

TRI-CITY RADIO CONTROL MODELERS CLUB

July 15, 2026

June 21, 2000 Amended

August 2003 Amended

February 2014 Amended

January 2017 Amended

May 2022 Amended

July 2024 Amended

April 2025 Amended

July 2026 Amended

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of the club shall be the TRI-CITY RADIO CONTROL MODELERS.

ARTICLE II

Section 2.01 OBJECTIVE

A non-profit organization to promote the sport of model aircraft flying in our area and to cooperate with the projects of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA).

ARTICLE III

Section 3.01 MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 The membership is open to anyone interested in the sport of model aircraft flying.

Section 2 The Club membership categories are:

General

Junior

Family

Emeritus

Section 3 For junior membership, candidates must be a full-time student, under the age of 24, with their principal (non-school) residence in the greater Tri-Cities area. Any special or extenuating circumstances must be approved by the President.

Section 4 Family membership includes two or more immediate family members living in the same household.

Section 5 To qualify for Emeritus membership, candidates must be 60 or older during the membership year, no longer able to fly, and have been a Club member for at least the previous five (5) years or must be approved by the Club President. Membership in the Academy of Model Aeronautics is not required.

Section 6 All applicants for Club membership, except Emeritus membership, must be current members of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA).

Section 7 MEMBERSHIP STATUS CHANGES

1. Any member in good standing may resign his/her membership by giving written notice to any club officer.
2. If any member ceases to be a member of the AMA, his/her membership in the Club shall thereby terminate, subject to reinstatement upon restoration of their AMA membership.

Section 8 SAFETY

TCRCM implements the AMA Safety Rules and Guidelines that are related to flying activities. The TCRCM has adopted the AMA safety rules and guidelines, including the field layout, to provide both separation and space for a safe flying site. The lease for the TCRCM flying site with the City of Richland Parks and Recreation Department includes adopting and operating with the AMA safety rules and guidelines. It is the Executive Board's responsibility to resolve all safety issues through the Grievance process.

ARTICLE IV

Section 4.01 OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1 The officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2 All officers shall be elected for one year by majority vote and will hold Office during the calendar year. (See Article VIII, Section 1.)

- a. Club officers and Directors shall make every attempt to attend to club business in a timely fashion. Board members are expected to make every attempt to attend club events and all club and board meetings.
- b. Club officers who do not attend Board of Director meetings in person for a period of 90 days will be considered to have vacated their offices and the President may appoint a replacement for the remainder of the membership year. The President may grant a 30-day waiver for special circumstances.
- c. Club officers may resign their office before successful completion of their term provided the reason is given to the President in writing. The President may appoint a replacement for resigned officers for the remainder of the membership year.

Section 3 A club president is required by the Academy of Model Aeronautics as part of being a chartered club.

The President Shall:

- a. Preside in person at all Executive Board and Club Meetings.
- b. Appoint all committees for the club year and be an ex officio member of all committees.
- c. Fill vacancies resulting in officials leaving their office prematurely. If the President resigns, the Vice President shall take over the unexpired term. If the Vice President is unable to assume the responsibilities the Club shall elect a new President for the remainder of the year.
- d. Make fiscal or community commitments for the Club without Club vote only when circumstances prevent the consultation of the membership (at a meeting) or other Club officers.
- e. Point of Contact with the Richland Airport Manager/Port of Benton as necessary.

Section 4 The Vice President shall:

- a. Perform all duties of the President in his absence.
- b. Serve as Program Chairman and Event Coordinator, arranging community service and competition events, demonstrations, movies, etc.

Section 5 The Secretary shall:

- a. Keep the minutes of all Club and Executive Board meetings. Prepare minutes for reading at each meeting.
- b. Keep an up-to-date copy of the Bylaws and Safety and Field Rules ready at all meetings.
- c. Be responsible for all the club correspondence with the AMA and other institutions as appropriate.
- d. Inform the Treasurer of all financial dealings recorded in the minutes.
- e. Maintain traceable records of all club properties and implement control on the use of such property.

Section 6 The Treasurer shall:

- a. Be chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee.
- b. Keep an accurate record of all moneys received.
- c. Deposit funds in the Club bank account.
- d. Pay all warrants properly signed.
- e. Pay all AMA and Insurance dues.
- f. Formal Point of Contact with the City of Richland Parks Department for maintaining the lease and other formal communications.
- g. Present a financial report at each regular meeting to include the following: itemized receipts, itemized disbursements, and end balance on hand.
- h. Appoint two members to audit the books at the end of the calendar year.
- i. Prepare and submit the necessary tax documentation to state and federal agencies to maintain the club tax exempt status.

Section 7 Safety Coordinator/Officer

- a. Required by AMA for Chartered Clubs.
- b. Appointed by the President and approved by Board of Directors.
- c. Promoter and mentor of safety awareness with a willingness to teach others but is not the “field police.”
- d. Participates with officers when decisions on safety are necessary.
- e. Communicates the TCRCM Flying Site Safety and Security Program.
- f. Provides communication between the AMA and TCRCM in matters related to safety.

Section 8 Other duties:

In addition to the elected officers, committee chairmen may be appointed by the President for Site Committee, Activities Committee, Newsletter Editor, etc. Appoint the Chief Instructor and Field Safety Officer Positions.

ARTICLE V

Section 5.01 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1 The executive Board shall consist of the elected officers, and others appointed by the President.

Section 2 The Executive Board shall meet at a time and place agreed upon by Board members and hold such special meetings as may be called by the President or any two members thereof.

Section 3 The Executive Board shall have the authority to act on Club business between general monthly membership meetings.

ARTICLE VI

Section 6.01 MEETINGS AND ATTENDANCE

Section 1 Regularly scheduled meetings shall be held each month, unless otherwise stated. Meetings will be held at a time and place to be announced in the Club Newsletter, Club Web Site, social media and Club Email Distribution.

Section 2 A meeting date may be changed or canceled by the joint approval of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII

Section 7.01 DUES

Section 1 Annual dues shall be established by Club officers with concurrence by the Board of Directors and will be due and payable on January 1st of each calendar year.

Section 2 Annual dues are:

General – 100% of annual dues established in Section 1

Junior – 33% of annual dues established in Section 1

Family – 133% of annual dues established in Section 1

Emeritus – 0% of annual dues established in Section 1

Section 3 All membership dues, dues for new members and fees arrangement will be established by Club officers and BoD. In no case will new member dues be more than those for the current members.

Section 4 Yearly Club membership dues shall be paid to the Club Treasurer or an Executive board member as designated by the Club President. Proof of AMA membership, which is current for the year of Club membership, is required.

Section 5 Membership applications received after July 1 will have a membership fee of ½ that of the annual fee.

ARTICLE VIII

Section 8.01 BUDGET AND FINANCE

Section 1 The Fiscal year shall begin January 1 and end December 31.

Section 2 The Budget and Finance Committee shall consist of the Executive Board.

Section 3 The Club shall not be obligated, by the Executive Board or the general Membership, to satisfy any financial obligation unless there is adequate cash in the bank to fully cover said obligation or, unless appropriate arrangements are made to secure a loan to cover said obligation. All loans must be approved by a majority ballot of the full Club membership.

Section 4 Major club financial obligations for site improvements, maintenance, equipment replacement, etc. should be included in a Five-Year Plan that is approved annually by majority vote at a monthly Club meeting designated by the Club President. The Plan should be updated annually by a committee chosen by President.

Section 5 All Events must be approved by the Executive Board in advance. An event director shall be designated who will work with the Vice President and the Web Master for communication and planning. All events must submit their proposed schedule and budget (if necessary) for approval to the Executive Board at least 90 days in advance. Events that will be AMA sanctioned will require a certified contest director. Any event approved by the Executive Board that charges an entry fee or any other function that generates income for the event, must provide the Treasurer a detailed financial accounting of the event. All proceeds in excess of actual expenses from the event must be turned over to the treasurer of the TCRCLM. TCRCLM will be responsible for any financial loss incurred at an approved event.

ARTICLE IX

Section 9.01 ELECTIONS

Section 1 Nomination. Nomination of club officers shall be made at the general club membership meeting during the month of October.

Nominations for each office may be made by any club member holding voting rights, either in person or by submitting a proxy nomination to an existing officer.

All known nominations for office will be published in the November newsletter or by email from the secretary at which time nominations are closed.

Positions without nominations will be open for appointment by the incoming President immediately following their election.

Election: The election must be at least one week following the distribution of the newsletter or email containing the published nominations.

Elections of officers shall be held at a general membership meeting in November by secret ballot for members in attendance. Where there is only one candidate for an office, election may be by show of hands.

Section 2 Newly elected officers assume their duties in the first meeting in January.

ARTICLE X

Section 10.01 AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended at a regular meeting by a two-thirds vote cast, provided amendments have been published and distributed to the membership in the Website, Newsletter or email from the secretary previous to the meeting.

ARTICLE XI

Section 11.01 SAFETY AND FIELD RULES

Section 1 The AMA and TCRCM Safety and Field Rules/Guidelines that are posted at the field shall be reviewed and updated at the first Executive Board meeting of each administration. Following review and approval by Club membership the Field and Safety Rules shall be printed in the Club Newsletter or other electronic distribution method and shall become part of these Bylaws.

Section 2 The Club Safety and Field Rules shall be reviewed with new club members by the club Safety Officer. New Club members shall be given a copy of the Club Safety and Field Rules.

Section 3 FLIGHT AND GROUND SAFETY

1. The club shall have a Safety Officer.
2. The responsibility of the Safety Officer is to educate members, review and recommend updates and changes to Club safety rules.

Section 4 USER COOPERATION

Everyone who uses the club field must adhere to the club and AMA safety rules. The club safety officer or any club member has the authority to ask any person operating an aircraft in an unsafe manner to stop such activity. If the safety request is ignored, the Safety Officer or any Club Officer has the authority to ask them to leave the facility.

Section 5 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (Flight and Ground Safety Rules)

1. Purpose. The grievance procedure provides a mechanism to enforce existing safety rules by providing a progressive disciplinary system when needed. Although most complaints can be resolved informally, if a complaint is serious or cannot be resolved informally, the matter should be referred to the Safety officer for their consideration by means of a written or emailed notice detailing the date, time, and alleged infraction. At least one witness is required to corroborate any grievance.
2. The Safety Committee shall be formed by the Safety Officer. The committee will be comprised of three club members in good standing including the Safety Officer who will chair the committee. The Safety Committee shall use its judgment in carrying out action on the following:
 - a. A written or emailed notice of transgression should be submitted to the Safety Officer within 48 hours of alleged infraction. At least one witness is required.
 - b. First Violation
 - i. The viewpoints of both complainants and accused will be considered.
 - ii. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
 - iii. Provided the complaint is confirmed, the Safety Committee will give a verbal reprimand to the accused, and this will be recorded in the Committee files.

c. Second Violation

- i. Complainant's name will be disclosed.
- ii. The accused has the right to a written rebuttal, to be reviewed by the Committee.
- iii. If the Committee so decides, the flying privileges of the accused will be suspended for thirty (30) days. Written notice of this shall be issued and a copy published in the club newsletter or via email.

d. Third Violation

- i. The Committee will notify the accused in writing and the club members via the club newsletter or email that the club will vote on the expulsion of the accused at the next meeting.
- ii. Said expulsion will last for one-year minimum. (Longer if deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.) Expelled members will be reimbursed the remaining prorated portion of their membership fee.
- iii. A member may be expelled from the club only upon a simple majority vote of the club membership present at the meeting. Voting will be by secret ballot at a regular monthly meeting.
- iv. The expelled member may reapply for club membership after the expiration of the expulsion time period.
- v. The three actions will not be enforced unless they are accumulated within a two-year period of time.
- vi. Any member receiving a Grievance, who directs any retaliation action against the person filing said Grievance, will be subject to immediate expulsion from the club. This is to include threats, intimidation, physical harm, intentional equipment damage, or any other action deemed to be retaliatory by the Board of Directors.

Section 6 ANNUAL SAFETY REFRESHER

Prior to the start of each flying season, or at least on or before the April membership meeting, a review of the AMA and TCRCM safety rules and guidelines will be provided by the assigned club officer and Safety Officer.

Section 7 MINOR PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTION

1. Supervision and Attendance

- a. Minors (under the age of 18) participating in club activities, including instruction and flying, must be accompanied at all times by a parent, legal guardian, or grandparent while at the flying field.
- b. The responsible adult must remain present and actively supervise the minor for the duration of their time at the field.

2. Transportation Requirements

- a. Minors must arrive and depart the flying field under the direct supervision of their parent, legal guardian, or grandparent.
- b. The club and its members assume no responsibility for the transportation of minors, however transportation may be rendered in the case of a medical emergency.

3. Conduct Around Minors

- a. Club members and visitors must maintain a respectful and appropriate environment when minors are present.

- b. Use of inappropriate language, profanity, or any behavior deemed unsuitable in the presence of minors is strongly discouraged.

4. Compliance and Enforcement

- a. Any violation of this bylaw may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of club privileges, at the discretion of the board of directors.
- b. Club officers and members are encouraged to report any concerns regarding minor safety and conduct to the club leadership immediately.

Section 8 DIRECTORY INFORMATION PRIVACY

1. Purpose and Justification

- a. The club values the privacy and security of its members' personal information. In today's world, identity theft, unwanted solicitations, and personal safety concerns make it necessary to limit the distribution of private details. Protecting members' information ensures a respectful and secure environment for all.
- b. Just as we wouldn't publish our home address or phone number in the newspaper, we must be mindful of how we share personal details within the club. While most members have good intentions, unintended misuse of personal data can lead to unwanted consequences.

2. Restricted Directory Information

- a. The club directory shall be limited to only the name and email address of each member for general distribution.
- b. All other personal information, including but not limited to phone numbers, AMA numbers, home addresses, and birthdays, shall be kept confidential by the club secretary and made available only to the Executive Council when necessary for official club business.

3. Member Responsibilities

- a. Members are encouraged to share their own contact information as they see fit. However, they should refrain from sharing the personal information of other members without explicit permission.
- b. Any misuse or unauthorized distribution of restricted directory information may be subject to review and possible disciplinary action by the Executive Council.

Section 9 GUEST PILOTS

1. Definition

- a. A guest pilot is any individual who is not a current member of TCRCM in good standing and who operates model aircraft at the club flying site under the sponsorship of a current member.
- b. Every guest must be sponsored by a current member in good standing, who is responsible for the guest's conduct and eligibility under this Section.

2. AMA Membership Requirement

- a. Any pilot — member or non-member — who operates an aircraft at the field without the use of a buddy-box training system must hold current AMA membership, consistent with the club's insurance and its lease with the City of Richland Parks and Recreation Department.

- b. A guest may fly using a buddy-box training system without holding AMA membership, provided the operator of the master (instructor) transmitter is a current AMA member.

3. Guest Flying Limit

- a. A guest pilot may fly at the club field, with or without the use of a buddy-box training system, on no more than three (3) separate days per calendar year.
- b. The Club President may grant an exception to the three-day limit of subsection a for a guest pilot who is a current AMA member and a paid entrant in an AMA-sanctioned contest held at the TCRCM field. The exception permits flying on up to seven (7) total days, to be taken at the President's discretion within the period surrounding the contest. This exception may be granted to a given guest pilot no more than once per calendar year, and may not be granted for any purpose other than participation in an AMA-sanctioned contest at the TCRCM field.
- c. A guest who wishes to fly at the field beyond three (3) days in a calendar year, and who does not qualify for the exception in subsection b, must apply for club membership.
- d. This three-day limit resets on January 1 of each calendar year.

4. Former Members in Arrears

- a. A former member whose club membership has lapsed, or who is in arrears on dues, may not fly as a guest pilot for a period of one (1) full year following the expiration date of their most recent membership.
- b. Such an individual must renew their club membership to resume flying at the field.

5. Sponsoring Member Responsibility and Enforcement

- a. Any member who sponsors or brings a guest to fly who is ineligible under this Section — including a guest who has exceeded the three-day limit of subsection 3, a guest flying without the AMA coverage required under subsection 2, or a former member within the one-year exclusion period of subsection 4 — shall have their field privileges suspended for sixty (60) days.
- b. This suspension may be imposed directly by the Board of Directors and does not require progression through the Grievance Procedure in Section 5 of this Article.

ARTICLE XII

Section 12.01 BUSINESS AND OBLIGATIONS

Section 1 Major Club business and obligations brought before the Club membership for consideration must be approved by a simple majority quorum vote. Voting may be by show of hands or voice.

Section 2 A quorum constitutes one third of the Club membership or ten members, whichever is fewer, (amended 2/17/88).

Section 3 A simple majority is 50% plus one vote of those members present.

Section 4 If a quorum is not present, the President may elect to exercise a telephone ballot and the results reported in the Club Newsletter or by email. Controls will be established such that each member's vote is identified for the record kept by the Secretary.

Section 5 Issues, such as Bylaw updates, that require publication in the newsletter or by email prior to the final vote can accept an absentee vote. This absentee voting procedure will require contacting a member of the Executive Board to cast your vote.

Section 1.02 CHANGE HISTORY:

Original Effective June 21, 2000

Amended August 2003

- . Added Section 8 to ARTICLE III
- . Added Section 5 to ARTICLE VIII
- . Added Section 3 to ARTICLE IX
- . Added Section 3 to ARTICLE XI
- . Added Section 5 to ARTICLE XII
- . Added Safety Committee to Section 1 ARTICLE V

Amended February 2014

- . Total revision of Section 8 ARTICLE III
- . Added Section 9 to ARTICLE III
- . Revised Section 4 of ARTICLE IV to include competition events
- . Revised Section 7 of ARTICLE IV to appointment of Chief Instruction and Field Safety Officer
- . Revised Section 1 to ARTICLE V for including prior officers as part of the Executive Board
- . Added Section 5 to ARTICLE VI for membership applications received after July 1
- . Revised Section 5 to ARTICLE VIII for event scheduling
- . Added Section 4 to ARTICLE XI for user cooperation
- . Added Section 5 to ARTICLE XI for annual safety refresher

Amended January 2017

- . Revised Section 2 of ARTICLE 3 to change category of membership - eliminate Senior
- . Revised Section 2 of ARTICLE 7 to change dues percentage for the membership categories

Amended May 2022

- . Amended Section 1 to ARTICLE V to remove prior year officers
- . Amended Section 1 to ARTICLE VI to reflect monthly meetings and communication methods

Amended July 2024

- . Amended Section 2 of ARTICLE IV to reflect expectation of officer meeting attendance and provisions for removal or resignation
- . Amended Section 1 of ARTICLE IX to specify nomination and election procedures
- . Amended ARTICLE X, ARTICLE XI, and ARTICLE XII to provide additional notification methods in the event there is not a functional newsletter
- . Amend and Insert Section 5-6 of ARTICLE XI, Grievance Procedure

Amended April 2025

- . Article IV Section 2 and Section 3 – requiring in person attendance

TRI-CITY RADIO CONTROL MODELERS CLUB

. Article XI Added Section 7 – Minor Participation and Protection

. Article XI Added Section 8 – Directory Information Privacy

Amended July 2026

. Article XI Added Section 9 – Guest Pilots (adopted by membership vote July 15, 2026)