

LIGHTNING FENCING CLUB – WINNIPEG

CONSTITUTION

NAME

1. The name of this organization shall be: Lightning Fencing Club – Manitoba.

PURPOSE

2. The club will operate for the following reasons:
 - a. To encourage and promote both recreational and competitive fencing in and out of the community of Winnipeg;
 - b. To provide instruction in foil, épée & sabre;
 - c. To provide an organization through which members may participate in fencing activities;
 - d. To encourage and support club members interested in competitive or high performance fencing through provincial, national & international competition; and
 - e. To liaise with other clubs and the Manitoba Fencing Association in the best interests of fencing and the club.

AFFILIATIONS

3. The club will be affiliated with and have its members registered with the Manitoba Fencing Association (MFA) and Canadian Fencing Federation (CFF).

MEMBERSHIP

4. Every club member will be registered in one of the following membership categories:
 - a. General Member: Those members who have completed the beginner course or are experienced fencers and are joining the club for the full fencing year. These members may participate in the fencing courses if space and equipment are available. Only General Members have voting rights in Lightning Fencing Club.
 - b. Course Member: Those members have agreed to participate in a 10 week fencing program, with lessons held once a week (providing the club facilities are available). An accredited coach shall conduct and organize the course.
 - i. There shall be at least one ten-week course throughout the fencing year, providing there is sufficient interest and members.
 - ii. Providing there is sufficient interest and membership, the Lightning Fencing Club will have different levels of course programming based on age. These programs will likely happen at different times or days. Course Members are welcome to stay after their lessons providing there is enough space, equipment, and that the facility is still open.

- c. Associate Member: Those members, who are not active fencers, but wish to have a role in fencing as a volunteer.
5. The following additional information concerning membership in the Lightning Fencing Club also applies:
 - a. The Executive will set membership rates based on expenses and anticipated need for new fencing equipment.
 - b. Membership fees are to be paid within 30 days of the beginning of the fencing year or 10 week course start date according to the current fee schedule
 - c. All full fencing year members in good standing have the right to vote on all club issues and to receive those benefits resulting from membership in the club. ALL members must be registered with the MFA and have valid club membership at the time of the vote.

EXECUTIVE

6. The President, Vice-President, and Treasurer form the governing body known as the Executive. *The three members of the Executive will have financial signing authority; two members of the Executive must sign each cheque.*
7. Positions require an individual to take responsibility, but a committee may be formed from the Lightning Fencing Club membership for a specific purpose or to divide anticipated tasks.
8. Members of the Executive must be voted into office. In order for a club member to be voted into office, they must have maintain a valid Lightning Fencing Club fencing membership (in good standing) for at least two full fencing years, and be at least 18 years of age.
9. In the event that an Executive member gives up his/her position on the board, for any reason, the duties of that person may be:
 - a. Divided among other members of the Executive
 - b. Assumed by a volunteer from the general membership
 - c. As the vacant position will have signing authority, the rest of the Executive must officially and unanimously approve the choice of the person chosen to fill the position and must arrange for signing authority transfer with our bank. The term of office for the person filling the vacated position will end at the next Annual General Meeting when the position will become open for election to eligible individuals.
10. The club shall be administered by the Executive composed of the following voting members:
 - a. President: The President shall chair all Executive meetings, liaise with the MFA as required, ensure all coaches' contracts are in place, and be a signing authority for all club financial transactions. The President will only vote on issues in the event of a tie. A President, elected on an odd numbered year at the annual general meeting for a two year term, may hold office for only four consecutive terms, unless there is no opposition. The President shall assume office at the start of the new membership year;

- b. Vice-President: The Vice-President shall act in the President's absence as required, be a signing authority for all club financial transactions, and be responsible for other duties as required (i.e. facilities manager, equipment tracking). A Vice-President, elected on an even numbered year at the annual general meeting for a two year term, may hold office for only four consecutive terms, unless there is no opposition. The Vice-President shall assume office at the start of the new membership year;
- c. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall collect membership fees, draft meeting notices and minutes, maintain a membership database, liaise with the President to ensure payment of MFA membership fees, coaching contracts, and bills for other goods & services required by the club, and will be a signing authority for all club financial transactions. A Treasurer, elected on an even numbered year at the annual general meeting for a two year term, may hold office for only four consecutive terms, unless there is no opposition. The Treasurer shall assume office at the start of the new membership year;

SUB-COMMITTEES

- 11. The President may appoint such sub-committees or volunteers as may be required to advise the Executive on matters affecting the club, or to run facets of the club program on behalf of the Executive.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- 12. The management of club financial matters shall be conducted by the Executive. Financial data shall be recorded and kept. Financial data will be presented when required.

MEETINGS

- 13. General Meetings of the Membership: Annual General Meetings shall be held once per year and shall be normally held at the end of the fencing season, when there are sufficient members available to vote on business matters and prior to the start of the new fencing year. *A minimum of 15 days' notice is to be provided for general or special meetings.*
- 14. Executive Meetings: Executive Meetings shall be held as required.

QUORUM

- 15. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 30 per cent of the membership. The President may declare a quorum when this ratio is not achieved, provided that this fact and the percentage attending is recorded in club minutes and submitted for approval of those present.

VOTING

- 16. All issues requiring a vote shall be decided by two-thirds majority vote of the membership vote with quorum present. Members of the age of majority have 1 vote; members under the age of majority, 1 parent/legal guardian of that member may be allowed to carry the vote on behalf of that member. The President shall normally vote only in the case of a deadlock.

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

17. Any proposal to alter the Constitution shall be passed to all club members before a general meeting. The Executive shall put any resulting resolutions to an immediate vote for approval by the membership. Any changes to the Constitution shall only be made after approval by a three-quarters majority vote of the membership present at a general meeting.
18. Amendments to the constitution which have passed will be effective immediately after the vote unless this is impractical, in which case the amendments will be effective at the beginning of the new fencing season.

DISCIPLINE AND GENERAL CONDUCT

19. Members of the club shall at all times observe the rules and Code of Conduct of the Lightning Fencing Club. General conduct will at all times reflect credit to the club, the MFA and the CFF.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

20. Any membership may be subject to arbitration because of actions clearly detrimental to the interests of the club. This can be done only after a majority decision of the Executive. The individual whose membership is in question can be referred to conflict resolution.

Approved on: August 17, 2015

Effective as of: August 17, 2015