

Maine 3-Railers
0-Gauge Model Railroad Club

Bylaws

Article I - Organization, Name and Purpose:

1. The name of the organization shall be the **Maine 3-Railers 0-Gauge Model Railroad Club**, hereafter “**Maine 3-Railers**” and the “club”. The term “club” may refer to either the organization or the membership as herein provided.
2. The purpose of Maine 3-Railers shall be to primarily promote the use, enjoyment and preservation of 0-gauge model trains and model railroading as a hobby.

Article II - Membership:

1. Membership shall be open to all persons interested in the model railroad hobby and in particular, the use and enjoyment of 0-gauge model trains.
2. The period of membership shall begin on January 1st and expire on December 31st each year, except as hereinafter provided for first-time, first year members.
 - A. The period of membership for any first-time, first year member who joins between September 1st and December 31st will automatically include all of the following year.
 - B. Members who fail to renew their membership within ninety (90) days of expiration shall be removed from the membership list. Members may also be removed for just cause as hereinafter provided.
3. The cost of membership, also known as “Annual Dues”, shall be as determined by a majority vote of the membership at an Annual Meeting of the membership duly called and announced for that purpose as hereinafter provided.
4. There shall be three (3) categories of membership as hereinafter provided:
 - A. Adult Member, also known as “Regular Member” shall be open to any singular adult over the age of 18.
 - B. Adult Member & Spouse (or Significant Partner) shall be open to any two (2) adults over the age of 18 in the same household.
 - C. Youth shall be open to any child under the age of 18.

Article III - Organizational Meeting:

1. An organizational meeting of the Executive Board as hereinafter defined under Article VII shall be held to adopt bylaws and to elect the Officers and a Director-at-Large to

serve until the first Annual Meeting as hereinafter provided under Article IV, Paragraph 3.

2. Thereafter, all elections and all amendments or changes to the bylaws so adopted shall be as hereinafter provided.

Article IV - Meetings of the Membership:

1. Regular meetings of the club shall be held monthly on the second Thursday of every month, principally from September through June, except the months of July, August, November and December for the reasons stated herein or as may modified by a vote of either the Executive Board or membership at least thirty (30) days prior to any such modification. Any meetings of the club held during the months of July, August and December shall be special meetings as hereinafter provided. An Annual Meeting of the club shall be held during the month of November as hereinafter provided.
2. Special meetings of the club may be held for any reason and at any time deemed necessary or convenient by the membership, or to coincide with any specific or special event as may be called by the President, a majority of the Executive Board, or otherwise as hereinafter provided.
 - A. A Special Meeting may also be called by two (2) members of the Executive Board and at least ten (10) of the members in good standing.
 - B. At least fourteen (14) days notice shall be given to the membership stating the date, time, location and purpose of the meeting.
3. An Annual Meeting of the club shall be held during the month of November at a time, date and place designated by the Executive Board, provided that sufficient notice be given to the membership at least 30 days prior thereto. A biannual election of Officers and a Director-at-Large shall be held every two (2) years in the even numbered years following the first Annual Meeting held pursuant to the provisions of these bylaws as hereinafter provided.
4. At least ten (10) members must be present at any duly called meeting of the club as hereinbefore described to constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting any business.
5. The presiding officer at all meetings shall be the President as hereinafter provided under Article IV. Otherwise, in the absence of the President, the Vice President, or the Secretary, or the Treasurer shall preside as necessary in that order.

Article V - Officers:

1. The Officers of the club shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The term of office for all Officers shall be two (2) years as hereinafter provided.
2. All Officers shall be elected by the membership every two years in even-numbered years to serve a term of two (2) years except as hereinbefore provided under Article III.
3. Every two years upon election and at the will and pleasure of the membership, the offices of the Secretary and Treasurer may be combined into one office for the ensuing term.
4. In the even-numbered years, an election shall be held at the Annual Meeting of the club in the month of November. The name of any member who wishes to be a candidate for any office may be placed in nomination by any member present at the meeting, provided the nominee is in attendance and willing to serve if elected. The name of a member who is not present at the meeting may also be placed in nomination for any office provided such member furnishes a signed written statement acknowledging a willingness to serve if elected.
5. Any vacancy may be filled by the membership at an election at a meeting called for that purpose, provided that sufficient notice of such meeting is given at least fourteen (14) days prior to such election. Such vacancy shall be filled only for the unexpired term thereof.
6. Duties of the Officers:
 - A. President: The President shall be the presiding officer and shall preside at all meetings, activities and functions.
 - (1) The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of at least three (3) members to present a slate of candidates for election every two (2) years at the Annual Meeting, to include candidates for Officers and Director-at -Large as necessary, provided that no member of such Nominating Committee be chosen as a candidate for office. Nothing in this provision shall limit such member from being nominated at the election as hereinbefore provided after the presentation of the slate of candidates as provided for herein.
 - (2) The President may appoint such standing and special committees as necessary to manage and implement the planned activities, programs and projects of the club. Such appointments shall be subject to approval by the Executive Board.
 - (3) The President shall also serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

- (4) The President may authorize and approve certain expenditures as hereinafter provided under the duties of the Treasurer.
- B. Vice President: The principal duties of the Vice President shall be to assist the President and to serve as the presiding officer in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall be responsible for preparing ballots for the biannual election.
- C. Secretary: The principal duties of the Secretary shall be to keep a record of all meetings, handle correspondence and assist the Treasurer in maintaining an accurate membership list.
- D. Treasurer: The principal duties of the Treasurer shall be to receive, hold and disperse funds on behalf of the club and to maintain an accurate record of the membership as hereinafter provided.
- (1) The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements and provide a detailed accounting thereof to the Executive Board and the membership on a period basis. The Treasurer shall give a detailed report at annually at the Annual Meeting.
- (2) The Treasurer shall pay all bills and claims authorized by the Executive Board or the membership as hereinafter provided, except that the President may authorize and spend up to \$250.00 in aggregate total in any one calendar year for club operating expenses without express approval of the Executive Board or the membership. All such expenditures in excess of \$250.00 must have the explicit approval of the Executive Committee or the membership.

Article VI - Director-at-Large:

1. In addition to the Officers as hereinbefore provided, there shall be a Director-at-Large serving a concurrent 2-year term as the Officers of the club.
2. The President may, upon the advise and consent of the Executive Board, appoint a member in good standing to fill any vacant, unexpired term of the Director-at-Large for the duration of such term.

Article VII - Executive Board:

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the duly elected Officers and a Director-at-Large as hereinbefore described, also sometimes referred to as the Directors and the Board of Directors.

2. The Executive Board shall be responsible for all of the financial and business matters of the club and for planning and executing all programs and projects authorized and approved by the membership, including the authorization to approve all expenditures necessary to operate and carry out such programs and projects.
3. All meetings of the Executive Board shall require a simple majority of the members thereof be present or otherwise available for the purpose of transacting any business.

Article VIII - Members:

1. The members shall elect all Officers and the Director-at-Large in accordance with all procedures as hereinbefore provided.
2. The members shall authorize and approve all programs and major projects to be undertaken by the club except for such programs and projects as may be subsequently approved by the Executive Board as necessary to carry out those programs and projects previously authorized and approved by the membership.
3. The members may authorize or approve all expenditures not otherwise authorized or approved by the Executive Board as hereinbefore provided.
4. The members shall determine the amount of Annual Dues for all categories of club membership at an Annual Meeting of the club as hereinafter provided.
5. Upon approval and recommendation of the Executive Board as hereinbefore provided, the members may approve bylaws of the club and any and all changes or amendments so approved and recommended thereto. Such approval of the membership shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members attending an Annual Meeting or any duly constituted meeting of the club called expressly for such purpose, and may be voted on only after being published and presented to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior thereto.

Article IX - Annual Dues:

1. The Annual Dues for all categories of club membership shall be determined by the membership at an Annual Meeting of the club as hereinafter provided.
2. The Executive Board shall be responsible for recommending the amount of Annual Dues or any necessary changes thereto. Following such recommendation, the membership may vote to accept, reject or enact such amounts or changes thereto as it deems necessary.

Article X - Expulsion and Removal Proceedings:

1. Any member whose conduct is judged to be not in keeping with the best interest of the club may be expelled from membership in the club after due hearing by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
 - A. Such member shall be given fourteen (14) days notice to appear before the Executive Board to explain or defend why an expulsion should be denied.
 - B. An appeal of a decision of the Executive Board to expel a member may be made in writing to the President of the club within fourteen (14) days of such decision.
 - C. Upon receipt of such an appeal, the Executive Board shall appoint a special appellate committee consisting of seven (7) members in good standing to hear and make a final decision regarding such appeal.
2. Any officer of the club may be removed from office because of malicious malfeasance after a hearing and affirmative vote of the membership as hereinafter provided.
 - A. A petition signed by at least ten (10) members in good standing requesting such a removal may be presented to the Executive Board for consideration. If approved by the Executive Board, a hearing may be scheduled at a meeting of the membership called expressly for such purpose provided notice is given at least fourteen (14) days prior thereto.
 - B. Such removal shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those members present and voting for such removal.

Article XI - Amendments and Changes to Bylaws:

1. Following the adoption of these bylaws as hereinbefore provided under Article III, all amendments or changes hereto must be approved and recommended by the Executive Board prior to any presentation to the membership at an Annual Meeting of the club, or any special meeting called expressly for that purpose as hereinbefore provided.
2. All such changes or amendments so approved and recommended shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership at an Annual Meeting or any duly constituted meeting of the club called expressly for such purpose, provided all such changes or amendments have been published and presented to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior thereto as hereinbefore provided.