

# **Birmingham Rocket Boys**

Bylaws (Revised - April 15, 2011)

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Birmingham Rocket Boys, hereafter referred to as Rocket Boys, is a non-profit organization comprised of children and adults who enjoy the hobby of model rocketry and who wish to learn and excel in the sport.

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Birmingham Rocket Boys.

## **ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the Birmingham Rocket Boys are:

- (a) To introduce area youth to the exciting and rewarding hobby of model rocketry.
- (b) To teach youth members how to build model rockets and to safely launch and successfully recover them.
- (c) To provide an outlet for adult members who have an interest in building and flying rockets to showcase their talents and to maximize their skills.
- (d) To provide an avenue where both youth and adult members may have the opportunity to learn the science, math and physics associated with building, launching and recovering of model rockets.
- (e) To thoughtfully generate activities that will promote model rocketry, unity and cooperation among members and the community.

(f) To create an atmosphere where all members can have fellowship and fun in a safe environment and enjoy the exciting and rewarding hobby of model rocketry.

## **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1: Eligibility**

All persons shall be eligible for membership and shall agree to abide by the Rocket Boys' club bylaws.

Youth membership - under 12 years old. No dues required. However, Youth members must respond annually at dues collection time that they still want to be part of the club.

Junior Member - 12 to 18 years old, who is currently paid up on dues.

Senior Member - Over 18, who is currently paid up on dues.

Family members - A family that is currently paid up on dues.

Life members - Individuals given a lifetime membership (Lifetime membership to be approved by at least 3/4 of the BRB board).

Honorary members - Honoring a person who is not a member as defined above.

Voting eligibility - Members who are age 16 or older are eligible to vote. Honorary members are not eligible.

## **Section 2 : Exclusion**

Dismissal from membership and procedure: Any member or officer may be summarily dismissed from the Birmingham Rocket Boys Club by request of any member in good standing, by a simple majority vote of the vote eligible membership.

Procedure as follows: The officer or member bringing an official request/ recommendation to summarily dismiss another member shall make such a request to the president or any current member of the BRB Board in writing, outlining all reasons for the request. Upon receipt of the request the president shall convene a closed door meeting of the full board within 3 days, using any convenient venue to consider reason(s) for dismissal. After the board has discussed all issues, the board shall vote yes or no to bring the written request before the full vote eligible membership. The officers vote will be decided by a simple majority. In case of a tie the request will automatically go to the full membership for discussion and a vote. The Board vote does not count in the official vote of the full membership.

If the issue(s) is to go to the membership for discussion and a vote, the president shall notify the entire vote eligible membership via electronic and/or postal mail means and the person whose membership is in jeopardy will be given a fair opportunity to defend himself/herself, over a 7 day period. At the end of the 7 day period voting will begin with the voting period lasting for 7 days, a total of 14 days. The official vote on such matters, by all vote eligible members, including officers, will be determined by a simple majority.

Reconciliation: Any member that has been summarily dismissed may submit a written request to be re-instated to membership after a period of 1 year, via written request to the BRB Board for consideration and a vote of the officers. The request for reinstatement will be discussed and voted on by the BRB Board within 7 days of receiving the request. The officers may use any means to discuss and vote on reinstatement. If a simple majority of the officers vote to re-instate, membership may be resumed as soon as membership dues are paid in full.

## **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

### **Section 1: Officers**

The officers of the Rocket Boy 's shall consist of a President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer and Advisor. The five officer positions will make up the BRB Board.

The positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined, held by one person who has one BRB Board vote. In that case, a "Member at Large" can be elected to be the 5th person to take part in the BRB Board.

## **Section 2: Elections**

The officers of the Rocket Boys shall be elected from and by vote-eligible members who are in attendance (no proxy votes).

Candidates will be nominated during the first regular meeting in January. After being elected by a majority vote, officers shall serve for a term of one year.

## **Section 3: Vacancies**

Any officer vacancies which may occur shall be filled by a nomination and two-thirds vote at a regular or special meeting.

## **ARTICLE V: OFFICERS DUTIES**

**President:** The president shall preside over the regular Rocket Boy's Club meetings and shall act as spokesperson in all matters pertaining to the club.

**Vice-president:** The vice-president shall act for the president when he or she is unable to serve and shall serve as a secondary contact to all of the functions mentioned under president.

**Secretary:** The secretary shall record minutes of each club meeting and handle all correspondence pertaining to club's activities. The secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the membership list as well as the mailing list, and other duties as assigned.

Treasurer: The treasurer shall collect all moneys due and shall keep a record of moneys disbursed by the club. He shall be responsible for maintaining the records of the Rocket Boy 's bank account and provide a statement of account at the end of the year. The Treasurer shall also make monthly reports available to the club officers, preferably before each club meeting.

The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by one person. In that case, the person only has one vote, not two.

Advisor: The Rocket Boy's advisor shall keep club members abreast of all matters of importance in regards to model rocketry such as:

1. city, state and national model rocketry events
2. model rocketry educational programs
3. model rocketry community outreach opportunities
4. club equipment and purchases
5. membership recruitment
6. club launch site locations
7. current FAA,NAR regulations

Member at Large: During the occasions when the offices of Secretary and Treasurer are held by one person, the fifth person on the BRB board will be a "Member at Large" . The Member at Large's duties will be to participate in club leadership, help fellow officers, and take part in helping with club activities.

The BRB Officers shall operate as a Board of Directors in the routine running the club. The BRB Board shall communicate frequently with each other on pending club business and vote as-needed on approval of routine matters and expenditures after adequate discussion of the issues (Approval requiring at least three of the five officers for the issue to pass). Votes on major expenditures and major commitments of the club shall not be made by the BRB Board alone, but made at a club meeting where vote-eligible members can participate.

## **ARTICLE VI: CLUB 'S DUES AND FINANCES**

The annual dues to be paid to the club will be set, as necessary, by the BRB Officers.

[The existing by-laws specify the exact due fees. The above change is needed to prevent having to go thru an official by-laws change process every time the dues need to be changed.]

Dues and finances shall serve to provide the necessary funds for club equipment and expenses. Dues are for a membership of one year. Dues to be collected annually.

## **ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES**

Committees may be formed as deemed necessary to perform a special function. Each committee shall be headed by a chairman who reports to the Rocket Boy's president.

## **ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS**

Regular club meetings shall be held at least four times a year: January, April, July, and October.

Additional meetings may be called for by the BRB officers when such additional meetings seem warranted. Time and place for each meeting is to be specified early in advance to give all members an opportunity to attend.

Meetings shall be conducted with proper decorum. Launches are not eligible to serve as official meeting locations.

## **ARTICLE IX: QUORUMS**

At meetings, at least 3 BRB officers and 2 vote-eligible members must be in attendance to conduct official binding club business.

## **ARTICLE X: BY-LAW AMENDMENTS**

Amendments may be proposed by any vote-eligible member who has two other vote-eligible members who support the amendments introduction. The amendment will be put up for a 5 day commentary period by the membership for review by BRB member's email list or at a regular club meeting, as determined by the Board. After the review and commentary period, the amendment may undergo changes to reflect the input. If there have been significant changes to the amendment, it should undergo another 5 day review/comment period. After the process of review and possible changes have been completed, the proposed amendment will be eligible to be voted on by way of the BRB member's email list or at the next regular club meeting, as determined by the Board.

If an amendment is to be voted on at a regular club meeting there must be a minimum of 5 vote eligible members at the meeting, who include at least three BRB officers. Amendments will be decided by a simple majority vote.

## **ARTICLE XI: BY-LAW INTERPRETATIONS**

In the case of disagreement over the intent of the By-Laws, the 5 member BRB Board will vote to determine the interpretation to be used. In this case, the BRB Board may discuss the issues by any means and after a 5 day discussion period may call a vote among the BRB board to decide the interpretation. Each interpretation, what it is supposed to cover and what it is not supposed to cover, must be defined properly so that it can be voted on. The interpretation vote may be done electronically, via phone, and/or in person, to accommodate the whole BRB board voting and deciding the issue, it does not have to be done at a meeting.

In the case that there are more than two possible interpretations, the two interpretations with the most votes will be used for a run-off vote. In the case that the BRB board voting is unable to determine an interpretation then the vote-eligible members will be allowed to vote on an interpretation at a club meeting. Majority vote determines the outcome of the interpretation,

## **ARTICLE XII: NAR CHARTER**

The Birmingham Rocket Boys shall be chartered by the National Association of Rocketry. The provisions of this charter requires the safe operation of all rocketry related activities by all members.

## **ARTICLE XIII: LAUNCHES**

The NAR safety code is to be followed for all launches involving model rockets and HPR rockets, period. No Alcoholic beverages are allowed at launches. Persons whose judgment seems to be impaired for any reason will be asked to leave the field. Persons who are disruptive to the launch will be asked to leave the field.