

Constitution & Bylaws



Baltimore Ramblers Motorcycle Club, Inc.

Last Updated: January 25, 2018

Revision/Review Log

Date	Change(s)	Page(s) Affected
N/A	Previous versions	
3/14/2013	Addition of bylaw 4 – Supporting Members	6
8/20/2014	Article 3 – Amended definition of Regular Member; added category for Probationary Members	1
	Bylaw 5 – Changed application for membership parameters	7
	Bylaw 14 b 4 – Specified ride position for Probationary Members	9
	Bylaw 16 – Changed parameters for Club colors	10
	Bylaw 17 – Clarified activities needed to maintain membership	11
	Various technical edits to maintain consistency across document	All
3/2/2016	Bylaw 3 – Clarified due date for paying dues; added section regarding the placement of Members in inactive status if assessments are unpaid	6
3/17/2016	Article 5 – Added section that members running for office must have attended 9 meetings in the year prior to elections.	2
1/25/2018	Added Bylaw 19	10

Constitution

ARTICLE 1

This club shall be a non-profit organization and shall be known as the Baltimore Ramblers Motorcycle Club, Incorporated; hereinafter referred to as the Club, and shall be chartered by the American Motorcyclist Association (A.M.A.).

ARTICLE 2

The goals of the Club are as follows:

- To promote the image and sportsmanship of motorcycling;
- To encourage new riders of motorcycles and their interest therein;
- To promote all forms of motorcycle safety and responsibility;
- To promote participation in varied forms of supervised motorcycle events;
- To better the image of motorcycling through charitable deeds, and;
- To promote Club participation in civic activities, where the attendance of the Club is requested or desired.

ARTICLE 3

Definition of Levels of Membership

Regular Membership, hereinafter referred to as a Regular Member(s), shall be any individual that has the right to wear the Club's winged wheel logo.

Life Membership, hereinafter referred to as a Regular Member(s), shall be any Regular Member who has accumulated twenty (20) consecutive years of membership or who has accumulated at least ten (10) consecutive years of membership and has paid their membership dues through their twentieth (20) year.

Probationary Membership, hereinafter referred to as a Probationary Member(s), shall be any individual that has the right to wear the Club's top and bottom rocker, but has not received Club's winged wheel logo.

In both the Club Constitution & Bylaws, the generic term "Member(s)" shall include all of the categories listed above, unless otherwise stated.

Honorary Membership hereinafter referred to as an Honorary Member(s) shall be any individual deemed to be worthy of such membership by 4/5-majority vote of the Regular Members present at an official, regularly scheduled, meeting. Honorary Membership is not a level of membership for the purposes of the Constitution or Bylaws; rather it is just an honorary title.

ARTICLE 4

Membership Rights

- Regular Members shall be entitled to vote in Club affairs after one year of active membership. Regular Members with one year of active membership shall be entitled to full access to the Club house.
- Only the Executive Board can grant access privileges to Honorary Members.
- All Regular and Honorary Members may participate in both open and closed Club events.

ARTICLE 5

The Club officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Referee, all of whom shall be elected from the Regular Membership; the officers shall be cardholding AMA members and have more than one (1) year of service to the Club and must have attended at least nine (9) meetings during the current year. The term of office shall be one (1) year. No Regular Member shall serve as President for more than two (2) consecutive years.

ARTICLE 6

Duties of Club officers

President

- Shall preside at all meetings of the Club.
- Will have general supervision of the affairs of the Club.
- Will appoint any person or committees not otherwise ordered by the Club.
- Will personally represent the Club on proper occasions and business contracts.
- Will assist all other Club officers in their correspondence, and other duties.
- Will promote Club life and activities.
- Will vote only when a vote is necessary to break a tie.
- Can limit discussions at Club meetings to 10 minutes.

Vice President

- Shall perform the duties of the President in his absence.
- Shall assist all other Club officers when necessary.

Secretary

- Shall keep a record of the meetings of the Club in the minute book provided for that purpose.
- Shall maintain a bound record of all changes to the constitution and Bylaws of the Club.
- Shall perform such other duties as generally fall to that office.

Treasurer

- Shall collect dues from all members required to pay such dues.
- Shall collect all other monies due the Club.
- Shall make all payments from Club funds when so ordered by the Club.
- Shall keep an account of all Club money matters.
- Shall make a statement to the Club when called upon by the presiding officer to do so.

Corresponding Secretary

- Shall handle all correspondence of the Club not specifically handled by the Secretary.
- Shall send out notices of special meetings or other items of special interest to the Club.

Referee

Shall have general supervision over all sanctioned events promoted by the Club.

ARTICLE 7

Additional positions for Club activities shall be as follows: Road Captain, Assistant Road Captains, Assistant Referees, and Sergeant-at-Arms, all of whom shall be elected from the Regular Membership; these individuals shall be cardholding AMA members. The term of office shall be one (1) year.

These posts shall be filled by Regular Members and are not to be considered Club officers. Duties of the above shall be as follows:

Road Captain

- Shall lead Club rides, affirm the route, and set the method of riding on the road.
- Shall instruct all Club riders as to where they shall ride.
- Shall be responsible for reporting riders in attendance on all Club rides to the Club.
- Shall be responsible for researching, organizing, and posting Club rides.

Assistant Road Captains

- Shall assist the Road Captain.
- In the absence of the Road Captain, shall assume the duties of the Road Captain.

Assistant Referee

- Shall assist the Referee in all his/her duties.
- Shall assume the duties of the Referee in his/her absence.

Legislative Officer

Shall perform duties as outlined in the A.M.A. Rule Book.

Sergeant at Arms

Shall be responsible for maintaining quiet and order during meetings and Club events.

Committees

Shall be responsible for deciding on all actions within the scope of the committee and limits set by the Club or Executive Board.

ARTICLE 8

The Executive Board, hereinafter referred to as the Board, is composed of the Club Officers and five (5) Regular Members that are A.M.A. members and have more than one (1) year of service and have served on a position in the Club. Elected Board members shall serve for five (5) years, with the senior member being replaced by a newly elected member each year.

Should a Board member be elected a Club Officer, a newly elected board member will temporarily fill the officer's Board position. Upon completion of the term of office, the ex-officer can resume his/her duties as Board member for the remainder of his/her term.

ARTICLE 9

Duties of the Executive Board shall be as follows:

- Shall act for the Club in all matters ordered by the Club.
- Shall be responsible for evaluating Probationary Members during their first year of membership and discharging any Regular Member or Honorary Member they believe does not fit in with the Club.
- Shall investigate, decide, and assess penalties for violation of the constitution and by-laws.
- Shall be responsible for, acquisition, improvements, and maintenance of real property.
- Shall be responsible for approving all expenditures over \$500.00 except for taxes, insurance, and routine club operating expenses.
- Shall meet at the request of the President and be presided over by the ranking Club officer.
- Shall review the dues and other fee amounts each November and decide on the new amounts.
- Shall review and grant exceptions as outlined in the Constitution & Bylaws.

- Shall review and determine if it is necessary to assess the Regular Membership for Club costs that exceed Club income.

The presence of seven (7) Executive Board members shall comprise a quorum for making decisions. All decisions shall be by majority vote. The Executive Board will meet once a quarter.

ARTICLE 10

This Constitution may be amended by the proposed amendment being sponsored by three (3) or more Regular Members and submitted in writing at regular meeting. It shall then be read to the members present and posted on the bulletin board for a period of one (1) calendar month and voted on at the next regular meeting after the required posting period. Written notice of the proposed amendments will be mailed or e-mailed to all Regular Members fifteen (15) days prior to the vote being called. An affirmative vote by 4/5 of the Regular Members present shall be required to pass the amendment.

ARTICLE 11

The Bylaws may be amended by the proposed amendment being submitted in writing by a Regular Member at a regular meeting. The proposed amendment shall then be read to the members present and posted on the bulletin board for two (2) weeks; after which time it shall be presented to the attending membership for discussion and vote. An affirmative vote by 4/5 of the Regular Members present shall be required to adopt the amendment.

ARTICLE 12

Decisions by committees, officers, or the Executive Board can be overridden by a majority vote of the Regular Members present.

ARTICLE 13

Member decisions made by vote cannot be rescinded for a period of one year unless 2/3 of the Regular Members present vote to bring the decision back to the floor.

ARTICLE 14

Requirements for holding a position as a Club Officer, Executive Board member, and other position requirements can be waived by 4/5 vote of the Regular Members present.

ARTICLE 15

In the event of the dissolution of the Baltimore Ramblers Motorcycle Club, Inc., all residual assets shall be donated to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation or other non-profit organization in accordance with federal and/or state regulations.

Bylaws

1. Roberts' Rules of order shall govern the parliamentary proceedings of this Club, unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws. The order of business shall be:
 - a. Call to order
 - b. Roll call
 - c. Recognition of guests
 - d. Reading of minutes
 - e. Treasurer's report (at the request of the President)
 - f. Correspondence
 - g. Committee reports
 - h. Unfinished Business
 - i. New business
 - j. Remarks for the good of the Club
 - k. Adjournment
2. The dues, as set by the Club, shall be due annually on January 1. The President, Secretary; Treasurer, Life, and Honorary Members will be exempt from paying dues. Any applicant voted in during the year would have his dues prorated for the balance of that year.
3. Any Member whose dues are in arrears after March 31 will lose their voting rights while the dues remain unpaid. Dues paid after March 31 may be subject to a 10% late fee. The Executive Board may waive dues and fees. For example, it would be typical for the Board to wave dues for a person who is in active military service and is stationed such that they cannot attend Club events.

Any Member who has not paid the dues by March 31 will be dropped from the Club rolls. Any Regular Member or Probationary Member, unless dismissed from the Club per bylaw 8, must reapply.

Any Member who has not paid the assessment by March 31 of the current year will be placed in inactive status. Any Member who is in inactive status loses all voting rights. Any Member who pays the past due assessments will be placed back in active status.

Any Member who was a member in good standing but has not paid dues for one or more years may be reinstated by paying the initiation fee and dues. Unless the member pays all back dues, the year of reinstatement becomes their first year of membership.

4. A Guest of the Club is a person that wants to hang around for a period of time to get to know the Club.

The Guest period shall not be any longer than three months, unless extended by the Board, at which time the individual must make a decision regarding their membership.

If, after a maximum of three months, a Guest does not choose to apply for Membership, they can no longer attend Club meetings until an application for Membership has been received.

5. Application for Membership

- To apply for membership an individual must be age 18 or older and must submit their application for membership in person at a regular Club meeting.
- The Club shall assign a mentor to the applicant for a probationary period which ends when the Club awards the new member the Club's winged wheel logo.
- The mentor shall be responsible for making sure the applicant is familiar with the Constitution and Bylaws and when necessary discussing issues that may arise.
- All Club members shall be responsible for evaluating the applicant/Probationary Member and reporting issues to both the applicant/Probationary Member's mentor and an Executive Board member.
- Upon payment of an application fee and first year dues, the Club will add the applicant to the Membership rolls as an applicant. As the applicant's status changes, the Club will update their status on the membership rolls.
- The application fee and dues are not refundable.
- The Club encourages all Regular and Probationary Members to participate in all Club events and all discussion brought before the Club.

6. Each Club member is encouraged to be a member of the American Motorcyclist Association. Membership to the AMA is mandatory for members holding a position in the Club or for nomination to hold a position in the Club.

7. Each member – whether a Regular, Honorary, Life, or Probationary – shall present an appearance that would in no way harm the image of the Club or motorcyclists in general and his/her conduct shall be corresponding.

8. Dismissal, Fines, and Suspension.

- a. Any Member is subject to a charge or charges by any other Member(s). A report, in writing, describing a violation of the Constitution or Bylaws submitted to the President and signed by a Member(s) shall constitute a charge.
- b. After one (1) charge has been submitted and verified by three (3) Regular Members, or three (3) charges by Regular Members have been separately submitted, the Executive Board will decide on the action to be taken.
- c. The action of the Executive Board shall be to conduct a complete investigation of the facts surrounding the charges, prepare a decision with an appropriate remedy if necessary, and to present their findings and decision to the Club.
- d. The Member charged shall be advised of the charge or charges and be given every opportunity to prepare and submit his/her defense to the Board.
- e. Before the findings of the Board are submitted to the membership, the Board shall ask the accused Member if he/she wishes to face the Member(s) who placed the charges before the Board. If one Member who placed the charges refuses to face the accused, his/her charge will be dropped. All charges not acted upon within ninety (90) days from the original date of the charge shall be dropped.
- f. The name or names of the accusers shall not be made known to the accused until he/she faces the accusers before the Executive Board.
- g. Remedies shall include dismissal, fine, or suspension.

- h. A dismissed Member shall not be allowed to reapply for membership for a period of five (5) years following the dismissal.
 - i. If a fine must be paid, the Member shall be in suspension until the fine is paid.
 - j. Suspension means refraining from all association with Club functions for a set period. This does not relieve the Member from paying regular dues regardless of the length of the suspension.
9. Election of Club officers shall be on the first (1st) Wednesday in December. The only members eligible to vote are those Regular Members who have attended at least six (6) meetings during the year. Members must be present to vote. The newly elected officers will assume their office at the first meeting in January.
10. The President shall appoint a nominating committee on or before the last meeting in October.
11. Nominations shall be opened from the floor at the meeting immediately preceding the election meeting. Nominations shall be closed just prior to the election.
12. The meetings of the Club shall be held on a Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. the frequency to be determined by the Regular Members, but the President or Executive Board may call a special meeting at any time. Members must be notified of special meetings.
13. Five (5) Regular Members and one Officer shall constitute a quorum for a meeting, and ten Regular Members and one Officer shall constitute a quorum for authorizing expenditures under \$500.00.
14. Club Rides
 - a. Club Rides shall be all rides, approved by three (3) or more members at a regular Club meeting, and attended by three (3) or more members.
 - b. Guidelines for Club rides shall be as follows:
 - 1) Staggered riding formation is recommended unless otherwise signaled by the Road Captain or lead rider.
 - 2) Riders that wish to ride quickly should take a position at the beginning of the group.
 - 3) Riders that wish to ride slower should take a position at the end of the group.
 - 4) Probationary Members are to take a position at the end of the group, after the ride leader and Regular Members, but before ride guests.
 - 5) Riders should not rubber band out so as to delay riders that are following. If a rider believes he/she needs more space, the rider should drop to the back.
 - 6) Riders should find and remain in a position in which they are comfortable and does not hinder other riders.
 - 7) Any rider changing position should do so only when it is safe and only after notifying the riders around him/her.
 - 8) All riders should stay behind the road captain.
 - 9) Motorcycles should be street legal and in good mechanical condition and have a full tank of gas at the start of a ride.
 - 10) The Road Captain should be notified if a rider leaves the formation.
 - 11) If the formation is separated, the last rider in the formation shall remain at the intersection where the lead formation turns and act as a guide for the trailing formation.
 - 12) No person shall ride while under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or other controlled substances as defined by Federal or State law.

15. Since performing charitable deeds is one of our Club's main goals, each year the Club will help out a local non-profit organization that provides services to the local community. During December of each year, the Club will designate the local non-profit organization for the upcoming year.

16. Club Colors

The club colors shall be of a design approved by the Club. Current and previous designs shall be acceptable. Here is the current design.



- a. All Regular and Probationary Members shall obtain a set of colors from the Club.
- b. The Club colors are rented and ownership is retained by the Club. Regular and Probationary Members shall sign a rental agreement to this effect.
- c. The rental fee is equivalent to the cost of the colors and the Regular or Probationary Member can pay it in one lump sum or over 12 months.
- d. Regular and Probationary Members shall install the colors on the back of their garment per Club specifications.
- e. In order for an applicant to become a Probationary Member (that is, receive their top and bottom rockers), they must attend at least six Club functions to include any combination of meetings, rides, or services to the Club as determined by the Executive Board so that the Club can evaluate their suitability. The Executive Board will make the final decision to issue top and bottom rockers.
- f. In order for a Probationary Member to receive the Club's winged wheel logo, they must have earned their top and bottom rockers and been on the rolls for at least one year. After successfully completing these requirements, the Executive Board will make a final decision to issue the winged wheel logo.
- g. When a Regular or Probationary Member (not including Life Members) leaves or is discharged from the Club, they must return the colors. If a Regular or Probationary Member leaving the Club refuses to give up their colors, legal action will be taken by the Club to obtain said colors.
- h. All Members should wear colors when attending meetings and Club events in a manner that is visible to the public. Any Regular or Probationary Members not wearing the Club's colors:

- For meetings, shall donate \$1.00 to the Club treasury
 - For other events such as rides, shall ride to the back and donate \$1.00 to the Club treasury.
- i. All Members shall not act in a manner which would bring any negative image upon the Club or themselves while wearing the colors.
 - j. When entering a facility run or frequented by another club, all Members will respect that club by asking if it is OK to wear the colors in their facility. If not, Members shall remove and secure their colors before entering the facility.
 - k. All Members shall respect all “No color” rules at any facility or event that posts such a rule. When such a rule is in effect, all Members shall remove and secure their colors before entering the facility or event.
 - l. For Life Members in good standing, the Club Colors shall become the property of said Member.
 - m. All Members shall not wear anything on the back of their garment except Club colors.
 - n. All Members shall not wear any additional patches that would bring any negative image upon the Club or themselves.
 - o. All Members shall remove any patches the Board deems unacceptable.
 - p. The Board can make exceptions to the Club Color rules.
17. The Club expects all Club Members to participate in Club rides, activities, and events. It is required (unless an exception is granted by the Executive Board) that all dues paying Members perform one of the following activities each year in order to maintain their membership:
- a. Lead, plan, or coordinate a Club ride;
 - b. Work a Club event;
 - c. Contribute, in the Club’s name, to the designated Club charity a sum not less than \$20.00 (with Executive Board approval);
 - d. Does some type of property maintenance, or;
 - e. Holds a position in the Club

In order to renew their membership, dues paying Members must certify to the Club that they have performed one of the above activities when paying their dues. This certification can be in writing or verbally to a Club officer. If challenged, the Member must submit proof of their participation. Life and Honorary members are exempt from this provision, but are encouraged to perform one of the above as an example to the other Members.

A Member that does not help the Club in its activities and uses the Club solely for their benefit will be subject to the Dismissal, Fines, and Suspension provisions of the Bylaws.

18. All Club rides or event announcements should include the name and phone number of an event coordinator, and the means of communication between participants and the coordinator. Those members who wish to participate in an event should let the coordinator know that they are participating so that they can get updates. The coordinator is responsible for reporting to participants any changes in itinerary such as change in meeting location, time, or destination.
19. In order to further Club membership, prospective members with financial hardships, subject to approval of 2 of the 5 Club officers, will be allowed for the first year to pay ½ the annual dues on a pro-rated basis. If he or she elects, dues may be paid on a monthly basis. Additionally, the Prospect must be willing to provide 6 hours of “community service” to the Club. If, after one year and the Prospect in good standing, he or she may obtain Club rockers at the current rate. The second year’s

dues will be $\frac{1}{2}$ of the annual dues along with an additional 6 hours of “community service.” The Prospect will have no Clubhouse access or voting privileges during these first two years of pro-rated dues. If the Prospect misses 3 continuous months of dues, if paying on a monthly basis, this agreement with the Club will be voided and at that time, the Prospect will forfeit their financial hardship status. If the Prospect still wants to join the Club, he or she may then pay the balance of the full annual dues outstanding.