

# CANINE FREESTYLE FEDERATION, INC.

## CONSTITUTION

**SECTION 1.** The name of the Organization shall be the Canine Freestyle Federation, Inc. (CFF).

**SECTION 2.** CFF is an international organization dedicated to defining and developing the sport of Canine Freestyle by providing the structure necessary to offer competitions and demonstrations. Elements of both the musical kur and traditional dog obedience have inspired the evolution of Canine Freestyle. Freestyle as both an art and a discipline expands the scope of dog training, adding an artistic element through the inclusion of music and choreography. Freestyle encourages originality and creativity, and attracts audiences through spectator appeal. Freestyle promotes responsible dog ownership by presenting a positive image to the general public and encourages and promotes the value of dog training. CFF will:

- ◆ Develop and maintain rules and judging regulations
- ◆ Publish a newsletter to disseminate information
- ◆ Offer individual memberships
- ◆ Provide educational materials and support for competitors, management and judges
- ◆ Maintain event and placement records
- ◆ Promote demonstrations for their entertainment and therapy value
- ◆ Encourage the formation of local Freestyle clubs or groups

**SECTION 3.** The objective of Freestyle is to present the dog to his best advantage in a creative and artistic manner. A Freestyle presentation is always accompanied by music selected to suit the rhythms of the dog. Freestyle should demonstrate, with appropriate music, the grace, beauty and intelligence of the dog working in harmony with the handler. A Freestyle presentation should clearly show the dog's athleticism, attentiveness, flexibility and training. All handler movements should compliment and enhance the dog's movement. Teamwork is essential. The dog should always be treated with honor and respect.

**SECTION 4.** The structure of a Freestyle performance is a balance of technical and artistic/choreographic elements presented in a creative manner.

The foundations for the technical aspects of a Freestyle presentation are heel and front positions. All other movements are relative to these two positions. However, Freestyle should not look like an obedience heeling pattern which has been extended and set to music.

The foundations for the artistic aspects of a Freestyle presentation are movement, rhythm, space and direction. The power of choreography is in the combination of movements and how those movements are developed with music to create a design in space which is visually pleasing.

The bond between the dog and handler should be clearly apparent. Both the dog and handler should be attentive and willing partners, intangibly linked whether working together or apart. The dog should always demonstrate enthusiasm, joy, willingness and rapport with the handler, who should be smooth and natural. The total picture should be one of harmonious balance.

**SECTION 5.** CFF shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any profits or remainder or residue from dues or donations to the CFF shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

**SECTION 6.** The members of CFF shall adopt By-Laws and may from time to time revise such by-laws as may be required to carry out these objects.

## BYLAWS

### ARTICLE I Membership

- SECTION 1. Eligibility.** Membership shall be open to all persons eighteen years of age and older who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club or equivalent registry and subscribe to the purposes of the Canine Freestyle Federation (CFF). Memberships will be offered on a yearly or lifetime basis.
- SECTION 2. Dues.** Membership dues shall be set by the Board and not exceed \$50 per year, payable on or before the 1st day of January of each year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year. During the month of November CFF shall send to each member a statement of dues for the ensuing year.
- SECTION 3. 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 these Constitution and By-Laws. The application shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant. Accompanying the application the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.
- SECTION 4. Termination of Membership.** Memberships may be terminated:
- (a) **by resignation.** Any member in good standing may resign from the CFF upon written notice to the Secretary; but no member may resign when in debt to the CFF. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the CFF and they become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
  - (b) **by lapsing.** A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such members dues remain unpaid 30 days after the first day of the fiscal year; however, the Board may grant a additional 60 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote at any CFF meeting whose dues are unpaid as of the date of that meeting.
  - (c) **by expulsion.** A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided in Article VI of these bylaws.

### ARTICLE II Meetings and Voting

- SECTION 1. General Membership Meeting.** The General Membership Meeting of CFF shall be held at a time and place set by the Board. Written notice of the General Membership Meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 30 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 Meetings.** Special 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 meeting of the Board; and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by five members of the CFF who are in good standing. Such special meetings shall be held at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or person authorized herein to call such meetings. Written notice of such a meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting, and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other CFF business may be transacted thereat. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 20 percent of the members in good

**SECTION 3. Board Meetings.** Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at such hour and place as may be designated by the Board. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting. The business of the Board may be conducted in person, by mail, or by other means as determined by the Board. The quorum for a Board 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 at such place, date, and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meeting. Written notice of such meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary at least 15 days prior to the date of the meeting, and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted thereat. The business of the Board may be conducted in person, by mail, or by other means as determined by the Board. The quorum for a Board meeting shall be a majority of the Board.

**SECTION 5. Voting.** Members in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year are entitled to one vote at the General Membership Meeting or any special meeting of the CFF at which the member is present. Mail ballots will be used for election of officers and the board of directors, for changes to the Constitution and By-Laws, and for any other issues deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors. Proxy voting will not be permitted at any club meeting or election.

Three inspectors of elections, who are not members of the current board or candidates on the ballot, shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Ballots shall be counted at such time and place as designed by the Board and the inspectors of elections. CFF members may attend and observe the counting of ballots. The results of all balloting will be provided to the Recording Secretary in writing, and all ballots will be retained for one year for inspection.

### **ARTICLE III Directors and Officers**

**SECTION 1. Board of Directors.** The Board shall be comprised of the officers and three directors all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected for three-year terms at the CFF annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected. General management of the CFF's affairs, including stewardship of the rules and regulations for competition and judging, shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors. The initial CFF officers and directors shall be elected for following term President, Membership Chair, Treasurer and 1 Director for 3 year terms and the Vice President, and Recording Secretary and 2 Directors for 2 year terms. At the end of the initial terms all positions shall be filled for 3 year term. The election of the Board shall be by conducted by mail ballots.

**SECTION 2. Officers.** The CFF's officers, consisting of the President, Vice-President, Membership Chair, Recording Secretary and Treasurer shall serve in their respective capacities both with regard to the CFF and its meetings and the Board and its meetings.

- (a) The President shall preside at all meetings of the CFF and of the Board, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those particularly specified in these By-Laws.
- (b) The Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.
- (c) The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the CFF and of the Board and of all votes taken by mail, and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the CFF and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these By-Laws or by the Board.

- (d) The Membership Chair will have charge of the membership correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the CFF with their addresses, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed in these By-Laws or by the Board.
- (e) The Treasurer shall collect and receive all moneys due or belonging to the CFF. Moneys shall be deposited in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the CFF. The books shall at all times be open to inspection of the Board and a report shall be given at every meeting of the condition of the CFF'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. Payment of all obligations over an amount set by the Board must be approved by the Board. The treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.

**SECTION 3. Vacancies.** Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the offices during the year shall be filled until the next annual 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 CFF Year, Annual Meeting and Elections**

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

**SECTION 2. General Membership Meeting.** The general membership meeting shall be held at a time and place set by the Board.

**SECTION 3. Elections.** Elections shall be held in the month of November in the years in which Officers, and Directors are to be elected. The election shall be by mail ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each Board position shall be declared elected. Members of the board shall take office on January 1st following their 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 4. Nominations.** All candidates in a CFF election must be CFF members in good standing and must be nominated. During the month of June the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than two of whom may be members of the Board. The Membership Chair shall immediately notify the committee members 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 August 1st.

- (a) The Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office, and position on the Board to be filled in a given election, and, after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Membership Chair in writing.
- (b) Upon receipt of the nominating Committee's report, the Membership Chair shall before September 1st notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated.
- (c) Additional nominations may be made in writing to the Membership Chair signed by any five members in good standing provided that the person so nominated shall present to the Membership Chair a written statement signifying willingness to be a candidate at the time of the nomination. Such additional nominations must be received by the Membership Chair on or before October 1st. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.

**ARTICLE V**  
**Committees**

- SECTION 1.** The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the CFF in such matters as competitions, matches, 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 President with the Board's approval or by the Board to aid it on particular projects.
- SECTION 2.** Any committee appointment 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 services have been terminated.

**ARTICLE VI**  
**Discipline**

- SECTION 1. American Kennel Club Suspension.** Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the American Kennel Club automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of the CFF for a like period. This type of suspension will also apply to any member suspended by another country's national kennel club.
- SECTION 2. Charges.** Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the CFF. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Recording Secretary together with a deposit of \$50 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing. The Recording 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 CFF. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the CFF it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date of a hearing by the Board not less than 3 weeks nor more than 6 weeks thereafter. The Recording Secretary shall promptly send one copy of the charges to the accused member by registered mail together with a notice of the hearing and an assurance that the defendant may appear in person in his own defense and bring witnesses if he wishes.
- 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 complainant and defendant, the Board may by a majority vote of those present suspend the defendant from all privileges of the CFF for not more than six months from the date of the hearing. And, if it deems that punishment insufficient, it may also recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his fellow-members at the ensuing CFF meeting which considers the Board's recommendation. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its finding shall be put in written form and filed with the Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the Board's decision and penalty, if any.

**SECTION 4. Expulsion.** Expulsion of a member from the CFF may be accomplished only at a meeting of the CFF following a Board hearing and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article. Such proceedings may occur at a regular or special meeting of the CFF to be held within 60 days but not earlier than 30 days after the date of the Board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's finding and recommendation, and shall invite the defendant or his representative to speak in his own behalf if he wishes. The members shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds 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 By-Laws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Recording Secretary signed by 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 Recording Secretary for a vote within three months of the date when the petition was received by the Recording Secretary.

**SECTION 2.** The Constitution and By-Laws may be amended at any time provided a copy of the proposed amendment has been mailed by the Recording Secretary to each member, accompanied by a ballot for the proposed amendment. The accompanying notice shall specify a date not less than 30 days after the date of the mailing, by which date the ballots must be returned to the Recording Secretary to be counted. A favorable vote of 2/3 of the members in good standing whose ballots are returned within the time limit shall be required to effect any such amendment.

## **ARTICLE VIII Dissolution**

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

## **ARTICLE IX Parliamentary Authority**

**SECTION 1.** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, newly Revised, shall govern the CFF 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 CFF may adopt.