



**Dansville  
Fish and Game**

*Dansville Fish & Game  
Protective Association, Inc.*  
P.O. Box 406, Dansville N.Y. 14437-0406

# *Dansville Fish & Game Protective Association, Inc.*

## *CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS*

Version 5.0.0 Reproduced from Original Documents  
Ratified By The Membership June 12, 2024

K. Cotter 06.12.2024

**“...The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall Not be infringed”**

Article IV of our BILL OF RIGHTS enacted by  
The Congress of the United States of America  
March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1789



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**PREAMBLE  
TO THE CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS  
OF THE DANSVILLE FISH & GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Not only Club members, but the community at large benefit from the activities of the DANSVILLE FISH & GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION. The Association was formed in 1865 making it one of New York state's oldest Sportsman Clubs. The Club sits on over 90 acres of land and is well known by local residents for its beautiful presence.

With its membership of several hundred, and its record of achievement over a period of several decades, it is primarily intended to serve the interests of Rod & Gun enthusiasts. The Club's purpose and influence are broader than this; The Club has spread the fame of the Dansville countryside and the Genesee Valley in general, as an outdoor sporting paradise and a natural beauty.

In addition, the Club has worked for conservation, promoting good feelings between local sporting people and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; cooperating in every way possible to protect our environment and its resources.

The Association has conducted many years of a successful young pheasant program; feeding and caring for them to be released into the wild for all to enjoy. Over the years, the membership has participated in the establishment of new forest plantings on our public lands.

For these reasons, the DANSVILLE FISH & GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION looks towards the future, believing that the prospects are bright for continuing and increasing the Club's usefulness as a fellowship for one of our most cherished and protected heritages.



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**OF THE  
DANSVILLE FISH & GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.**

THIS CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS OF THE DANSVILLE FISH & GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION SUPERCEDES ALL OTHERS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BEFORE JULY 10, 2024 AS THE FOLLOWING CONSTITUTION WAS LEGALLY APPROVED BY THE MEMBERSHIP AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON THIS DATE.

The PREAMBLE to the CONSTITUTION and BY-LAWS of THE DANSVILLE FISH & GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

**ARTICLE 1. NAME**

SEC 1. The name of this club shall be the Dansville Fish & Game Protective Association, Inc. and is referred to herein as the "Club".

**ARTICLE 2. OBJECTIVES**

SEC 1. The objectives of this Club shall be to encourage fellowship and foster high ethics and good sportsmanship.

SEC 2. To further the development of conservation and the preservation of our natural resources, especially fish and game.

SEC 3. To promote all out-of-door sports among its members, especially those pertaining to hunting, fishing and trapping.

SEC 4. To collaborate with the New York state Department of Environmental Conservation and Federal Conservation Agencies in their activities.

SEC 5. To support fully the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution which holds "a citizen's right to keep and bear ARMS shall not be infringed."

**ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP**

SEC 1. The Club shall consist of such true sportspersons who care to join together for the preceding objectives.

SEC 2. Anyone who is 17 years of age or under is eligible for Junior Membership. Anyone who has attained the age of 18 years is eligible for Regular Membership. Club membership is subject to the ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS set forth by ARTICLE 7 and to the CODE OF ETHICS set forth by ARTICLE 10 of this constitution.



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SEC 3. The Club shall not discriminate against anyone because of race, creed, sex or nationality.

SEC 4. Certain complimentary annual memberships may be granted by the Board of Directors with the approval of the Membership for one year only.

SEC 5. A member may be expelled or suspended for any violation of CLUB POLICY & RULES, CODE OF ETHICS or any other reason considered detrimental to the Club. A majority vote of the Board of Directors shall be necessary for that purpose.

**ARTICLE 4. MEETINGS**

**SEC 1.** Regular meetings shall be held on the Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. If such Wednesday falls on a Holiday, the meeting shall be held on the third Wednesday at the same time. The Annual Meeting shall be held on the second Wednesday of February, except for a legal Holiday, same as above.

**SEC 2.** Special meetings may be called by the President or by written request of any ten percent (10%) of the members. These meetings must be announced by the same media by which members have elected to receive Club communication, U.S. Postal Service or electronic mail. Special Meeting Notification must include time, date and topic. No other business may be transacted at a special meeting except that which the members are informed of in the mailed notice. Notices must be sent at least 10 days before the scheduled special meeting date.

**SEC 3.** A quorum shall consist of ten percent (10%) of the current membership and no legal business shall be conducted without a quorum present at the meeting.

**SEC 4.** Order of Business:

1. Call to Order by the President
2. Reading of the Minutes of the last meeting
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Committee Reports
5. Unfinished Business
6. New Business
7. Elections or nominations of Officers
8. Adjournment

**SEC 5.** Conduct of meetings, in situations not expressly covered by this constitution and By-Laws, Robert's Rules of order shall prevail.



## **ARTICLE 5. OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**SEC 1.** The Officers shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

**SEC 2.** President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and five elected Directors shall constitute the Board of Directors. In addition, the Past President shall be ex-officio as member of the Board of Directors in an advisory capacity without a vote.

**SEC 3.** A nomination committee of three or more members shall be appointed by the President at the regular October meeting. This committee shall submit a slate containing names for each office and directorship or directorships to be filled and presented to the membership at the regular November meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the November and December meetings prior to the election time.

**SEC 4.** Elections shall be held and voted upon by those present at the regular December meeting. Officers shall be elected for a one-year term and Directors for a three-year term. In case of a tie, a second ballot shall be cast to break the tie. Only the candidates involved in the tie shall be voted upon. If the second ballot ends in a tie, the tie shall be broken by lot. A separate vote shall be taken for each directorship to be filled.

**SEC 5.** Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the President. All appointments, whether they are to fill a vacant office, or a committee chairmanship must be approved by the Board of Directors.

**SEC 6.** Any Officer or Director may be removed from office by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members present at any regular or special meeting, provided that written notice has been given to all Club members at least ten (10) days before the meeting.

**SEC 7.** If any member of the Board of Directors shall miss three consecutive meetings, including Regular and Special Board Meetings (UNLESS EXCUSED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS), The Director's office shall automatically be declared vacant, and filled in accordance with ARTICLE 5, SEC 5. If warranted, Member may be reappointed.

**SEC 8.** A vacant Officer or Director seat shall be filled for the balance of the calendar year, appointed by the President. The replacement of any Director shall be filled at the next regular election.



## **ARTICLE 6. DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

**SEC 1. PRESIDENT:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and Board of Directors. The President shall give an Annual Report of the year's activities and finances at the Annual meeting, and perform such other duties as normally pertain to this office.

**SEC 2. VICE-PRESIDENT:** The Vice-President, in the absence of the President, shall assume the duties of that official. Vice President shall assist the President in carrying out assigned tasks and perform such other duties as normally pertain to this office.

**SEC 3. SECRETARY:** It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep records of this Club in a neat, business-like manner, to send out notices of meetings of the Club, Board of Directors and Committees, to record and preserve the minutes of such meetings, to write the various letters requested by the Board and President and perform such other duties as normally pertain to this office.

**SEC 4. TREASURER:** It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to have custody of all funds, accounting for such funds at the Annual Meeting. Treasurer shall review a breakdown of checks written and deposits made, providing monthly bank balances at the Board of Directors meeting. The treasurer shall draw all checks issued in the Club's name and perform such other duties as normally pertain to this office. The Treasurer shall provide a current summary of income, expenses and bank balance at each regular monthly meeting.

**SEC 5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** The governing body of this Club shall be the Board of Directors. The decision of the Board in all Club matters shall be final, subject only to an appeal to the Club. The Board shall have control over all Officers and committees and may for good cause declare any office vacant. Appeal may be taken from any decision of the Board of Directors to the Club membership and on such appeal the decision appealed from may be reversed only by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at a regular or special meeting called for this purpose; a quorum being present, and a notice of such appeal having been given by the Secretary to the members at least ten (10) days in advance of such meeting. The Directors shall not make any expenditure in excess of \$10,000.00 without approval of the membership, except for items for resale and for the normal operation of the Club and maintenance of facilities. The Board of Directors shall present or have presented at the Annual meeting, FINANCIAL BUDGET for the following year; itemizing amounts for maintenance, taxes, insurance, and the various committees and activities. The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility of auditing the monthly statement presented by the Treasurer.

**SEC 6.** Officers shall take office on the first day of January each calendar year and shall hold office for one year or until successors have been QUALIFIED AND ELECTED.



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**SEC 7.** The Board of Directors shall pay the annual rental fee of \$300.00 to the Deer Park Property Corporation by the April Meeting each year. Check to be payable to: Deer Park Property Corporation.

**SEC 8.** The Board of Directors shall be responsible to provide a year-end physical inventory of the Bar and the Skeet each year.

**SEC 9.** The Treasurer shall submit an annual sales tax check to New York State Sales Tax Authority for the bar sales of the previous year, prior to February 20<sup>th</sup> of each year.

**SEC 10.** The Board of Directors shall submit a copy of the annual Treasurer's report to the Club's CPA for tax purposes to be sent to the IRS before April 15.

## **ARTICLE 7. ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS**

**SEC 1. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP:** The annual dues for Regular Membership shall be established by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS based upon the current financial condition of the Club and are payable on or before January 1st of the membership year. A member who has not paid Club dues IN FULL by March 31st of said year shall be subject to review by the Board of Directors, at which time their membership privileges may be revoked. A written notice shall be sent to said member via their chosen method, advising the member of such decision. Any member who has had membership revoked because of non-payment of dues may reapply for membership at any time but only as a NEW MEMBER and shall be subject to NEW MEMBER requirements as set forth in Article 7.

**SEC 2. LIFE-TIME MEMBERSHIP** Any REGULAR MEMBER in good standing who has shown an active interest in Club functions and activities for the preceding five years may purchase a Life-Time Membership for the price of fifteen times the current annual dues, subject to approval of the Board of Directors. This life-time membership does not entitle the holder to any special privileges and is subject to the same rules as the annual dues payer. Life-Time Membership is NONREFUNDABLE.

**SEC 3. HONORARY LIFE-TIME MEMBERSHIP:** Any member who has attained 65 years of age may apply for and may be considered to receive an HONORARY LIFE membership provided that they have been an active member for the preceding five years and only on the approval of the Board of Directors. This membership does not entitle the holder to any special privileges and is subject to the same rules as regular membership.

**SEC 4. NEW MEMBERSHIP:** Any person seeking new membership as a REGULAR or JUNIOR member must meet the following requirements: 1) Payment of dues in full must accompany





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application. 2) Application must be submitted to the SCREENING COMMITTEE for approval. Applicants must meet the requirements set forth in Article 3. Each NEW MEMBER shall serve a 12-month probationary period. If the new member has met with no objection from the Board of Directors or from the Membership, the new member's status shall automatically change to Regular or Junior status accordingly. No New Member may serve as an Officer or Director during this probationary period.

**SEC 5. JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP:** The annual dues for Junior Membership shall be established by the BOARD OF DIRECTORS based upon the current financial condition of the Club and are payable on or before January 1st of the membership year. A member who has not paid Club dues IN FULL by March 31st of said year shall be subject to review by the Board of Directors, at which time membership privileges may be revoked. A written notice shall be sent to said member, advising the member of such decision. Any member who has had membership revoked because of non-payment of dues may reapply for membership at any time but only as a NEW MEMBER and shall be subject to NEW MEMBERSHIP requirements, set forth in Article 7.

**SEC 6. SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:** No member under the age of 21 years shall be assigned, given or allowed to be given a key to any building or clubhouse facility that may contain any alcoholic beverages. At no time may that person be allowed in said areas without the direct supervision of a member 21 years or older.

**SEC 7.** The membership year shall run from January 1st to December 31st inclusive.

## **ARTICLE 8 COMMITTEES**

**SEC 1.** A Committee Chairperson or an appointee shall not bargain for, or indebt the Club to any amount in excess of Five Hundred (\$500) dollars, without the approval of the Board of Directors - except for meeting meals that which are charged to the Club.

**SEC 2.** The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may appoint various committees as are required to run the Club properly.

**SEC 3.** The President shall appoint a three-member SCREENING COMMITTEE, at least TWO of whom shall be Directors. Their duty shall be to screen all applications for club membership. This committee shall recommend acceptance of those applicants who qualify for membership.



## **ARTICLE 9 AMENDMENTS**

**SEC 1.** The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the majority of the membership present at a meeting called for this purpose. A written notice shall be e-mailed or physically mailed (depending on member preference) to all members at least ten (10) days before such scheduled meeting. A complete version of the revised document, together with the Directors' recommendations, shall be sent to all members.

## **ARTICLE 10 CODE OF ETHICS**

**SEC 1.** As a fellowship of men and women who share an interest in meeting together as sportsmen, to share in all benefits and privileges provided for by the Club, each member shall conduct themselves according to the prescribed CODE OF ETHICS.

**SEC 2.** All members shall abide by all CLUB POLICY AND RULES as set forth by the Board of Directors.

**SEC 3.** All members shall abide by all current articles of the NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW.

**SEC 4.** All members shall respect the rights of their fellow members and guests and shall exhibit courteous and safe conduct while on Club grounds or at any event that is represented by the Club.



## **OFFICERS 2024**

President: Rob Stone  
Vice President: Ray Sellers (Dave Hunt Interim)  
Treasurer: Mike Beardsley  
Secretary: Kreag Cotter

## **Directors:**

Michael Derrenbacher	Expires Dec. 2024
William Martin	Expires Dec. 2024
Dan Severson	Expires Dec. 2025
Jim Bennett	Expires Dec. 2026
Rob Shepard	Expires Dec. 2026



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**POLICY & RULES**  
**OF THE**  
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As set forth by the  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
On February 28, 1990  
Revised & Approved July 10, 2024

In order that all may enjoy the benefits and privileges that the Dansville Fish & Game Club has provided for its members and to promote a safe and productive environment for all present, the Board of Directors has enacted the following Policies and Rules to which all MEMBERS & GUESTS must abide.

- 1) No person shall intentionally or recklessly cause any damage to Club facilities or grounds.
- 2) No person shall alter or cause to be altered, any physical aspects of the Club property without the approval of the Board of Directors.
- 3) No person shall act in any manner that may recklessly endanger the person or property of others present.
- 4) When on any Firearms Range operated by the Club, ALL PERSONS, whether shooters or observers, shall follow all directives of the Range officer. The Range officer shall be the senior Club member present, or such person delegated by the Board of Directors. The Range officer shall be responsible for the safety of everyone present and shall see that all shooters handle and operate firearms properly. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL ANY PERSON, WHILE IN AN INTOXICATED CONDITION, FIRE OR CAUSE TO BE DISCHARGED ANY FIREARM. Violation of this directive shall mean the immediate removal of such person(s) from the range facility. Members shall face disciplinary action by the Club.



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## **POLICY & RULES**

OF THE

DANSVILLE FISH & GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

Continued: 5-7

- 5) Use of firearms outside of range facilities may cause injuries to others and damage to property. Therefore, please confine your shooting to the designated range areas for your particular firearm. **FOR EVERYONE'S SAKE!!**
  
- 6) In order to protect the lifespan of the archery targets, no broadhead tips shall be allowed except on special targets that are clearly designated as such.
  
- 7) Club property such as tables, chairs and other equipment shall remain on Club property. No items may be removed without prior permission from the Board of Directors or clubhouse chairman. A written request is required prior to removal; such request document shall remain on file until all items are returned and accounted for.