

ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC BY-LAWS



Article I - Name and Address

The name of this Club shall be Arlington Anglers Fishing Club Inc. (hereafter called the Club), located in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, the location of our monthly meeting. The Club is not affiliated with any other organization.

The address of the Club will always be that of the current Club President unless and until such time as the Club may establish a permanent mailing address. The business address of this Club is:

Arlington Anglers Fishing Club Inc.
Christopher Popp
655 Versailles Circle Unit E
Elk Grove Village, IL, 60007

Article II – Charitable Purpose and Objectives

Section 1 – Charitable Purpose

The Club is dedicated to promoting and supporting responsible fishing, conservation, education, and community engagement. Through recreational fishing activities, environmental stewardship, and outreach programs, the Club aims to:

1. Provide single and multi-day fishing outings at local lakes and rivers to enhance recreational and educational experiences.
2. Foster camaraderie among members by creating a welcoming and supportive community of fishing enthusiasts.
3. Educate both adults and children to improve their angling skills through structured learning opportunities.
4. Promote conservation efforts to protect and sustain fisheries and natural resources.
5. Encourage philanthropy by giving back through volunteerism and charitable fishing events.

ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC

BY-LAWS



Section 2 – Objectives

To fulfill its charitable purpose, the Club pursues the following objectives:

1. Education & Skill Development

- Host monthly educational meetings covering various fishing-related topics, featuring knowledgeable guides and guest speakers.
- Share information and techniques to improve members' fishing knowledge and skills.
- Provide fishing education programs for youth, beginners, and underprivileged individuals.
- Teach children how to fish, fostering a lifelong appreciation for the sport.

2. Camaraderie & Social Engagement

- Foster friendships and networking among anglers with shared interests.
- Promote fishing as a family-friendly activity that strengthens bonds across generations.
- Organize single and multi-day fishing outings to enhance recreational and social experiences.

3. Conservation & Environmental Stewardship

- Encourage responsible fishing practices, including catch-and-release or selective harvest.
- Foster respect for nature and conservation of natural resources.
- Support habitat restoration efforts and organize clean-up events at lakes, rivers, and fishing areas.

4. Philanthropy & Community Service

- Offer fishing experiences to veterans, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.
- Provide volunteer opportunities at senior and youth fishing events.
- Organize charity events to raise funds in support of fishing related activities.

ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC

BY-LAWS



5. Recreational & Personal Growth Benefits

- Encourage outdoor recreation for mental well-being and relaxation.
- Provide opportunities for members to learn from experienced anglers and professional guides.
- Develop new friendships and mentorship opportunities within the fishing community.

These objectives ensure the Club remains aligned with 501(c) regulations, while actively contributing to conservation, education, and community engagement.

ARTICLE III – Club Structure

No part of the Club's income or receipts will benefit any director, member, trustee, officer, or private individual, except that the Club may provide reasonable compensation for services rendered and make payments or distributions in furtherance of its exempt purposes.

The Club will remain non-sectarian and non-political. It will not participate in or intervene in any political campaign, whether in support of or opposition to any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Club will conduct only activities permitted for:

- (a) A corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code).
- (b) A corporation eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code).

Article IV – Membership Definition

Section 1 – Membership Family unit

All annual memberships include family members. One individual will be identified as the member of record for communication purposes. The family is considered their spouse, domestic partner and their collective children under the age of 21 as of January 1 of the membership year. The following calendar year after a child hits 21, full dues will be owed for that individual if they want to remain a member.

ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC

BY-LAWS



Section 2 – Honorary Membership

All past Presidents of the Club will be granted Honorary Membership in perpetuity. As such they will be exempt from annual dues. Past Presidents are still expected to pay door fees for monthly Club meetings. Other Honorary Memberships may be granted at the discretion of the Board.

Section 3 – Eligibility for Board or Committee Leadership

Any adult Family member will be eligible to serve as a Committee Chair or Board position if elected.

Section 4 – Voting

One adult member in each family membership will be eligible to vote in the annual election of the Board. Adult family members are those 21 and over.

Section 5 – Reservations

No member of the Club will make a reservation for a Club function on behalf of the Club without the express verbal or written consent of the Board.

Section 6 – Contest Eligibility

Each family member including children will be eligible to participate in the Big Fish or any other member Contest. Refer to the Club website in the Members Only section for specific rules.

Section 7 – Waivers

Each member will be required to complete a waiver of liability. Refer to the policy document for details.

Article V - The Board of Directors

Section 1 - Officers

The Club elects the Officers to the Board. Currently this consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter/Communication Chair, Sergeant At Arms (2 positions), Speaker Chair, Outing Chair, Big Fish Contest Chair and Webmaster. These officers constitute the Board of Directors (Board). The Board reserves the right to consolidate, expand or redefine responsibilities of the Officers in the future based on the need and level of talent available.

ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC

BY-LAWS



Section 3 – Club Administration

The Board is the administrative body of the Club. The Board has the authority to act in all matters pertaining to the affairs of the Club, and exercise general control and supervision over all Club activities and committees. The Board will provide meeting minutes after each Board meeting within a reasonable amount of time.

Section 4 - Resignation, Termination and Absences

Resignation from the Board must be in writing and received by the Secretary. A Board member may be dropped for excessive absences from the Board if s/he has three unexcused absences from Board meetings in a year. A Board member may be removed for other reasons by a three-fourths vote of the remaining directors.

Section 5 - Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board will be called upon by the request of the President or one-third of the Board.

Article VI - Duties of Board Members

Section 1 – President

The Presidents responsibilities include:

1. Chair of the Board of Directors and preside at all meetings of the Board and the Club.
2. Recommend all committees to the Board.
3. Sign checks in the absence of the Secretary/Treasurer.
4. Represent the Club in all its affairs and serve as contact representative between the Club and any other organizations or associations having business with the Club.
5. The President will retain custody of the By-Laws.
6. Follow-up on prior year Club members who have not resigned for current calendar year.
7. Perform such additional duties as may be required.

Section 2. - Vice President

The Vice President responsibilities include:

1. Assume the duties of the President in the President's absence.

ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC

BY-LAWS



2. Have co-responsibility to publicize the Club and build membership as directed by the President and Board of Directors.
3. Automatically succeed to the Presidency in case of a vacancy in that office
4. Perform such additional duties as may be required.

Section 3. – Secretary

The Secretary responsibilities include:

1. Keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Club and of the Board of Directors meeting.
2. Maintain various Club records designated by the President.
3. Publish the board meeting notes within a reasonable amount of time as defined in policy document.
4. Perform such additional duties as may be required.

Section 4. – Treasurer

The Treasurer responsibilities include:

1. Collecting and accounting for the annual dues, raffle proceeds, door fees and other income as well as all disbursements of the Club.
2. Preparing tax inputs and working with outside CPA firm to ensure annual non-profit tax return is completed.
3. Submit the required annual report online with the State of Illinois on non-profit tax-exempt status and pay fee.
4. Maintain a list of the Club assets and liabilities. Submit financial summary in each Board meeting.
5. Annually submit the budget results from prior year to the Board of Directors and secure a new budget for the current/upcoming year.
6. Once approved, publish an annual budget for that calendar year for posting on the members only tab of the Club website.
7. Submit the books for an annual audit by the Board of Directors or designated Club member (e.g. past Treasurer).
8. Refer to timing and target dates for above in the Policy document.
9. Obtain annual Club liability insurance including show specific liability certificate(s) where needed and as approved by the Board.
10. Perform such additional duties as may be required.



ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC

BY-LAWS

Section 5 – Newsletter/Communication Chair

The Newsletter/Communication Chair responsibilities include:

1. Manage the mail software used to publish Club communication as well as the newsletter.
2. Maintain the Master Member Database
3. Maintain the Mail Software contact database used for communication.
4. Responsible for time sensitive web content updates as needed.
5. Publish the Newsletter and update the Club website.
6. Perform such additional duties as may be required.

Section 6 – Outing Chair

The Outing Chair responsibilities include:

1. Coordinate the annual schedule of Club events.
2. Coordination of fishing outings.
3. Keep the Club calendar up to-date.
4. Coordinate Club sponsored community outreach events.
5. Communicate updates to the Newsletter/Communication Chair
6. Fishing outings are hosted by individual Club members and not sponsored by the Club, but are communicated and coordinated through the Outing Chair.
7. Perform such additional duties as may be required.

Section 7 – Speaker Chair

The Speaker Chair responsibilities include:

1. Planning out meeting speakers one year ahead while working within the agreed budget. This is typically completed by year end.
2. Communicate updates to the Newsletter/Communication Chair and Treasurer (for speaker payment purposes)
3. Provide technical support to speakers and introduce them to Club members at meetings.
4. Perform such additional duties as may be required.



ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC

BY-LAWS

Section 8 – Sergeant at Arms (2 Positions)

The Sergeant(s) At Arms responsibilities include:

1. Manage door and raffle prize drawings at the monthly meetings.
2. Assist the Treasurer in collecting meeting door fees and membership dues.
3. Assist the Treasurer in processing membership applications and collecting contact data.
4. Maintaining decorum at the monthly meetings.
5. Perform such additional duties as may be required.

Section 9 – Webmaster

The Webmasters responsibilities include:

1. Manage relationship with the website provider assuring continuity of service.
2. Work with the Newsletter/Communication Chair to ensure time sensitive web content as completed.
3. Ensure annual fees are paid to the hosting service, proper web information is conveyed to the hosting service administrator and document website maintenance procedures.
4. Communicate any budget and expense projections to the Treasurer.
5. Perform such additional duties as may be required.

Section 10 – Big Fish Contest Chair

The Big Fish Contest Chair responsibilities include:

1. Present regular updates in Club meetings.
2. Track submissions through the year in each category.
3. Award annual prizes for winning entries in the contest.
4. Assure that the rules for the Big Fish Categories are clearly defined on the Members Only Section of the Club Website.
5. Perform such additional duties as may be required.



ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC BY-LAWS

Article VII - Term of Office and Vacancies

Section 1 - Each term of office is for a period of one calendar year commencing January 1.

Section 2 - No member may hold more than one (1) office concurrently.

Section 3 – If a vacancy occurs in any office, the President will nominate a replacement, subject to approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The appointed individual will serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

If the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President will automatically succeed to the presidency for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE VIII – Board Meetings

Section 1 – Board meetings may be conducted via teleconference, in person, or a combination of both.

Section 2 – The Board will meet regularly throughout the year, typically every two months, or as needed.

Section 3 – A quorum for a board meeting consists of a simple majority of Board members for decision making. A quorum being established, decisions require a simple majority of those attending.

Section 4 - Board meetings can be called by the President or by one third of the Board members.

Section 5 – Meeting minutes will be documented and distributed to board members for review and approval. Once approved by the Board, they will then be posted to the Members only section of the Club Website.

ARTICLE IX – General Meeting Quorum

Section 1 – A quorum for a general meeting requires one-third of the members to be present. The President or delegate must also be in attendance.

Section 2 – With a quorum established, a vote requires a simple majority of those in attendance to approve a motion.

Section 3 - The meeting may be conducted in person, virtual or a combination thereof.

ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC BY-LAWS



ARTICLE X – Nominations and Elections

Section 1 – Election Process

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of at least one and no more than three (3) nominees for each position at the October meeting, preceding the annual meeting.

Board members elected at the annual meeting will assume their duties on January 1 of the following year, with the transition from outgoing members commencing immediately.

Board positions are filled through the following process:

- Open positions are announced at Club meetings and through other communication channels.
- A Board representative meets with candidates to assess their qualifications and suitability.
- The Board approves candidates by a simple majority vote.

Section 2 – Voting Procedure

Officers will be elected by paper ballot at the November annual meeting. A candidate must receive a majority of votes cast to be elected.

- If two candidates are running and neither secures a majority after two rounds of voting, the winner will be determined by lot.
- If more than two candidates are running and no one receives a majority after the second round, only the two highest vote-getters from that round will advance to subsequent ballots.

If there are minimal changes from the previous slate, the President may expedite the process by conducting a vote via a show of hands instead of a paper ballot.

The President will designate the Secretary or another Board member to tally votes. After counting, the designated official will announce the results. The number of votes per candidate will only be disclosed upon request.

ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC

BY-LAWS



ARTICLE XI – Dues and Fees

Section 1 – Dues

The Club is financially supported through dues, fees, raffles, selling Club merchandise, and hosting optional events. Dues are paid annually, and door fees are collected at each Club meeting. The detail of these dues and fees are defined in the Policy document.

Section 2 – Pro-rated Dues

Members joining later in the year, may only need to pay a pro-rated amount for dues for the remainder of the year. Details are in the Policy document.

Section 3 – Sponsored events

Fees for Club sponsored events such as the annual picnic and holiday party will be collected prior to the event. As a policy, fees are non-refundable. Exceptions will be reviewed and approved by the Board on a case-by-case basis.

Section 4 – Outings

The Club encourages Club members to participate or coordinate outings throughout the year. These outings are not deemed to be an officially sanctioned event. Fishing outings are hosted by individual Club members and are not sponsored by the Club. Each outing will have it's own guidelines for deposits and fees as defined by the host. These are communicated in various communications throughout the year and in Club meetings.

Section 5 – Funds

All fees collected by the Club go into the Club's general fund. Fees collected for a specific event are budgeted and will be tracked separately.

ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC BY-LAWS



Section 6 - Special Fees

The Board of Directors may submit a request to the membership for the assessment of a special fee. Such a proposal must be presented to the membership in writing and verbally one (1) meeting prior to the meeting upon which such an assessment will be voted on. The special assessment will be levied if voted upon by two thirds of the members present. The special assessment will then be levied on all members and collected at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors.

Article XII - Committees

Section 1 - The Board of Directors may establish special committees. Such committees will be established for a specified duration and for a specific purpose. Several examples are the Community Outreach, Annual Picnic, Holiday Party, Flea Market sale. The President will designate a committee Chair.

Section 2 - Each Committee will have a Board Contact appointed by the President.

ARTICLE XIII – Club Logo

Section 1 - The official Logo of the Club is a semi-circle outlined in black with the words “Arlington Anglers” inscribed within the oval in red lettering above and below a fish leaping out of the water.



Section 2 – Any proposed changes to the Logo must be approved by the Board and general membership.

ARTICLE XIV - Representation

Section 1 – Representation at meetings requiring the presence of an official Club delegate will be filled by the President, Vice President or another officer designated by the President.

ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC BY-LAWS



ARTICLE XV – Club Guiding Principles

Section 1 – Project Approval

Any project not directly aligned with the Club’s purpose, as outlined in **Article II** (e.g., seminars, meetings, fishing trips, or activities involving multiple Clubs), must receive prior approval from the Board of Directors.

Section 2 – Use of Club Name

No member may use or authorize the use of the Club’s name for personal profit or commercial gain.

Section 3 – Membership Roster

The Club roster will only be accessible to members and used strictly for official Club purposes. Members may choose whether to include their phone number and/or email address in the roster.

Section 4 – Industry Assistance and Donations

The Club will exercise discretion when seeking or accepting assistance from industry sponsors. Donations for raffles and door prizes may be accepted, and proper recognition may be given to the donor. No member may accept or use such donations for personal benefit.

Section 5 – Nonprofit and Nonpartisan Integrity

To uphold the Club’s nonprofit, noncommercial, and nonpartisan status, as outlined in **Article III**, the Club will not engage in or endorse any activities that could be interpreted as violating these principles. Additionally, no Club publication may reflect views contrary to these guidelines.

Section 6 – Compliance with By-Laws and Policies

All Club operating procedures and policies must align with the **By-Laws, Standing Rules**, and policies established by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XVI - Rules of Order

The latest edition of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED will be the parliamentary authority in all matters of procedure not specifically covered by the By-Laws of the Club. This means that the Club wishes to conduct meetings smoothly and



ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC

BY-LAWS

fairly, adapting to modern challenges while maintaining the integrity of parliamentary procedure.

ARTICLE XVII - Membership Responsibilities

Section 1 - Duties

Members are encouraged to attend meetings and events whenever possible. Members are also encouraged to promote the Club's mission of fishing education by participating in discussions, volunteering for committees, shows and events, recruiting new members, and sharing their fishing knowledge and experience with others.

Section 2 - Members are expected to always display respect for fellow members, speakers, and individuals from outside of the Club.

Section 3 – Members are expected to pay assessments, and bills in a timely fashion. Members are also expected to share expenses when on Club events or outings.

Section 4 – Delinquent Dues

Members are expected to pay their dues in the designated timeframe. Membership will be terminated when dues of any member become delinquent. Dues of members are considered delinquent if the annual dues are not paid for the current fiscal year by the conclusion of the second monthly meeting.

Section 6 – Conduct

Unacceptable conduct may result in a formal warning from the Board and/or

Termination of membership:

1. Physical or verbal confrontation
2. Discrimination
3. Illegal drugs
4. Drunkenness
5. Disrupting meetings or outings.
6. Disparaging the Club, its members or guest speakers in public.

Section 7 –Termination of Membership

When a member's conduct is considered detrimental to the operation or reputation of the Club, they may be terminated by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors after a thorough investigation and the member is allowed an opportunity to be heard before the Board. A pro-rated balance of the annual dues of such a banned member will be refunded.

ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC BY-LAWS



ARTICLE XVIII - Indemnification Clause

Section 1 – Indemnification

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Arlington Anglers Fishing Club (hereinafter referenced as Club) may indemnify any person who is or was a director, officer or member (hereinafter referred to as "Indemnitee") of the Club against reasonable expenses and liabilities, including but not limited to attorney's fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement, incurred in connection with any actual or threatened action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative (collectively, "Proceedings"), arising out of or related to the Indemnitee's service to the Club, provided that the Indemnitee acted in good faith and in a manner the Indemnitee reasonably believed to be in the best interests of the Club.

Section 2 – Exclusions

The Club may not indemnify any Indemnitee for any liability arising from acts or omissions that involve willful misconduct, recklessness, or a knowing violation of the law.

Section 3 – Indemnification

The Club may indemnify an Indemnitee who is successful, on the merits or otherwise, in the defense of any Proceeding to which the Indemnitee was a party because of their role with the Club.

Section 4: - Insurance

The Club may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any Indemnitee against any liability asserted against or incurred by the Indemnitee in such capacity or arising out of the Indemnitee's status as such, whether or not the Club would have the power to indemnify the Indemnitee against such liability under this Article.

Section 5 – Procedures

Indemnification may be made by the Club only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the Indemnitee is proper in the circumstances because the Indemnitee has met the applicable standard of conduct set forth in this Article. Such determination may be made by the Board of Directors, or by independent legal counsel if so, designated by the Board.



ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC BY-LAWS

ARTICLE XIX Intellectual Property

All intellectual property of the Club, including but not limited to the Club directory, is private data and is not to be used for commercial gain, personal gain, or any other purpose without the written consent of the Board.

ARTICLE XX - Dissolution

The Club may be dissolved by a majority vote of the Directors present at a Board meeting held for that purpose. In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the Club will be turned over to one or more organizations which are exempt as organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or to federal, state, or local government agencies for exclusive public purposes.

ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC BY-LAWS



ARTICLE XXI - Bylaw Amendments

The By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board members present and voting, a quorum is present, and fourteen (14) days written notice of the proposed amendments given to the general membership to allow for comments. Any amendment to these By-Laws will be effective immediately unless the motion to adopt such an amendment specifies another effective date.

Club By-Laws Change Log:

Date	Version	Change Notes
May 14, 2008		
February 16, 2011		
January 25, 2012		
March 15, 2012		
August 13, 2012		
November 11, 2012		
January 28, 2013		
April 16, 2013		
Oct 7, 2019		
January 30, 2020		
January 21, 2025		
September, 2025	Version 2.0	Major restructuring to make current.

**ARLINGTON ANGLERS FISHING CLUB INC
BY-LAWS**



Certificate of Adoption of By-Laws

I do hereby certify that the above-stated By-Laws of Arlington Anglers Fishing Club were approved by its Board of Directors on _____ and that it constitutes a complete and accurate copy of the By-Laws of the Club.

END OF DOCUMENT