last meeting
Report of President
Report of Secretary
Report of Treasurer

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Report of Executive Vice-President
Report of Vice-President on Field
Report of Vice-President on Conformation
Report of Vice-President on Obedience
Report of Committees
Unfinished Business
New Business
Adjournment

ARTICLE VIII RULES OF ORDER

Where not specifically governed by the provisions of these By-Laws, Roberts Rules of Order, latest revision, shall apply to the conduct of CLUB meetings.

ARTICLE IX TRIALS AND SHOWS

The CLUB shall adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of Trials and Shows as are defined by current Canadian Kennel Club rules and regulations.

ARTICLE X CHEQUES, DRAFTS AND NOTES

All cheques, drafts, notes, acceptances, bills of exchange or orders for the payment of money shall be signed or endorsed by the Treasurer and any one of either the President, Executive Vice-President, or the Secretary.

ARTICLE XI AUDITORS

At all annual meetings of the CLUB, an Auditor shall be appointed for the purpose of auditing and verifying the accounts of the CLUB for the current year.

ARTICLE XII FISCAL YEAR

The Fiscal Year of the CLUB shall terminate on the 31st day of December each year.

Article XIII DISCIPLINE

Section (1) **Discipline** - The Executive and/or the general membership of the CLUB may discipline any member if, in its opinion, the member has committed an act or omission which:

- a) Violates the Constitution, Bylaws or Code of Ethics of the CLUB, or
- b) Is considered prejudicial to the objects of the CLUB, the Canadian Kennel Club, or the best interests of the CLUB'S members or their dogs.

Section (2) **Complaints** - Any person, whether a member of the CLUB or not, shall have the right to lay a complaint with regard to an alleged action or omission of any member of the CLUB. The complaint, and all supporting documentation, shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary, in sufficient detail so as to permit the Executive to properly consider and deal with the issues raised. Should a complaint be laid against the Secretary, the President shall act in accordance with these By-Laws.

Section (3) **Applicability** - In receiving a complaint, the Executive shall first determine whether the action(s) or omission(s) alleged in the complaint, if proven, might constitute sufficient grounds for the related member to be disciplined. If the Executive determines that such grounds do not exist, the Secretary shall advise the complainant of the Executive's decision in a letter of explanation.

Section (4) **Other Jurisdictions** - If a complaint is concerned with a verbal or contractual monetary matter, or an alleged conflict with the bylaws of another body (such as the Canadian Kennel Club), the complainant shall be advised to firstly take the matter before the appropriate judicial system or related governing body for a primary decision on the issue. If written verification of such a decision is provided to the Executive, it may proceed with a secondary consideration of the

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complaint and also render a disciplinary decision on behalf of the CLUB.

- Section (5)** **Interim Review Status** - If a member is the subject of a review before a judicial system or by another governing body, as above, or by the Executive, the member shall continue to maintain their current membership status but shall not be eligible for participation on the CLUB'S breeder, puppy or stud dog referral listings for the period of the review.
- Section (6)** **Canadian Kennel Club Suspension** - Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the Canadian Kennel Club for a period of time shall automatically be suspended from all rights and privileges of the CLUB for a like period.
- Section (7)** **Procedures** - If the Executive proceeds to formally consider a complaint, a hearing shall be convened by the Executive. A copy of the complaint as well as a notice of hearing shall be forwarded to the defendant and the complainant. Both the defendant and the complainant shall have the opportunity to attend the hearing. The defendant may also submit a written defense. The Executive shall ensure that both the complainant and the defendant are treated fairly and in accordance with the rules of nature justice, and may establish any other disciplinary policies and procedures as it deems necessary, subject to the provisions of this Bylaw.
- Section (8)** **Decision** - If the Executive proceeds to formally consider a complaint and, by a two thirds majority, upholds the substance of the complaint, it may:
- a) Reprimand the member, with or without a penalty, or
 - b) Suspend the member from all rights and privileges of the CLUB for a period of up to twelve months, and/or
 - c) Recommend to the general membership of the CLUB that expulsion of the member be considered at a special general meeting of the CLUB.
- Section (9)** **Notification** - The Executive shall provide the complainant and the accused member with a written copy of its decision. The general membership of the CLUB shall be notified of all disciplinary actions taken against a member, in the next edition of the CLUB newsletter.
- Section (10)** **Appeal** - Any member who is subject to disciplinary action by the Executive shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive to the general membership. The member shall file a written notice of their appeal with the Secretary, within 60 days of the date of the Executive's decision. This notice of appeal will be published in the next edition of the CLUB newsletter, with a notice of a special general meeting to hear the appeal.
- Section (11)** **Suspension of Rights** - Suspension of membership, when imposed, shall cause the member to revert to Provisional Membership status, with resulting loss of all Ordinary membership privileges for the period of the suspension. Upon completion of a suspension period, a member will regain their previous membership status, with the related accompanying privileges.
- Section (12)** **Expulsion** - The general membership of the CLUB may, by a two thirds majority of members present at a special meeting to consider the expulsion of a member, permanently expel the member from all rights and privileges of the CLUB. There shall be no appeal from such a decision to expel a member.

ARTICLE XIV **DISSOLUTION**

The CLUB may be dissolved at any time by providing to the Canadian Kennel Club written documentation signed by at least two-thirds of the eligible voting members of the CLUB who are in favour of the decision. Proxies are not permitted. In the event of dissolution of the CLUB, other than for the purposes of reorganization, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the CLUB, nor any proceeds thereof, nor any assets of the CLUB

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shall be distributed to any members of the CLUB but after payment of the debts of the CLUB, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs, such organization to be selected by the Executive.

ARTICLE XV **AMENDMENTS**

Section (1) **Proposal for Amendments** - Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the CLUB may be proposed by the Executive or by written petition addressed to the Secretary signed by ten members in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be considered by the Executive and must subsequently be put to a vote by the membership within 180 days of the date when the petition was received by the Secretary.

Section (2) **Amendment by Vote** - The Constitution and By-Laws of the Golden Retriever Club of British Columbia may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of all eligible voting members. The Code of Ethics may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of those members voting on the amendment. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws as well as the Code of Ethics must be conducted by a mail ballot; proxies are not permitted.

Section (3) **Canadian Kennel Club Approval** - No amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws shall become effective until it has been approved by the Canadian Kennel Club.