

## **Merrimac Snowbusters, Inc. ByLaws**

### **\ARTICLE I - Purposes and Name**

**Section 1:** The name of this Club shall be the 'Merrimac Area Snowmobilers, Inc.'

**Section 2:** The purposes of the "Merrimac Area Snowmobilers, Inc." are to stimulate and advance the general welfare and safety of snowmobile owners, to defend such owners against discriminatory legislation, regulations and burdensome taxation, to develop a fraternal spirit among local snowmobile and other winter sport enthusiasts, to provide a medium for the exchange of snowmobiling information, to own or lease property for Club uses, and to perform all desirable and lawful functions for the successful operation of the Club and in the general public interest.

### **ARTICLE II – Membership**

**Section 1:** Membership in the Club shall be available to all snowmobile owners in the general area of Merrimac and Lake Wisconsin, as well as to those individuals, groups, and business establishments wishing to help promote the sport of snowmobiling.

**Section 2:** Each membership unit shall be entitled to one vote.

**Section 3:** Applications for membership shall be made to the Secretary of the Club, on the appropriate form containing an agreement by the applicant to abide by the BY-LAWS of the Club. The Secretary shall refer each application for membership to the Board of Directors for final approval and election to the Club upon payment of the required dues. A favorable vote of the majority of the Board shall be required to elect an applicant to membership. At the discretion of the Secretary, this vote may be taken by mail ballot.

**Section 4:** A member may resign from the Club at any time upon written notice to the Secretary.

**Section 5:** Membership in the Club may be terminated by action by the Board of Directors for non-payment of dues. Termination of the membership of any member shall not release said member from the obligation to pay all dues and other amounts owed to the end of the period of membership. Membership may also be terminated by majority vote of the Board for any reason whatever deemed by the Board to be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club.

### **ARTICLE III – Management**

**Section 1:** The management of the Club shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE IV - Board of Directors**

**Section 1:** The Board of Directors shall consist of Five Directors: the Club President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and President Ex Officio. Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of the membership.

**Section 2:** In case vacancies occur on the Board of Directors by reason of death, resignation or otherwise, the remaining Directors may, at their option, by majority vote elect a successor or successors for the unexpired term or terms.

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**Section 3:** A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of Club business.

**Section 4:** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such time and place as may be from time to time fixed by resolution of the Board of Directors, or as may be specified in the notice of the meeting. Upon the request of the President or any three Directors, the Secretary shall call a special meeting of the Board of Directors.

**Section 5:** The Board of Directors may appoint Club committees, fill any vacancies or change the membership in such committees. The Board of Directors shall have the power at any time to discharge any committee.

**Section 6:** The Board of Directors may employ whatever personnel they deem necessary, and for which funds are available, to aid in the management of the Club and may authorize the expenditure of Club funds not in excess of \$100.00 in any other manner in the proper furtherance of the purposes of the Club.

### **ARTICLE V – Dues**

**Section 1:** The amount of dues as well as the time for their payment shall be determined yearly by the Board of Directors.

### **ARTICLE VI – Officers**

**Section 1:** The officers of the Club shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer as voted by membership. Trail Boss and Grooming Coordinator to be appointed.

**Section 2:** The officers shall be elected from the general membership of the Club at the Regular Annual Meeting, Taking Vacancies occurring between such elections may be filled for the unexpired term by the Board of Directors at any Board meeting or by mail ballot. Any officer may be removed from office by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership of the Club.

**Section 3:** The Term of officers shall be two years. The President & Treasurer and shall be elected during the same election year with the Vice President & Secretary elected in alternate years. Officers may be reelected to successive terms if so elected by the general membership of the Club.

**Section 4:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of its Board of Directors, shall appoint such Committees as authorized by the Board of Directors, shall be a member ex-officio of all Committees and shall carry on those other responsibilities assigned to him by the BY-LAWS and by the Board of Directors.

**Section 5:** The Vice President, during the absence or temporary incapacity of the President, shall perform the duties and have the powers of the President. The Vice President will also be a member ex-officio of all Committees and shall carry on those responsibilities assigned to him by the BY-LAWS and the Board of Directors.

**Section 6:** The Secretary shall keep all of the Club's records, other than financial, including minutes of meetings, roster of members, lists of Committees and their members, shall send out

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notices of meetings, receive applications for membership, and discharge all of the usual secretarial functions of the office required by the BY-LAWS or by the Board of Directors.

**Section 7:** The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Club and have charge of its funds. He shall keep all of the Club's funds in a bank approved by the Board of Directors and in the name of the Club, subject to withdrawal by checks signed in such manner as may be from time to time approved by the Board of Directors. He shall disburse the funds of the Club under the direction of the Board of Directors. A Treasurer's report shall be prepared for each Board meeting and an annual audit shall be prepared and submitted at the Annual Meeting.

**Section 8.** The Trail Boss shall be in charge of maintaining trail systems in off season, and report status to county

**Section 9.** Grooming Coordinator shall be in charge of grooming activities and equipment for the club

**Section 10.** All officers shall have such other powers and duties as are required by law.

### **ARTICLE VII - Fiscal Year**

**Section 1.** The fiscal year of the Club shall commence on the first day of September and end on the thirty first day of August.

### **ARTICLE VIII – Meetings**

**Section 1:** The annual meeting of the members of the Club shall be held at the time and place designated by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2:** Regular meetings of the members of the Club shall be held once each month from October through March, and as needed each month from April through September. Annual Meeting to be held in January. Meetings shall be held at the time and place fixed by resolution at the previous meeting or as designated by the President or by the Board of Directors.

**Section 3:** Written notices of the time and place of the annual and all other meetings of the membership shall be prepared and distributed to the membership by the Secretary.

**Section 4:** Special meetings of the Club may be called by the Board of Directors, or by the President or by any group of ten membership units by giving five days' written notice of the time, place, and purpose of such special meeting.

**Section 5:** Any formal action taken at any meeting of the membership shall require a majority vote of the membership units present.

### **ARTICLE IX - Election Procedure**

**Section 1:** A Nominating Committee of at least three persons shall be appointed by the President or by the Board of Directors from the active members.

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**Section 2:** The Nominating Committee shall place in nomination for officers candidates for election taken from names of active members.

**Section 3:** The Nominating Committee's slate of candidates for election to the Board of Directors to fill prospective vacancies shall be sent to the Secretary at least 30 days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting. The Secretary shall prepare an official mail ballot showing the names of the Nominating Committee's candidates, and providing spaces for write-in candidates, and shall send official ballot, together with a list of the present incumbents, to the entire active membership list in sufficient time so that these ballots can be either marked and returned to the Secretary by mail or turned in at the Annual Meeting.

**Section 4:** At the Annual Meeting a Tally Committee of two or three members shall be appointed to count the official ballots and announce the names of those elected to the Board of Directors for the various terms. Ties shall be settled by run off ballot of the membership units in attendance at the Annual Meeting.

### **ARTICLE X – Amendments**

**Section 1:** These BY-LAWS may be amended at Club meetings by the affirmative vote of a majority of the membership units in attendance.

### **ARTICLE XI - Code of Ethics**

**Section 1:** All members of the 'Merrimac Area Snowmobilers, Inc.' shall abide by the Snowmobile Code of Ethics proposed by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation:

1. I will be a good sportsman. I recognize that people judge all snowmobile owners by my actions. I will use my influence with other snowmobile owners to promote sportsmanlike conduct.
2. I will not litter trails or camping areas. I will not pollute streams or lakes.
3. I will not damage living trees, shrubs, or other natural features.
4. I will respect other people's property and rights.
5. I will lend a helping hand when I see someone in distress.
6. I will make myself and my vehicle available to assist search and rescue parties.
7. I will not interfere with or harass hikers, skiers, snowshoers, ice fishermen or other winter sportsmen. I will respect their rights to enjoy our recreation facilities.
8. I will know and obey all federal, state and local rules regulating the operation of snowmobiles in areas where I use my vehicle.
9. I will inform public officials when using public lands.
10. I will not harass wildlife. I will avoid areas posted for the protection or feeding of wildlife.
11. I will stay on marked trails or marked roads open to snowmobiles. I will avoid country travel unless specifically authorized.

#### **Revision History:**

- Created 1970
- Updated 2001
- Updated 2/6/2025