

**The Belleville R/C Flyers Club  
Constitution and By-laws  
As Amended: July 2020**

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

**Section 1:** The name of this organization shall be the Belleville R/C Flyers, hereafter referred to as the “Club.”

**ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES**

**Section 1:** This is an incorporated, non-profit organization established to promote radio controlled model aviation as a sport. Through group endeavor, it will obtain safe and effective flying sites for the members.

**Section 2:** The purpose of the Club is to stimulate an interest in model aviation and exchange information and ideas to improve the state of the art. It will serve as the focal point for radio controlled model aviation activities in the St. Clair County area and as a point of contact with the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

**ARTICLE III – FISCAL YEAR**

**Section 1:** The fiscal year shall extend from January 1 to December 31.

**ARTICLE IV – BY-LAWS AND FLYING REGULATIONS AND/OR RULES**

**Section 1:** By-Laws deemed necessary by the Club members to ensure the safety and welfare of the members and their guests while flying model aircraft at the Club flying site. They shall be adopted and have the force and effect as if published as part of the constitution, providing that all such proposals adopted by the Club membership are consistent with the Academy of Model Aeronautics and this Constitution.

**ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1:** Individuals desiring membership in this Club shall fill out a Club Membership Application and return it to the Club Treasurer, who will present it to the Club Membership for consideration at the next regular scheduled meeting.

**Section 2:** The Club will vote on an individual desiring membership by secret ballot or show of hands, not in his presence. If the majority approves, the individual shall be accepted. The Club President shall inform the individual of his acceptance or rejection of membership.

**Section 3:** Members of the Club must have a current AMA membership in order to have flying field privileges. Members that have applied for AMA membership through the Club Treasurer will also be granted flying privileges.

**Section 4:** Newly accepted members not belonging to the AMA may either visit [www.modelaircraft.org](http://www.modelaircraft.org) to join the AMA (receipt to be forwarded to Club Treasurer) or they may fill out a paper application for the Club Treasurer to submit on their behalf.

**Section 5:** All members in this Club shall have an FCC approved, commercial transmitter with which they intend to control their model aircraft.

**Section 6:** Upon written request, membership is automatically extended to the Club member's dependents under 18 years of age, provided each dependent is properly licensed with the AMA. Dependent member's dues shall be one-half the amount of general membership dues. When a dependent member becomes 18 years of age, he will then pay general membership dues. An adult will supervise pre-teen dependents during all phases of flight operations.

**Section 7:** Dependent members under 18 years of age will not be charged an initiation fee.

**Section 8:** Dependent membership shall terminate at the end of the Fiscal Year in which the dependent member becomes 18 years of age.

**Section 9:** All individuals wishing to join the Club beginning October 1, 2020 and beyond will be subject to a 12 calendar month probationary period. If, at any time within these 12 calendar months, the individual demonstrates a failure to follow the club constitution and bylaws, flying site rules, and/or AMA Safety Code, current club officers may immediately terminate their membership without question with a simple majority vote. Probationary members will not have voting rights. A prorated refund of dues paid; minus the club initiation fee of \$15 will be granted.

## **ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS**

**Section 1:** The officers of the Club shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Safety Officer.

**Section 2:** The term of office for Club Officers shall be one calendar year.

**Section 3:** Elections will be by secret ballot under normal parliamentary procedures.

**Section 4:** Elections will be held during the November monthly business meeting.

**Section 5:** Newly elected officers will take office at the January monthly business meeting.

**Section 6:** All club officers may succeed themselves in Office.

## **ARTICLE VII – DUTIES**

### **Section 1: Duties of the President shall be:**

- To preside at all meetings of the Club
- To keep order and decorum at all times
- To rule on any questions before the Club as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order
- To appoint any person or committees not otherwise ordered by the Club members.
- To call special meetings as necessary
- To vote only when one vote is necessary to break a tie.
- To personally represent the Club on matters of business and public relations

### **Section 2: Duties of the Vice President shall be:**

- To assist the President in the discharge of his duties
- Preside at meetings when the President is absent
- Arrange and conduct social activities for the Club

### **Section 3: Duties of the Secretary shall be:**

- To keep record of the meetings of the Club in a minutes book primarily for that purpose.
- To send out notices of regular or special meetings or flying sessions to each member
- To maintain Club membership records
- To handle all Club correspondence

### **Section 4: Duties of the Treasurer shall be:**

- To receive all monies due the Club and keep records of expenditures and collection of Club monies.
- To report on the financial status of the Club at each business meeting.
- To handle all correspondence relating to monies and business transactions of the Club.

### **Section 5: Duties of the Safety Officer shall be:**

- To promote the safety and welfare of the members and guests of the Club who are flying model aircraft at the Club flying site.
- To promote the AMA Safety Code as guidance for flying model aircraft at the Club flying site.
- To enforce the Club Model Aircraft Flying Rules and provide guidance when a safety problem becomes evident at the Club flying site.
- To assist the Contest Director at Club contests and promote safe flying of model aircraft at the Club flying site at all times.

## **ARTICLE VIII – QUORUMS AND MEETINGS**

**Section 1:** A quorum for general membership meetings shall be at least 10 members present, including 2 Club officers.

**Section 2:** Business transactions will be decided by a simple majority vote of the members present.

**Section 3:** The regular meetings of the Club shall be held monthly during the first week of the month. Changes to the meeting day of the week and time shall be determined by a simple majority vote at a regular monthly meeting.

**Section 4:** The President may call a special meeting at any time by written or telephone contact with the membership.

**Section 5:** Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all procedural matters in connection with regular Club meetings not otherwise provided for herein.

## **ARTICLE IX – VOTING**

**Section 1:** Only Club members shall be allowed to vote on any matter requiring a vote, and they shall be entitled to only one such vote.

**Section 2:** There shall be no proxy voting.

**Section 3:** Voting by mail shall be permitted for changes in the Constitution or By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE X – FINANCIAL**

**Section 1:** Club dues shall be an amount decided by the general membership. It shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present at a regular meeting to change this amount. Dependent members' dues shall be the amount set forth in Article V, Section 7. Proposed changes must be published in the preceding edition of the Club Newsletter.

**Section 2:** A one time initiation fee of fifteen (15) dollars will be assessed to individuals wishing to join the Club.

**Section 3:** General and dependent members will pay their own AMA license fee.

**Section 4:** Dues will be paid on an annual schedule. The schedule will correspond with the fiscal year as outlined in Article III, Section 1.

**Section 5:** January 1 to January 31 of each calendar year shall be considered a grace month. Membership dues paid or postmarked after January 31<sup>st</sup> of the current calendar year will incur a twenty (20) dollar late fee in addition to current general membership dues rates. Dependent members will incur a ten (10) dollar late fee in addition to dependent dues rates. During the grace month, January 1 through January 31, members may not exercise Club membership privileges until annual dues are paid. After the grace month, all club membership privileges are suspended until annual dues and late fees are paid.

## **ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1:** This Constitution and or by-laws may only be amended by a simple majority vote of not less than one-half of all Club members. Sections 3, 5, and 6 of the by-laws as pertains to Flying Rules, Ground Rules and Courtesy Rules may be changed by a simple majority vote of members present at a regular meeting. Proposed changes must be published in the preceding edition of the Club Newsletter or posted on the Club's website and at the flying field.

**Section 2:** Members must be advised in writing of the proposed amendment and/or change to be considered, one meeting prior to the consideration of change in the Constitution or by-laws.

**Section 3:** All members of the Club will be given a copy of this Constitution and By-Laws.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **Section 1: Club Minutes**

The Club Secretary will be responsible for providing all members with a copy of the Club minutes of each meeting, when instructed to do so by the Club President.

### **Section 2: Interim Use**

Individuals desiring to join the Club may use the Club flying site in a guest capacity until the next regularly scheduled meeting, however, they must be cleared to fly by a designated Club member. Also, the individual must possess a valid AMA License. The only exceptions to this rule are pilots enrolled in the AMA Pilot Introductory Program.

### **Section 3: Flying Rules**

**1:** No transmitter shall be turned on unless you have placed your club credentials in the correct slot of the frequency control board. Credentials will consist of current AMA and BRCF card, either originals or copies. Pilots operating radio

equipment on the same frequency should inform each other as to when they are going to fly. Do not rely solely on the control board.

**2:** All FM transmitters must have appropriately numbered tags and red “aircraft only frequency” ribbons attached when in operation.

**3:** A flight line will be established while flying at the Club’s flying site. The Club’s established flight line runs parallel to the active runway and consists of protective fencing. All pilots must operate their aircraft from behind the protective fencing.

**4:** Pilots will taxi their aircraft out from the established flight line to the active runway for takeoff. Pilots will not perform a takeoff of their aircraft from the flight line.

**5:** Aircraft in the landing pattern have the Right-Of-Way over aircraft taxiing or taking off.

**6:** Landings will be made down the center of the active runway. Landing approaches will be made as close as possible to be parallel to the extended centerline of the runway. A pilot who has an emergency and must land his model aircraft other than down the centerline of the runway may take exception to this rule.

**7:** All pilots and instructors must stand behind the safety fences while flying during day-to-day flying sessions. Where pilots stand during contests is at the discretion of the Contest Director.

**8:** Pilots will call out any maneuver they intend to execute over the runway. Examples would be touch & go’s, or low passes.

**9:** Aircraft landing with a dead engine will be removed as quickly as possible from the runway. Pilots should walk along the side of the field if possible when returning to the flight line.

**10:** THE AMA SAFETY CODE WILL BE OBSERVED BY ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS WHILE FLYING THEIR MODEL AIRCRAFT AT THE CLUB FLYING FIELD.

**11:** In the interest of safety for all club members and their equipment, no items of any type or construction shall be placed or erected on the flying field for any reason.

**11A:** Exceptions to #11 would be for scheduled, club-sanctioned events (Fun Fly, FPV/Quad racing, fixed wing pylon racing competitions, etc.) approved and scheduled at a regular club meeting prior to the event.

**12:** Club members operating FPV (First Person View) equipment must follow all current AMA rules for FPV flight, including having a designated spotter whenever such flight occurs.

#### Section 4 – Flying Field Diagram



#### Section 5 – Flying Field Ground Rules

**1:** Only members and guests of the Belleville R/C Flyers members with current Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) membership cards are permitted to fly at this site.

**2:** Only FCC approved (narrow band) commercial transmitters will be permitted to operate at the Club's flying site and all pilots will have completed a successful radio equipment ground check before flying their aircraft (it is strongly suggested that transmitter/receiver functions be verified prior to each flight).

**3:** 27MHz, 72MHz, and 2.4GHz Operations:

--Prior to flight, all pilots must place their AMA and Club membership cards in the appropriate frequency slot on the Frequency Control Board.

--All FM Transmitter antennas will be collapsed when not in use.

--Radio transmitters may be impounded during special events.

**4:** Regardless of the operating frequency, no more than six aircraft are allowed to fly at one time. This may require pilots to be considerate of their fellow pilots and take turns in the operation of their aircraft.

**5:** All pilots airborne must follow the established flight pattern. All takeoffs and landings will be made in the same direction. Crosswind conditions may require a change in the pattern and this will be determined by the Safety Officer or a Board Member: or in their absence, the operating pilots.

**6:** Pilots shall not fly a new or rebuilt model aircraft until an instructor or a senior club member has inspected it.

**7:** All Pilots must operate their aircraft while standing behind the safety fences along the flight line.

**8:** Flying will be conducted outside of the field boundaries. Positively no flying will be allowed over the Safety zone, which includes the pit area, spectator and parking area. Off-field landings will be permitted in case of emergency only.

**9:** Low altitude, high speed passes are only permitted beyond the West perimeter of the flying field.

**10:** All two/four cycle and gasoline engines are required to have baffled mufflers. Turbine engines are regulated by specific AMA rules.

**11:** No pit areas will be established in front of the flight line safety fences.

**12:** All spectators will stay within the designated observation area located behind the pit area.

**13:** Children will not be permitted to play on the flying field, pit area or in the ditches adjacent to the ends of the flying field.

**14:** Pets will not be permitted on the flying field.

**15:** When a model aircraft goes down in the crop area, only a minimum of personnel will search and recover. Walk around the edge of the field where possible. Use care when walking through the crops to minimize any damage to the crops.

**16:** Trash should be placed in the trash barrel at the field. If unavailable, club member will take their trash with them.



**17:** Club members will be held responsible for the conduct of their guests while at the flying site.

**18:** Members shall immediately notify the Club President and Safety Officer in the event that an accident of serious nature occurs at the flying site.

**19:** Official AMA rules and regulations shall be applicable to all flying activities at this field. In situations where specific guidance is not provided, sound judgment and common sense shall prevail. Compliance with these safety rules is the responsibility of each club member.

**20:** Repeated failure to comply with these rules and regulations by any member may result in termination of their membership in the Belleville R/C Flyers Club, pending a hearing by the Officers of the Club.

**21: ABSOLUTELY NOT ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PERMITTED ON THE FLYING FIELD.**

### **Section 6 – Courtesy Suggestions**

**1:** Place your club and AMA credentials on the frequency board even if you are the only flyer at the field or the only flyer using that frequency. See Flying Rule #1. Someone may show up and use that frequency while you are flying and could render your aircraft uncontrollable, and if this happens, it would be your fault.

**2:** Remove your credentials from the frequency control board after each flight. It is inconsiderate to make another pilot find you to have you remove your club and AMA cards.

**3:** Do not occupy a particular frequency for more than 20 minutes if there are other pilots waiting to use it. This includes ground and air time.

**4:** If at all possible, do any engine checks, break-ins or adjustments at a location other than the field.

**5:** Do not rev-up your engines so that prop wash blows in another pilot's area.

**6:** Give a helping hand to other flyers whenever possible.

**7:** Extend every courtesy to new members and/or novice pilots.

**8:** Please brief your guests on the Club's ground and flying rules.

**9:** When you are finished flying, help clean up the area (flying site).

**10: HAVE FUN!**