

RHODE ISLAND DUCKPIN BOWLERS ASSOCIATION (RIDBA) BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1 **ORGANIZATION**

Section 1: Name: The name of the organization shall be the Rhode Island Duckpin Bowlers Association. For purposes of clarification in these by-laws, the Rhode Island Duckpin Bowlers Association shall hereafter be referred to as the RIDBA.

Section 2: The RIDBA shall be a non-profit organization and chartered accordingly by the State of Rhode Island.

Section 3: Principal office: The principal office of the RIDBA shall be located in the State of Rhode Island or Massachusetts. The RIDBA may have offices at such other places as the Board of Directors or President may from time to time appoint or the activities of the RIDBA may require.

Section 4: The RIDBA shall be an affiliate of the National Duckpin Bowling Congress, also referred to as Congress.

ARTICLE 2 **OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSES**

Section 1: The RIDBA will serve as an affiliate organization of Congress in order to carry out the purposes and goals of the National Duckpin Bowling Congress, as set forth in the Congress Articles of Incorporation and By-laws.

Section 2: The RIDBA will assist the game of duckpins and the duckpin industry by fostering amongst its members (and all bowlers) the spirit of good fellowship and fair play, maintaining and increasing interest in bowling, observing and exercising care, supervision and direction over duckpin bowling interest of it's members, teaching bowlers to develop proficiency in duckpins and promoting an increase in both sanctioned bowlers and certified bowling centers.

ARTICLE 3 **MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1: Anyone may hold membership in the RIDBA. No one under eighteen (18) may be a member, except with parental consent. A member in good standing is defined as a "person who is sanctioned".

Section 2: Membership shall be composed of individuals who shall apply for membership through an organized adult league or tournament. A league is sanctioned when all (100%) of its members, substitute, and alternate bowlers are sanctioned by Congress.

ARTICLE 4 **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1: The management of the RIDBA shall be vested in a Board of Directors comprising of the officers of the RIDBA and up to twelve (12) at-large members elected at the annual meeting.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall be the administrative body of the RIDBA and shall have entire jurisdiction over violations of the rules and shall be vested with power to amend or revoke any regulation herein set forth. It shall have authority to review protests and settle all controversies.

Section 3: Fifty one (51%) percent of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for legal transaction of business.

Section 4: No executive or qualified representative of the Board of Directors shall be permitted to officiate, assist, conduct, or promote any event which is not sanctioned by the Congress except that they may participate in or assist in the conduction of any bowling event which is for the benefit of organized charity, or any other similar cause. Violation of this rule shall be sufficient cause for immediate dismissal.

ARTICLE 5 **OFFICERS**

Section 1: The Officers of the RIDBA shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2: The Officers of the RIDBA must be chosen from members of the RIDBA. An owner or manager of any bowling center is not eligible to hold an officer position in the RIDBA.

Section 3: The Officers and Board of Directors of the RIDBA shall be elected for a term of one (1) year or until successors shall have been elected. No one shall be elected to office in the RIDBA unless he/she or his/her official representative is present at the time of the election. Such representation must have in his/her possession written and signed authorization from said candidate to have his/her name submitted for nomination. Electronic submittals will be accepted form of intent (text, email, etc.). New officers will be elected at the annual meeting, which will be held between the fifteenth day of May and the fifteenth day of June and their term of office shall commence the following day upon being elected. The election of Officers and the Board of Directors shall be the last order of business.

Section 4: The Officers of the RIDBA shall be elected by separate ballot. All RIDBA members shall have equal voice in the election and other matters pertaining to the RIDBA at the annual meeting.

Section 5: The President shall preside at all meetings. The President shall vote only in the case of a tie and shall appoint all committees and committee chairpersons. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence, and shall be discharged such other duties as may be assigned form time to time.

Section 6: The Secretary, at the insistence of the President, shall notify the Board of Directors in regards to meetings, shall keep a complete record of all proceedings, prepare comprehensive minutes thereof, and attend to correspondence of the RIDBA shall keep a complete list of all sanctioned leagues and a roster of league secretaries and the addresses of all leagues under the jurisdiction of the RIDBA.

Section 7: The Treasurer shall receive all monies paid to the RIDBA and be held responsible thereof. He/she shall account as called upon for all receipts and disbursements. The money shall be deposited in a bank approved by the organization and shall be subject to withdrawal upon order of the Board of Directors. However, the RIDBA is vested with authority by the President to approve and expand such expenditures deemed necessary to fulfill the operating necessities of the RIDBA. The approval of such expenditures must be approved by the Board of Directors and checks signed by the

Treasurer must be countersigned by the President. The books of the Treasurer may be audited once a year, at the discretion of the President, by a committee duly appointed.

Section 8: The Treasurer and Tournament Director's shall be bonded in the amount of \$10,000. The premium for said bond shall be paid by the RIDBA.

Section 9: In the best interest of the RIDBA, no more than one member of any immediate family may serve as Officers of the RIDBA.

ARTICLE 6 **MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES**

Section 1: All motions may be voted upon either by a show of hands, a voice vote or secret ballot with a majority vote to rule. The President or representative presiding at the meeting shall vote only in the case of a tie.

Section 2: The settling of disputes and questions pertaining to the affairs of the RIDBA and its members shall be brought up at any meeting.

Section 3: The Board of Directors shall meet at least a minimum of four (4) times each bowling season. Every Executive and Board Member shall be notified of the meeting at least five (5) days prior to the meeting. Any Board member missing two (2) consecutive meetings may be subject to removal from the board. This will be voted upon by board members in attendance at the second meeting. Additionally, the RIDBA shall have an annual meeting with notices sent to all league secretaries and Board of Directors. The notification of the annual meeting should be made at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. All members of the RIDBA (and other members) are invited to attend all meetings of the RIDBA.

Section 4: All tournaments shall be conducted by at least one (1) member of the Congress Executive Committee or duly appointed qualified member of the RIDBA (Article 5, Section 1). Said tournaments are to be conducted according to all rules and regulations as set forth by Congress and the RIDBA.

Section 5: Any and all proposed amendments to the By-Laws, rules and Regulations of the RIDBA must be submitted in writing by the proposer thereof to the Board of Directors not less than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the annual meeting of the RIDBA and unless so submitted the same shall not be acted upon or discussed at any such meetings unless ordered by a unanimous vote of all the members of the Board of Directors present. The Board of Directors shall consider all proposed amendments submitted and report its conclusions and recommendations therein to the meeting of the RIDBA immediately following their submission. A 2/3 vote of all sanctioned members present is needed to amend or approve a change in the By-Laws.

Section 6: The Board shall appoint a committee not less than every three (3) years to review and recommend changes and/or additions to the By-Laws. The committee shall sit in time to adhere to the above guidelines.

ARTICLE 7 **RESIGNATIONS, SUSPENSIONS AND VACANCY**

Section 1: Vacancies occurring in any office except that of President, by death, resignation or otherwise shall be filled by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and such person or persons

appointed shall hold office until the next election of officers. If the Office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President, in regular order, shall automatically become President.

Section 2: Any officer of the RIDBA or Board of Directors, at any meeting duly called and held, may for satisfactory cause, be removed from office by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 8 **AUTHORITY**

Section 1: The President of the RIDBA shall have the authority to appoint Executives as prescribed by the by-laws of Congress subject to approval of the Board of Directors. These Executives will represent the local bowlers and have the right to vote at the annual meeting of Congress. The RIDBA will make every effort to be represented at the annual meeting of Congress by having all of its Executives attend the meeting.

Section 2: Tournament Executive/Directors shall be appointed by the President of the RIDBA, subject to Board of Directors approval, unless otherwise provided for in the By-laws of Congress.

Section 3: The RIDBA will abide by the By-laws, Rules and Regulations, Policies and Guidelines of Congress, and will not adopt any rules or regulations contrary to the same.

Section 4: The RIDBA will have the authority to conduct tournaments in their area, providing they follow the Rules and Regulations adopted by Congress governing such tournaments.

ARTICLE 9 **FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

Section 1: The RIDBA shall be authorized to hire paid employees to carry out its responsibilities. Personnel policies relating to said employees will be established by the Board of Directors as well as salaries for said employees. In no case will these policies or salaries be in any contradiction to any By-laws or Rules or Regulations of Congress.

Section 2: The fiscal officer in charge of the RIDBA will have the responsibility of keeping a proper set of books and records of all financial transactions. Regular financial statements must be available at all meetings.

Section 3: The RIDBA will prepare a detailed financial report for the annual meeting with a copy submitted to Congress. The Executive Director reserves the right to inspect, review, or request an audit of any books or records of the RIDBA. The fiscal year for the RIDBA will be from September 1 to August 31.

Section 4: The RIDBA may pay expenses to Executives to attend the annual meeting of Congress at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Section 5: The RIDBA may have an annual fundraiser to benefit itself. It will report this activity, in advance, to the Executive Director of Congress. The type of fundraiser utilized by the RIDBA will be at its own discretion.

ARTICLE 10 **FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Section 1: The RIDBA will select Executives as prescribed by the By-laws of Congress. It shall be the duty of every Executive to work for and promote the interest of Congress and the game of duckpins, to make every effort to obtain sanctions in the area he/she represents, and promote the National Tournament. Executives shall have the authority to cause to be removed from any sanctioned event any participant whose conduct violates the rules and regulations of Congress. They also have the authority to recommend to any sanctioned league the correction of any act on the part of any member that is in violation of the rules and regulations of Congress. Executives may recommend changes in the rules and regulations as may seem proper, to be voted upon at the annual meeting. Executives shall vote on all matters presented at the annual meeting of the RIDBA and shall also attend and vote on all matters presented at the annual meeting of Congress.

Section 2: The RIDBA will be responsible for publishing an average book determining correct averages of all sanctioned bowlers within its area. This information shall be readily available to all bowlers. The Secretary shall certify to records of tournaments and sanctioned events within the jurisdiction of the RIDBA and shall keep a complete and permanent record of the same. The Secretary shall attempt to maintain an up to date address and telephone listing of all tournament bowlers.

Section 3: The RIDBA shall make themselves available for assistance to any league secretary.

Section 4: The RIDBA secretary will supply Congress with a list of all bowling centers in their associations. This list will be submitted on or before July 1 of each year.

Section 4A: It is necessary for each local association to provide to Congress by October 25 the following:

1. A list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of all elected officers and executives
2. A list of all lane representatives, including their name, address, and telephone number as well as the bowling center that they serve.
3. A list of all bowling centers serviced by each individual local association. This list should include the name, address, and telephone number of the bowling center as well as the name of the owner.
4. A copy of the current by-laws and articles of incorporation of the local association.
5. A copy of the local associations' most recent budget as well as a financial statement.

Section 5: The RIDBA will make every effort to obtain the names and addresses of league secretaries of non- sanctioned leagues in effort to assist Congress in approaching said leagues and explaining the advantages of being members of Congress.

Section 6: The RIDBA will provide guidance and consistent rule interpretation for their bowlers and leagues in the area. Rule disputes will be handled first by the President of the league and then, through the lane representative, being presented for interpretation to the RIDBA President and/or Secretary. Congress will not have authority to override an interpretation of an RIDBA ruling unless said ruling is specifically in contradiction with the by-laws of Congress.

Section 7: The RIDBA shall resolve disputes between the lane representatives, proprietors and bowlers, should such disputes develop.

Section 8: The RIDBA will assist in the process of sanctioning bowlers at the beginning of every bowling season and throughout the year. League secretaries will send to Congress the sanction application including their check for membership to Congress.

Section 9: Upon request, the RIDBA will assist the Rhode Island Duckpin Proprietor's Association (RIDPA) in their National Duckpin Youth Association (NDYA) programs and promoting their special events. They include but are not limited to Junior Invitational, State Youth, Senior Citizens and State Tournaments for Adults. The RIDBA will provide directors for the above mentioned at negotiated fees.

Section 10: The President of the RIDBA, when invited, should make every effort to attend meetings of the RIDBPA. Every effort should be made to maintain an open line of communication between organizations.

Section 11: The RIDBA will rank yearly the top twenty men and top twenty women according to the guidelines published in the average book. Plaques will be presented to the number one ranking male and female bowlers each year recognizing their accomplishments.

Section 12: The RIDBA, in cooperation with the RIDBPA, shall maintain a Hall of Fame and help and assist the operation of any function relating to such.

Revised June, 2017- Dan Lacroix
Revised May, 2009- Doug Oliver