



## North Louisiana Fly Fishers

P.O. Box 29531 · Shreveport, LA 71149 · [www.northlaflyfishers.org](http://www.northlaflyfishers.org)

*Founded in 1984*

# North Louisiana Fly Fishers Bylaws

September 2016

### ***PREAMBLE - CHARGE OF THE NORTH LOUISIANA FLY FISHERS***

It is the charge of the North Louisiana Fly Fishers to afford the general public and its members in particular, a better understanding of fly fishing, fly tying, and rod building. We wish to perpetuate the sport as a most pleasurable and exciting fishing method and provide education, instruction and the opportunities for relaxation to the membership.

### ***ARTICLE 1***

The North Louisiana Fly Fishers (hereinafter referred to as NLFF or the Club) is a non-profit membership organization, an Affiliate Club of the International Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the IFFF), and a Member Club of the Gulf Coast Council, Inc. of the IFFF (hereinafter referred to as the GCC).

### ***ARTICLE 2 - MEMBERSHIP***

A. **Eligibility** – Membership in the NLFF shall be open to all who may be interested in the sport of fly fishing, fly tying and any other activity commonly associated with fly fishing. Members shall be in good standing by following our Charge and Bylaws and providing payment for annual dues.

B. **Classes of Memberships** –

- a. **Family** – A parent or parents along with their children under 18 yrs of age. This is limited to a two vote maximum.
- b. **Individual** – All individual members are allowed one vote.
- c. **Student** – Any person under the age of 18 or any person enrolled as a full-time college student, but not included in a Family Membership. The Student member will receive all mailings from the NLFF and are considered to be full members having one vote.

- d. **Active Military** – Any person currently serving in the armed forces, with each such member having one vote.
- C. **Voting** – All issues to be voted on by the general membership shall be decided by a simple majority of those members in good standing. Ballots from those present at the meeting in which the vote takes place and signed absentee ballots either mailed to the club or delivered in person to any member of the board will be counted. Absentee ballots must be received prior to the vote taking place. Absentee ballots are not to be used in any event that is to be judged.
- D. **Suspension or Termination of Membership** – The Executive Committee of the NLFF, by unanimous affirmative vote of all of the committee members may suspend or expel a member of the Club.

### **ARTICLE 3 - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- A. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of club members who devote themselves to foster and perpetuate the sport of fly fishing and preserve the heritage from which we derive the pleasure of such. The Executive Committee shall include the President, the Treasurer, and the Members-at-large.
  - a. **President** – The term consists of one year and the individual may succeed him/herself if re-elected. This position requires that the member must have served at least one term on the Executive Committee.
  - b. **Treasurer** – The term consists of one year, and the individual may succeed him/herself if re-elected.
  - c. **Secretary** – This position is elected by the incoming Board-elect of the NLFF from the members of the board-elect. For all purposes, this position is considered to be a Member-at-large and not an officer of the club. The term consists of one year, and the individual may succeed him/herself if re-elected.
  - d. **Board** – The board is comprised of at least three but no more than five Members-at-large and the term consists of one year each. Any individual may succeed him/herself if re-elected.
- B. The Executive Committee should prepare an agenda for each Regular Club Meeting in order to ensure that said meetings begin and end in a timely fashion and that all club business has been discussed. Individual responsibilities of the Executive Committee are as follows:
  - a. **President** – This individual is requested to actively seek a progressive and positive direction for the Club and its members and provide opportunities for education through programs and activities. The President should:
    - i. Listen and respond to recommendations of fellow Officers, Board Members and Club Members regarding functions, programs, activities, etc.;
    - ii. Assist in recruiting new club members or others to conduct programs and/or assist with same;

- iii. Prepare an agenda at least three days prior to a committee meeting and e-mail the agenda to the committee members. The agenda should list the items of discussion and request any additional subject matter as suggested by the committee members for inclusion in an amended agenda.
  - iv. Attend at least nine Regular Meetings and at least nine Executive Committee Meetings; and
  - v. Notify the Treasurer at the earliest known date of an impending absence of the president and discuss the agenda for the upcoming committee meeting or club meeting.
- b. **Treasurer** – This individual will handle all Club funds, Membership Application Files, and be responsible for providing membership data to the GCC and IFFF on a quarterly basis, or as requested. The Treasurer should:
- i. Maintain a perpetual ledger containing all club financial transactions with receipts on file for all club expenditures until the next successful bank reconciliation;
  - ii. Give a brief accounting of money on hand and Club expenditures during the previous month at each Regular and Executive Committee meeting;
  - iii. Provide an end of year financial statement, which shall be provided at the end of each calendar year;
  - iv. Attend at least nine Regular Meetings and nine Executive Committee Meetings;
  - v. Conduct Regular or Executive Meetings in the absence of the President;
  - vi. Notify the president at the earliest known date of an impending absence and relay financial information to the president for reporting at the upcoming Executive Committee or Regular Club meeting; and
  - vii. Handle ordering, receiving and disbursing of materials and supplies for the NLFF.
- c. **Secretary** – This individual will assist the President in whatever capacity that the President and/or the Executive Committee deems necessary. The Secretary should:
- i. Take and record the minutes of each Regular and Executive Committee Meetings;
  - ii. Present the minutes from the previous month's meetings to the club for ratification and entering into the permanent record of the club; and
  - iii. Attend at least nine Regular Meetings and nine Executive Committee Meetings. For any meeting that the Secretary cannot attend, the President shall appoint an individual from the attending board members to take and record minutes for that meeting only.

- d. **Board** – These members are requested to supply ideas and thoughts on the content of, along with the planning and execution of, Regular Meetings of the Club, programs and activities. Each Board Member should:
- i. Attend at least nine Regular Meetings and nine Executive Committee Meetings.
  - ii. Conduct at least one Regular Meeting to lend experience to the Executive Committee.
- C. **Nomination of Officers** – Nominations for officers, with the exception of Secretary (see Article 3, Paragraph A, Sub-paragraph c), shall be made no later than the date of the Executive Board Meeting before the November Regular Meeting. Nominations are to be made to the Nominating Committee, which shall be comprised of NLFF member(s). The responsibilities of the Nominating Committee shall be to accept officer nominations, and at close of nominations present those nominees to the membership through the Website and/or the Newsletter. The Nominating Committee will also prepare and distribute ballots at the November Regular Meeting and collect, count and present the official results.
- D. **Eligibility of Nominees** – The Executive Committee is charged with determining the eligibility of each officer and board member nomination. Each nominee must:
- a. Subscribe to the club Charge and Bylaws;
  - b. Be a member in good standing of the NLFF and IFFF;
  - c. Must have attended at least six Regular Meetings during the current year.
  - d. Not be an officer or board member of another fly fishing club (GCC and IFFF board members are exempt from this requirement);
  - e. Not be engaged in any activity for monetary gain from any type of fly fishing activities or related activities; and
  - f. Not be engaged in any activity that the Executive Committee would consider to be a conflict of interest and/or not in the best interest of the Club's reputation and/or public image.
- E. **Election of Officers** – Elections shall be held during the November Regular Meeting. Installation of the officers will occur at the December Executive Committee Meeting.
- F. **Resignation of Executive Committee Members** – Any officer may resign their office at any time by giving written notice of resignation to the President or the Executive Committee. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified, or if no time is specified, at the time of receipt.
- G. **Replacing a Resigned Member of The Executive Committee** – In the event that an Executive Committee Member no longer is able to serve or otherwise finish their full term, nomination of a replacement should be made immediately by the Executive Committee and shall be listed in the NLFF newsletter and/or the NLFF website. The membership present at the next Regular Monthly Meeting will ratify the nominated replacement member in good standing to fill the vacant position for the unexpired portion of the remaining term. If the resigned member was the Secretary, the Executive Committee will appoint a replacement from the Members-at-large

after the nominated replacement has been ratified. The new Secretary will then fill the vacant position for the unexpired portion of the remaining term.

H. **Limit on Discretionary Spending** – With the exception of recurring, usual, and customary club expenditures, the discretionary spending limit of the Executive Committee shall be limited to \$250 for any single transaction. Discretionary expenditures and any donation in excess of that limit shall require authorization of the General Membership.

a. Discretionary expenditure proposals and any donation greater than \$250 shall be presented to the General Membership for their input by way of the best means possible (i.e., NLFF newsletter/NLFF website).

b. After the review of the General Membership, the discretionary expenditure proposal shall be subjected to a vote at the following calendar General Membership Meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 4 - DUES AND MEETINGS**

A. **Dues** – Annual Club dues shall be set by a vote of the General Membership, with special consideration for the planned programs, speakers and activities. IFFF dues should also be considered in setting the amounts of the dues. Dues are payable by the end of January each year, and any dues not paid by the March Regular Meeting will result in that person being dropped from the Club membership. Dues for any new member joining on or after September 1 of any year shall be valid until the end of the following year. **Amounts of Dues** – per term:

- a. Family - \$ 35.00, 1 year  
\$ 90.00, 3 years
- b. Individual - \$ 30.00, 1 year  
\$ 75.00, 3 years
- c. Student - \$ 20.00, 1 year
- d. Active Military - \$20.00, 1 year

B. **Regular Meetings** – Regular Meetings of the Club shall be held monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at such place as designated in the NLFF newsletter and/or the NLFF website. The meeting location shall be established by majority vote of the Executive Committee.

C. **Executive Committee Meetings** – Executive Committee Meetings shall be held monthly no later than two weeks prior to the Regular Meeting, or as deemed necessary by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. These meetings shall also be attended by the Committee Directors, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster. The December and January meetings shall be attended by both the outgoing and the incoming Club officers in order to facilitate an orderly transition.

D. **Annual Banquet** – The Annual Banquet shall be held at a location and on a date selected by the Banquet Committee Director, and as approved by majority vote of the Executive Committee.

## ***ARTICLE 5 - NEWSLETTER***

The NLFF's printed presence shall consist of a Newsletter and various advertising flyers as approved by the Executive Committee. In order for the content of the Club Newsletter to be as consistent as possible, the following guidelines are established.

- A. A Newsletter Editor shall be named by the Executive Committee.
- B. The Editor will be responsible for the general content of the Newsletter and shall receive input from the Executive Committee and others for inclusion in the Newsletter. The Editor is responsible for posting photos, news articles, schedules of Club events and outings, elections and any other relevant information.
- C. At no time will the Editor allow the NLFF Newsletter to contain content detrimental to any member or any other organization. The Newsletter is solely for the purpose of presenting a positive outlook for our sport, the Club and its members. The Newsletter, through reader submissions, allows individuals a voice that may or may not be acceptable to the Club, and it is the Editor's responsibility to maintain control of content not suitable to the NLFF membership or our Charge.
- D. A publishing date of at least the Wednesday prior to the Regular Club Meeting each month shall be established. The Newsletter is published via email; however, a printed copy is available to anyone who doesn't have access to the internet and/or email.

## ***ARTICLE 6 - WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA***

The NLFF's internet presence shall consist of a website and a Facebook page. Any other internet presence or social media must be approved by the Club Membership.

- A. In order for the content of Club related information to be provided across the Internet, the position of Webmaster/Social Media Director (hereinafter referred to as Internet Director) is created. The Internet Director will be the editor of the NLFF website (northlaflyfishers.org) and the Club's Facebook page and shall be selected by the Executive Committee. The Administrator shall act in the same capacity as the webmaster to help update website to keep it current. The North Louisiana Fly Fishers website and Facebook page shall be updated at least twice monthly.
- B. The Internet Director is responsible for the general content of, and shall receive input from the Executive Committee and others for inclusion on, the website and/or Facebook Page. The Internet Director is responsible for posting photos, news articles, schedules of Club events and outings, elections and any other relevant information.
- C. At no time will the Internet Director allow the NLFF website or Facebook page to contain content detrimental to any member or any other organization. The website and Facebook page is solely for the purpose of presenting a positive outlook for our sport, the Club and its members. The website message board and Facebook page allow individuals a voice that may

or may not be acceptable to the Club, and it is the Internet Director's responsibility to maintain control of content not suitable to the NLFF membership or our Charge.

### ***ARTICLE 7 - RAFFLES***

Raffle(s) shall be authorized in an effort to raise funds and promote specific projects as directed by the NLFF Membership. When flies are needed, each Master Tier along with other members shall be encouraged to provide flies for raffles as often as possible. Non-tying members are encouraged to provide equitable materials suitable for raffles. All funds shall be accounted for by the Treasurer and used for the promotion of Club activities.

### ***ARTICLE 8 - COMMITTEES AND OTHER OFFICES***

#### **A. Membership Committee Director –**

- a. The Membership Committee Director will be an assigned/volunteer position within the Club membership.
- b. The Membership Committee Director will be responsible for maintaining an accurate and up to date membership roster, and will serve as the Club contact for the IFFF regarding membership related activities. It will be the responsibility of each individual member to notify the Membership Committee Chairman of a change of address or telephone number.
- c. The Membership Committee Director will send new members and visitors welcome letters; aid in the recruitment of new members and retention of old members; and help insure that potential members/guests at meeting(s) are made to feel welcome.

#### **B. Safety Committee Director–**

- a. The Safety Committee Director will be an assigned/volunteer position within the Club Membership.
  - b. The Safety Committee Director will be responsible for assessing potential risks involved in club sponsored events and recommending steps to limits such risks. Recommendations are to be made at the Executive Committee meeting at least 30 days prior to the event.
  - c. The Safety Committee Director will obtain and submit to the Executive Committee a Liability Release Form from all members and non-members who attend a club sponsored event.
  - d. The Safety Committee Director will insure that the Club's Insurance carrier has been notified of any public event at least 10 days prior to such an event. A public event is defined as any activity in which non-members or spectators attend or participate not including monthly meetings, member only events or the Club's Annual Banquet. The Safety Committee Director will be an assigned/volunteer position within the Club Membership.
- C. **Other Committees and Offices** – The Executive Committee may elect or appoint such other committees and officers as it deems desirable to perform the duties prescribed, from time to time, by the Executive Committee.

## ***ARTICLE 9 - THE NLFF FLY TIERS SHOW***

The intent of the Fly Tiers Show is to stimulate interest in fly tying and to challenge the abilities and imagination of the fly tiers in the Club. The Fly Tiers Show is traditionally held during the Annual Banquet.

- A. There are five categories of fly patterns in which members or Annual Banquet attendees may enter flies they have tied. With the exception of the Parr Flies category, members may enter one or more entrant flies into any or all of the categories. The categories are:
  - a. **Traditional Dry Flies** – Any pattern intended to imitate adult insects and to be fished “dry”, whether an established pattern or not.
  - b. **True Nymphs** – Patterns intended to imitate the juvenile stages of any aquatic insect.
  - c. **Salmon & Wet Flies** – Full dress and hair-wing salmon flies, traditional wet flies, and streamers.
  - d. **Big Fish/Big Water Flies** – Deer hair bugs, saltwater patterns, crustacean patterns, and virtually anything that cannot be classified in categories a, b, or c.
  - e. **Parr Flies** – Any fly pattern tied by a member under the age of 16.
- B. Entrant flies will be brought to the Banquet or delivered as set forth by the Executive Committee. They are to be registered and displayed (by category) by a non-partisan appointee who shall be responsible for tallying the votes.



- C. During a viewing and voting period all members present at the Banquet will vote on which entry best represents its respective category in regard to the tier's innovation or adherence to tradition, use of materials, the fly's proportions and the tier's quality of work. In order to give more "weight" to the opinion of the NLFF Master Tiers, their votes will count double.
- D. Once the initial vote has been tallied and the five category winners have been decided, the Master Tiers present will determine the single entry that is considered "Best In Show".
- E. The five category winner flies, as well as the Best In Show fly, will be mounted on displays for presentation to their applicable tier. The rest of the fly entries will be auctioned off that night as part of the Club fund raising event.

### ***ARTICLE 10 - BECOMING A NLFF "MASTER TIER"***

- A. In order to qualify as an NLFF Master Tier, one must win at least twice in any or separate categories in the Fly Tiers Show. NLFF Master Tier status will be reserved for Club members.
- B. The NLFF "Master Tiers" will therefore have been determined by the membership via the voting held at the Fly Tiers Shows over the years. Once attaining this status, Master Tiers are no longer allowed to compete in the Club Fly Tiers Show.
- C. Master Tiers are asked each year to:
  - a. Donate flies for inclusion in the annual Master Plate to be auctioned at the Banquet,
  - b. On occasion, to be the first choice as fly suppliers for monthly Club raffles, and
  - c. Periodically demonstrate some of their favorite tying techniques and fly patterns.
  - d. Judge the five category winning flies from the Fly Tiers Show to determine the Best In Show fly.

### ***Article 11 - AMENDING THE NLFF BYLAWS***

These Bylaws are to be reviewed and updated on an annual or as needed basis. This review is to be accomplished by the Executive Committee.

- A. The draft of any changes recommended by the Executive Committee shall be presented to the general membership for their input by way of the best means possible (i.e., published in the NLFF Newsletter and/or on the NLFF Website) and made available for review during the first Regular Meeting following the formation of the Bylaws draft.
- B. After review of the general membership, the draft changes shall be held over for corrections, additions, or deletions for the following Regular Meeting. At that time, a vote will be taken as to the final acceptance or rejection of the changes.

