

The Traditional Bowhunters of Georgia

Corporate By-Laws

ARTICLE ONE

The name of the organization shall be THE TRADITIONAL BOWHUNTERS OF GEORGIA, INC.

ARTICLE TWO

The purpose of the organization shall include, but not be limited to:

- A. Promoting the enjoyment of hunting with traditional archery equipment.
- B. Providing education and information concerning the sport of traditional bowhunting to the general public, the Georgia DNR, and state and federal authorities.
- C. Providing for members and guests opportunities to gather at social and hunting events
- D. Provide members and guests opportunities to improve their hunting and shooting skills.
- E. Any other purpose agreed upon by the majority of the membership and in keeping with the highest ethics of traditional archery.

ARTICLE THREE

“Traditional Bowhunting” is defined for the purposes of the organization as the hunting and taking of game by the use of instinctively aimed traditional archery equipment, commonly known as longbows, recurves, self-bows, and flatbows. Traditional bowhunters use no aiming device attached to the bow.

ARTICLE FOUR

Membership of TBG, Inc. shall be made up of four classes of membership:

- A. Life Members. Life members are those regular members who have chosen to make a financial commitment to the organization such that they have paid their membership dues for the duration of their life. Life membership dues may be paid in regular installments over the course of twelve months. Life membership dues are set as follows, dependent upon the age of the applicant:
 - \$500 – members to age 25
 - \$400 – members 35 years of age and older
 - \$300 – members 45 years of age and older
 - \$200 – members 55 years of age and older
 - \$100 – members 65 to 70 years of age
- B. Regular Members. Regular members are those who have met the requirements for regular membership and have been an associate member for at least one year. Before any person is accepted for regular membership, he must complete an application, which includes the following oath:

I certify that I am a bowhunter who uses only traditional equipment when bowhunting; that I strictly obey all game laws; and that I am dedicated to preserving bowhunting's traditional values.

Furthermore, the applicant must also have taken one big game animal with traditional archery gear. In addition, Applicant must also submit a minimum of one paragraph describing his or her commitment to bowhunting with traditional equipment. (Amended by vote of membership effective 07/22/24)

The applicant shall have been an associate member for one year and have the signature of a sponsoring regular or life member vouching for the applicant's character and hunting ethics. Upon receipt of the application, the Sec/ Treasurer shall copy and transmit the application to officers for their approval or rejection. Upon an approval from the majority of officers, the applicant will be awarded regular membership in a letter from the president.

- C. Associate Members. Associate members are those who have been members for less than one year or who have not yet made the commitment to bowhunting exclusively with traditional archery equipment.
- D. Emeritus Members – Those members whose dues are current and who have reached the age of 70 years are automatically exempted from further payment of dues and shall be granted Emeritus Member Status upon written request by the member to the Secretary/Treasurer. They will hold the membership status of Emeritus Associate Member or Emeritus Regular Member, as applicable.
- E. All members who have paid their dues in full before September 1, 1998 will be grandfathered in as regular members.
- F. Only life and regular members are voting members.
- G. All memberships shall be family memberships, that is; all spouses and children residing with the member shall be eligible to participate in any organization functions for which the member qualifies; while using traditional archery equipment, but no family shall have more than one voting member unless those additional persons have qualified as a regular or life member on their own.
- H. Annual dues are payable on January 1 of each year. Dues will be set by unanimous vote of the executive board. Members in arrears will be advised on or before June 1 of each year by the Secretary/Treasurer with an email notification. Members who are in arrears with annual dues will not be eligible to participate in any vote to amend bylaws or to elect officers. Associate members who are elected to regular membership shall not become regular members until dues for the current year are paid. **Regular members who are in arrears for greater than 12 months will be re-instated as Associate members upon payment of dues. Following the passage of twelve months, the reinstated Associate Member may apply for Regular Member status as outlined in part B of this section.**

ARTICLE FIVE

Executive Board:

The executive board of officers will be elected by the majority of the qualified membership in accordance with the election procedures outlined under Article Eight All terms are for two years.

The executive board shall be made up of the following members:

1. President: His duties shall be consistent with the presidency of all similar organizations: to preside at meetings, to appoint committees, to represent the organization at official and unofficial functions, and to ensure that the goals and purposes of the organization are pursued by the other officers and the membership.
2. Vice-President: His duties shall be the same as that of the President but to be exercised only if the particular duty is designated to the Vice-President from the President The V.P. may sit on any committee as designated by the President In the event that the President cannot complete his term, the Vice-President shall succeed him until the next regular election.
3. Secretary/Treasurer: His duties shall be consistent with the title and will include maintaining a record of club funds and expenditures (a report will be given annually either at the banquet or in the newsletter), keeping a written record of the minutes of all business meetings, whether held in person, via e-mail, or other means, maintaining a current membership roster, insuring that prospective regular members meet membership

criteria, and any other duties designated by the President.

4. District Representatives: Three representatives will be elected by the majority of voting members, each to represent his respective geographical region. His responsibility is to promote the Traditional Bowhunters of Georgia in his geographic area and to carry out any responsibilities designated to him by the President. There will be three geographic regions. They are as follows:
 - a. Northern Rep: represents that area north of 1-20 from Alabama to Augusta, Georgia.
 - b. Central Rep: represents that area south of 1-20 from Alabama to Augusta, Georgia and north of US 80 from Columbus to Macon in western Georgia and north of 1-16 from Macon to Savannah.
 - c. Southern Rep: represents that area south of US 80 from Columbus to Macon and south of 1-16 from Macon to Savannah.

5. Editor: The position of Editor shall be a position appointed by the President. The editor is responsible for putting together the T.B.G. Magazine on a quarterly basis to keep members informed about club news and functions. When any amendments to existing bylaws are made, the Editor shall incorporate the changes into a written copy of the amended bylaws and publish the new bylaws in the next newsletter to be distributed to all members in good standing. The editor is a voting member of the board.

6. Youth Director
The executive board shall meet annually prior to the fundraising banquet, and this meeting shall be open to the membership.

ARTICLE SIX

In the event that the organization sponsors or approves the use of its name in the promotion of any tournament in the traditional class designations, only bows primarily designed and legal for hunting in the state of Georgia shall be used.

The following rules will also apply:

- A. No sighting device may be attached to or marked upon the bow, nor shall the archer use any aiming method such as "string walking."
- B. Arrows shall weigh at least 450 grains. This requirement may be waived for women and children at the discretion of the tournament director.
- C. No overdraw devices of any kind will be permitted.
- D. An official tournament director will be appointed by the President to monitor equipment and shooting techniques at each sponsored event or the President may assume this duty personally. Any contestant using equipment or shooting techniques not in accordance with these rules shall, at the sole discretion of the director of the event, be disqualified from officially competing.

ARTICLE SEVEN

At his discretion, the President may appoint committees from any category of membership to perform functions that are in the best interest of the organization. These may include but are not limited to:

- A. Legislative Committee
- B. Tournament Committee
- C. Annual Hunt Committee
- D. Election Nomination Committee
- E. Magazine Committee

ARTICLE EIGHT

Elections:

Elections will be completed during the month of July and the officers-elect will take office on September 1 of the election year.

An election committee chairman appointed by the President shall recruit two regular members to form an election committee. Committee responsibilities will be: A. Recruiting a qualified nominee for each office. In this instance, qualified is defined as being a regular member of the Traditional Bowhunters of Georgia who is current with annual dues. (Amended by vote of membership effective 5/1/19)

- B. Nominees must be regular members in good standing.
- C. The committee will nominate, qualify and notify all nominees of their acceptance for nomination.
- D. Regular members may submit names to the committee for consideration.
- E. Election ballots shall be electronic in nature, and shall be maintained and overseen by the election chairman. For those who request a paper ballot, ballots will be printed, addressed and mailed first class by July 10 of each election year.
- F. Ballots will be returned to the chairman of the election committee by August 1 for tally.
- G. Ballots shall be maintained by the committee chair for a period of one year following the election.
- H. Should the election be contested in any way, the challenge must be in writing and can only be submitted by a regular member. The election committee shall meet with the complainant within thirty days of receipt of the complaint for a recount. The nominees involved in the contested election may be present for the recount if they so choose. The committee's original tally will be honored until proven to be in error.

Special Elections: In the event that any office is vacated with more than one calendar year remaining until the next general election, a special election shall be held. In order to expedite the process, the President shall act as the Special Election Committee Chair and two officers of his choice will make up the committee. In the event that an office becomes vacant with less than one calendar year to the next election, the President may appoint a regular member to that office with a majority approval of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE NINE

No articles or sub articles in this document can be changed without either a majority vote of the votes cast by the regular membership roster, or through a unanimous vote of the executive board.

ARTICLE TEN

TBG Sinew Award

The Traditional Bowhunters of Georgia Sinew Award is established to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their service to the Traditional Bowhunters of Georgia, including any service to the broader traditional bowhunting community.

- A. This recognition is to be presented at the annual Traditional Bowhunters of Georgia banquet.
- B. This recognition is not required to be awarded on an annual basis.
- C. It is to be awarded in recognition of outstanding service as deemed by the current board of officers.
- D. Nominees for the award may be submitted by previous Sinew Award recipients or current officers. Nominees will be reviewed and narrowed to a single individual if more than one nominee is submitted.
- E. The nominee will then be voted on by the current board of officers and the most recent two Sinew Award recipients if they can be reasonably located and wish to cast a vote. The vote for the individual must be unanimous.

F. A current Traditional Bowhunters of Georgia officer is not eligible for nomination.

G. All previous officers must have been out of office for at least six months prior to their nomination.

TBG Spirit Bow

The Traditional Bowhunters of Georgia Spirit Bow recognition is established to reward individuals who have demonstrated a spirit of comradeship, enthusiasm, and devotion to traditional archery and the Traditional Bowhunters of Georgia.

A. The spirit bows, one right-hand and one left-hand, are to be presented to a new individual each year at the annual Traditional Bowhunters of Georgia banquet. B. Nominees for the Spirit Bows should be identified by the current board of officers prior to the annual banquet if possible.

C. Recipients of the Spirit Bows will be selected by the current board of officers. The recipient will have use of the Spirit Bow for one year.

D. It is expected that a recipient of the Spirit Bow will bring the bow back to the annual banquet the following year or make arrangements to deliver the Spirit Bow to a current officer, to be brought to the next banquet.

E. Recipients of the Spirit Bows are strongly encouraged to submit an article to the current editor for publication in the newsletter describing their experiences in the field with the Spirit Bow.

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