

# **Constitution and Bylaws of Epagneul Bretons of the Southwest**

## **ARTICLE I – CLUB NAME AND LOCATION**

This Club shall be known as the Epagneul Bretons of the Southwest (hereinafter “Club”). Its membership shall be made up of dedicated Epagneul Breton owners and bird dog enthusiasts of the Southwest United States and surrounding areas, or any person duly elected to membership. The principal office of the Club in the State of Arizona shall be located at 1958 W Desert Hollow Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85085. The Club may have such other offices, either within or outside the State of Arizona, as the Board of Directors may designate or as the Club may require from time to time which is typically located in the area where the President and/or Treasurer shall reside.

## **ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES AND REGULATIONS**

The purpose of this Club shall be to promote the betterment of the Epagneul Breton breed through shared camaraderie centered around the dogs. This shall be accomplished through holding to the breed standards set by the CEB-US in field work, appearance, and confirmation. To fulfill this Article, we shall attempt:

1. To provide a forum for fellowship, mutual cooperation and development of friendships amongst owners/members of the Epagneul Breton breed by hosting both social and formal events including but not limited to field trials, hunt tests, confirmation shows, training seminars and more.
2. Encourage members to hunt their dogs and to enter them in field trials, confirmation shows and hunt tests, and to encourage members to have their dogs formally confirmed as meeting the official confirmation standard of the breed.
3. Educate members to the breed standard and promote the distinct differences between the Epagneul Breton and the American Brittany.
4. Promote the conservation of game and specifically upland game birds and to preserve and promote the heritage of hunting and pointing dog training in the US.
5. To dismiss from our membership without hesitation those who violate these bylaws and the principles of good sportsmanship and fair and honest conduct, both in hunting and competition.

### General Regulations:

1. Members shall conduct themselves as ladies/gentlemen at all Club functions.
2. These bylaws shall be read and agreed to by every applicant before being accepted into membership.
3. Members shall conduct themselves in an honest and sportsmanlike manner at all meetings and events.
4. The Officers and Board of Directors of the Club shall serve as the nomination committee for all offices, board vacancies, and award recipients; however, any member in good standing shall have the right to make nominations from the floor.
5. The Officers and Board of Directors of the Club shall have the inherent rights and powers to dismiss ANY member who is continually disruptive to the detriment of the orderly conduct of our meetings and/or events. Dismissal may lead to suspension or termination of a Member.

### **ARTICLE III – CLUB PROFITS**

The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder from dues, fees, sales or donation to the Club shall benefit any member or individual. The Club shall endeavor to acquire and maintain status and designation as a non-profit organization with the Internal Revenue Service of the United States of America and the State of Arizona, or any other applicable state under which the Club is organized in the future.

### **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERS**

The Club shall have members. We reserve the right to refuse entry(ies) in our competitions and events, as well as membership in this Club to ANYONE at the discretion of the Officers and Board of Directors, and members. However, no person shall be refused membership on a basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, age, or national origin.

Types of memberships:

1. Individual Membership:

- Open to members 18 years of age or older. Individual members are entitled to one vote and are eligible to hold office in the Club.

2. Family Membership:

- Open to any two designated members of a household. Each family membership is entitled to two votes, one by each designated family member, so long as such member(s) are at least 18 years of age.

3. Founders Membership:

- The Board of Directors may elect to founders membership any member in good standing or non-member who meets the eligibility requirements for membership. An affirmative vote of two-thirds by the Directors shall be required to elect a founders member. Founder members shall be exempt from dues, unless they voluntarily desire to pay dues and become a voting member. No founder member may vote unless he/she elects to pay dues and become a voting member.

4. Junior Membership:

- Junior membership is open to any individual who is 7 to 17 years of age. Junior members must be accompanied by an Individual or Family Membership. Junior members may convert to regular membership upon reaching their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Junior members shall not be entitled to vote nor eligible to hold office, but shall be eligible to participate in all events and compete for titles, trophies or awards at events offered by or through the Club.

Membership dues:

1. Amount:

- Annual membership dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors not to exceed the following charges per membership, per year, absent modification of the annual membership fees by the Board of Directors by formal resolution, which may be pass at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors.
  - Individual Membership = \$10.00
  - Family Membership = \$15.00
  - Founders Membership = \$0.00

○ Junior Membership = \$0.00

\* Convenience fees may be added for any credit card, paypal or other payment methods that incurs processing fees

2. Payment of dues and term of membership:

- Dues are owed and payable on or before the 15th day of March of each year for the current calendar year.
- Membership term is January 1 thru December 31. Dues are not prorated.
- Fees received in December are applicable to the following year. Fees received any other month are applicable to the current year. The board reserves the right to apply fees to a future year whenever it is deemed in the best interest of the club.

3. Dues statement:

- On or before February 15 of each year, or as soon thereafter as possible, the Club shall send to each member a statement of dues and renewal application for renewing membership for the current year.

4. Non-payment of dues:

- No member may vote, hold office or serve any committee whose dues are not paid for the current year.

Application for membership and renewal:

1. Submitting the application. Each applicant for original membership or renewal in the Club shall apply on a board-approved application which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, Policies and Procedures and Code of Ethics of the Club and to support the work and objectives of the Club. The prospective member shall submit the completed application and dues payment for the applicable year to the Secretary or Treasurer. Any person who pays the full membership fee for the applicable year in which the person becomes a new member shall be afforded the privileges of membership through December 31st of the current calendar year and shall be sent a dues renewal notice contemporaneously with the other members in the following calendar year. The original application or any renewal application shall be processed in due course and the member approved, unless brought before the Board by the Secretary or Treasurer and rejected by a majority of the Board of Directors for failure to comply with the conditions of membership.

Termination of membership:

1. Resignation

- Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Secretary. Resignation shall not discharge or eliminate any debt owed to the Club. Dues are considered an obligation to the Club and are incurred in full the first day of each fiscal year and no portion of any dues payment shall be refundable.

2. Lapse/Non-Renewal

- A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid after April 1 of the applicable year, unless membership is reinstated within thirty (30) days after written notice of the lapse by tender of a completed renewal application along with the dues payment for the applicable year. A tender of dues with an application to renew membership may result in reinstatement at the discretion of the Board of Directors when the membership has lapsed or expired after more than thirty (30) days written notice. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any Club meaning, hold any office, serve on any committee or to have the privileges of membership whose dues are unpaid.

3. Suspension

- Any member may be suspended by the Board of Directors for good cause and for failing to comply with the conditions of membership. Such suspension may be for a specified period or may be indefinite in the discretion of the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE V – RULES FOR LICENSED EVENTS**

All events sponsored by the Club and its members will be run in accordance with the Club objectives and pre-approved by the Club's Board of Directors. It is the intent and fundamental purpose of the Club to follow as closely as possible and practical to the rules, policies and procedures of CEB-US.

#### **ARTICLE VI – REVISIONS**

The members of the Club shall adopt and may from time to time revise these bylaws as proposed by the Board of Directors and as may be required to carry out these objectives. Such revisions shall be voted on and enacted by a simple majority of a quorum of the general membership at an annual meeting of the general membership or alternatively by general ballot submission by United States mail, electronic mail, or a combination thereof to the general membership for vote, as may be designated by the Club's Board of Directors. Notice of a proposed change must be in writing, email or posted to the Club website, and the membership properly notified.

#### **ARTICLE VII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

This article shall be used to govern the Board of Directors of the Club. The Board of Directors shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Officers shall be elected at the March (or as close as possible to March) meeting every two (2) years or until their successors are elected. Directors shall not be limited in the total number of terms of office for which they may be duly elected to serve during their lifetime. Any Director may succeed him/herself. All elections shall be by secret ballot and decided by a simple majority (the Board may decide if the election is online, mail-in or a combination). The Directors and their respective duties shall be as follows:

1. **PRESIDENT:** shall preside at all meetings and conduct good order and discipline.
2. **VICE-PRESIDENT:** shall assist the President in the discharge of his duties and will preside in his absence.
3. **SECRETARY/TREASURER:** shall keep an accurate record of all meetings and events. They shall keep an accurate account received and be responsible for the proper collection and distribution of all funds and accounts, under the direction of the Board. They shall preside in the absence of the other elected officers.
4. The books and accounts of the Secretary/Treasurer shall be audited annually, prior to the election of officers, by a committee appointed by the President.
5. The checks on the account(s) of this Club will be signed by the Treasurer, President or Vice-President.
6. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation for time or labor but may be compensated for actual reasonable and necessary expenses in conducting the Club's business, if such reimbursement is specifically approved by the Board prior to expenses being incurred.

## **ARTICLE VIII – CLUB MEETINGS**

The meetings of this Club shall be held each quarter at a date, time and location decided upon by the Board. Membership meetings may be held via phone, teleconference or in person. 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:

- Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting
- Report of President
- Report of Vice-President
- Report of Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

## **ARTICLE IX – CLUB DISSOLUTION**

The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two-thirds of the members in good standing. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, other than for purposes of reorganization, none of the property of the Club nor any proceeds thereof nor any assets 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 shall be given to a charitable organization selected by the Board which exists for purposes which will benefit the Epagneul Breton breed as directly as possible.

## **ARTICLE X – CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing Constitution and Bylaws constitute the official Constitution and Bylaws of the Epagneul Bretons of the Southwest as duly proposed by its Board of Directors and duly adopted, amended, and ratified by the general membership. Such Constitution and Bylaws shall by the terms of adoption become effective as of their date of official adoption as set forth herein.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2021 (edits approved at club meeting 1/29/22)

By: Shawn Sullivan – President

Attest: Shooter Smith – Vice President