



# MINIATURE BULL TERRIER CLUB OF THE NORTHEAST

## CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

### CONSTITUTION

#### Article 1

#### Names and Objects

**Section 1.** The name of the club shall be the Miniature Bull Terrier Club of The Northeast, hereafter referred to as "MBTCNE".

**Section 2.** The objects of the Club shall be:

1. To encourage and promote quality breeding of purebred Miniature Bull Terriers (MBT) and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.
2. To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by The American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which Miniature Bull Terriers shall be judged.
3. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interest of the breed. To encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog events and encourage goodwill, camaraderie, support, and cooperation among MBT owners and fanciers.
4. To conduct sanctioned matches and specialty shows and other AKC events for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club.
5. To provide a source of information and education to MBT owners and the interested public.

**Section 3.** The MBTCNE shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the Club shall accrue to the benefit of any member or individual.

**Section 4.** The members of the club shall adopt and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out these objects.

# BYLAWS

## Article I Membership

**Section 1. *Memberships.*** There shall be four types of membership open to persons who are in good standing with The American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this Club.

While membership is to be unrestricted as to residence, the club's primary purpose is to be representative of the breeders and exhibitors in its area.

- Individual Membership — Open to persons 18 years of age and older and who own a Miniature Bull Terrier (MBT) at the time of application submission. The member shall enjoy all the privileges of the Club, including one vote, and the ability to hold office.
- Family Membership — Has the same requirements as an individual membership and is further defined to include the following: two (2) members of the same household, 18 years or older. Each member will receive one vote and the ability to hold office.
- Associate Membership — Open to persons 18 years of age and older who do not live in the Northeast. Associate members shall enjoy all privileges except voting or holding the position of an officer or director. Associate members do not count in determining a quorum.
- Junior Membership - Open to children ages 10-17 years of age. These members enjoy all privileges of the club except the right to vote and hold office. These members may convert to regular membership at age 18.

**Section 2. *Election to Membership.*** Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the constitution and bylaws and the rules of The American Kennel Club and those of the MBTCNE. The application shall state the name, address, email & phone number of the applicant and include registered name(s) of all current MBTs owned. The application shall carry the endorsement of two members; one being a current Board member, the second can be an individual in good standing who has been a member for a minimum of one year, except applicants for Associate Membership who do not require an endorsement.

Completed membership applications, accompanied by current-year dues, must be submitted to the designated Membership Chair and will not be eligible for a vote until all requirements are received.

Applicants for membership are to be elected during executive session at any meeting of the Board of Directors. An applicant who has received less than the majority needed by the Board may be presented by one of the applicant's endorsers at the next meeting of the Club. The Individual and Family Members present may elect such applicant by secret ballot and a favorable 2/3 vote provided that 20% of the voting Members are present at the meeting. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club can reapply within six months after the date of rejection.

**Section 3. Membership Dues.**

Dues for continuing membership shall be due on or before January 1st of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of December, the Treasurer shall send to each member via email or 1st class mail a statement of dues for the ensuing year. Dues shall be periodically evaluated and adjusted by the Board as they deem necessary. Dues for Individual membership shall be \$30 per year; dues for Family membership shall be \$40; dues for Associate and Junior membership shall be \$10 per year.

**Section 4. Termination of Membership:**

- *by resignation.* Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Secretary, but no member may resign when in debt to the Club. Obligations other than dues are considered a debt to the Club and must be paid in full prior to resignation.
- *by lapsing.* A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 60 days after the first day of the fiscal year, however, the Board may grant an additional 60 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any Club meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
- *by expulsion.* Membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these bylaws.

**Article II  
Meetings**

**Section 1. Club Meetings.** Meetings of the Club shall be held a minimum of three times per fiscal year within the Northeast area at such place, or via telephone conference call or via video conference date, and hour as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of meetings shall be emailed to the membership by the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be 20 percent of the members in good standing.

**Section 2. Special Club Meetings.** Special club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote of the members of the Board who are present and voting at any regular or special meetings of the Board; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five members of the club who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held within the Northeast area at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five days and not more than 15 days prior to the date of the meeting and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other club business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20 percent of the members in good standing.

**Section 3. Board Meetings.** Meetings of the board of directors shall be held 6 times per year within the Northeast area or via telephone conference call or via video conference at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of each such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least five days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the board.

**Section 4. Special Board Meetings.** Special meetings of the board may be called by the President; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three members of the board. Such special meetings shall be held within the Northeast area at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meeting. The Secretary shall mail written notice of such meeting at least five days and not more than 10 days prior to the date of the meeting. Any such notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be a majority of the board.

**Section 5. Voting.** Each member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to one vote at any meeting of the club at which they are present. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club meeting or election.

### **Article III**

#### **Directors and Officers**

**Section 1. Board of Directors.** The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and three (3) elected board members; all officers and board members shall be Individual or Family members in good standing for a minimum of one year at the time of nomination. They shall be elected for two-year terms at the Club's annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected. The immediate Past President shall automatically become an additional member of the Board for one year after expiration of their term as President. General management of the Club's affairs shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

**Section 2. Officers.** The Club's officers, consisting of the President, Vice- President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both about the Club and its meetings and the Board and its meetings.

- The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President, in addition to those particularly specific in the bylaws.
- The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of President, in the event of the President's death, absence, or incapacity.

- The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the club and of the board and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the club. The Secretary, on request by the Board, will produce a review of the record in the form of minutes, and the minutes can only be accepted after formal approval by a majority vote of the Board. They shall have charge of the correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their election to membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll call of the club with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these bylaws.
- The Treasurer shall collect and receive all money due or belonging to the Club. They shall deposit the same in a bank approved by the Board, in the name of the Club. The books shall, always, be open to inspection of the Board and a report shall be given at every meeting on the condition of the club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported; and at the annual meeting an accounting shall be rendered of all moneys received and expended during the previous fiscal year.

**Section 3. Vacancies.** Any vacancies occurring on the board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next election by a majority vote of all the then members of the board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such vacancy, or at a special board meeting called for that purpose; except that a vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice President and the resulting vacancy in the office of Vice President shall be filled by the board.

## **Article IV**

### **The Club Year, Annual Meeting, Elections**

**Section 1. Club Year.** The club's fiscal and official year shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December.

**Section 2. Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting shall be held during the last quarter of the year. The election of directors and officers listed in Article III will be held every two years. During an election year at the Annual Meeting, officers and directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. They shall take office on the first of January following the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to the successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

**Section 3. Elections.** The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected.

**Section 4. *Nominations.*** No person may be a candidate in a club election who has not been nominated in accordance with these Bylaws. During the month of October, the board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members and one alternate, not more than one of whom may be a member of the board. The Secretary shall immediately notify the committee and alternates of their selection. The board shall name a chairman for the committee, and it shall be such person's duty to call a committee meeting, which shall be held on or before November 1st.

1. The nominating committee shall first ask the existing board if they wish to run for their existing position or another position on the board.
2. The committee then shall nominate one candidate for each office and positions on the board and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing.
3. Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated before the December meeting.
4. Additional nominations must be submitted by November 20<sup>th</sup> by any member in good standing. A written statement shall be submitted to the Secretary by the proposed candidate signifying their willingness to run from the floor and what position they wish to run for. No person may be a candidate for more than one position and no more than one household member may hold a board position.
5. If no additional nomination from the floor has been received by November 20<sup>th</sup>, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected at the December meeting and no voting will be required. If one or more valid additional nomination(s) are offered, a vote shall be conducted for these positions only. The candidate receiving the most votes for the voted position shall win.
6. Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

## **Article V Committees**

**Section 1.** The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as dog shows, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership, and other fields which may well be served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Special committees may also be appointed by the Board to aid in its projects.

**Section 2.** Any committee appointee may be terminated by a majority vote of the full membership of the Board upon written notice to the appointee; and the Board may appoint successors to those persons whose service has been terminated.

## **Article VI Discipline**

**Section 1. American Kennel Club Suspensions.** Any member who is suspended from **any** of the privileges of The American Kennel Club **automatically shall** be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period. American Kennel Club suspensions are published on the Secretary's page of the AKC Gazette.<sup>1</sup>

**Section 2. Charges.** Any voting member may prefer charges against another member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$50.00, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board or a Committee following a hearing.

The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board or present them at a Board meeting, and the Board shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct that would be prejudicial to the best interest of the Club, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date for a hearing by the Board or a committee of not less than three (3) members of the Board, not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges and the specifications to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may personally appear in their own defense and bring witnesses if they wish.

**Section 3. Board Hearing.** The Board shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regard. Should the charges be sustained after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by the complainant and defendant, the Board may by a majority vote of those present reprimand and/or suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing, or until the next annual meeting if that will occur after six (6) months. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such a case, a suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before their fellow members at the ensuing Club meeting, which considers the recommendation of the Board. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary. The Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the board's decision and penalty, if any.

<sup>1</sup> Amended August 2025 per AKC Club Relations request to change "all" to "any," reposition "automatically," and add the Gazette publication sentence.

**Section 4. *Expulsion.*** The expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at a meeting of the Club following a Board hearing and upon the recommendation of the Board as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendation for expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing on their own behalf though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his or her own behalf. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion.

A two-third (2/3) vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion. If expulsion is not so voted, the board's suspension shall stand.

## **Article VII Amendments**

**Section 1.** Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by a written petition addressed to the Recording Secretary signed by twenty (20%) percent of the membership in good standing. Amendments proposed by such petition shall be promptly considered by the Board of Directors and must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Secretary for a vote within three (3) months of the date when the Secretary received the petition.

**Section 2.** The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by a two-third (2/3) secret vote of the members present and voting at any regular or special meeting called for the purpose, provided the proposed amendments have been included in the notice of the meeting and mailed to each member at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

## **Article VIII Dissolution**

**Section 1.** The Club may be dissolved at any time by written consent of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, other than for purposes of reorganization, whether voluntary or involuntary or by operation of law, none of the property of the Club or proceeds thereof, nor any assets of the Club shall be distributed to any members of the Club, but after payment of debts of the Club, its property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs selected by the Board of Directors.

## **Article IX**

### **Order of Business**

**Section 1.** At meetings of the Club, Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed with the order of business so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit as follows:

1. Roll call
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Report of the President
4. Report of the Vice President
5. Report of the Secretary
6. Report of the Treasurer
7. Reports of Committees
8. Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting)
9. Election of new members
10. Unfinished business
11. New business
12. Adjournment

**Section 2.** At meetings of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

1. Minutes of the last meeting
2. Report of the President
3. Report of the Vice President
4. Report of the Secretary
5. Report of the Treasurer
6. Report of committees
7. Unfinished business
8. New business
9. Adjournment

## **Article X**

### **Parliamentary Authority**

**Section 1.** The rules contained in the current edition of "*Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised,*" shall govern the Club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any other special rules of order the Club may adopt.