

## ARTICLE I

### NAME AND OBJECTIVES

**SECTION 1.** The name of the club shall be **LONG ISLAND GOLDEN RETRIEVER CLUB, INC.** Hereinafter in this document, the Long Island Golden Retriever Club, Inc. will be referred to as the Club, and references to it will be capitalized.

**SECTION 2.** The objectives of the Club shall be as follows:

- (a) to promote the soundness of the breed and the other natural qualities of the Golden Retriever;
- (b) to inform and educate members and the public in all matters relating to the breeding and rearing of the pure bred Golden Retriever to accomplish the objectives of paragraph (a);
- (c) to encourage members and breeders to accept the Breed Standard of the Golden Retriever Club of America, as approved by the American Kennel Club, as the only standard of excellence by which the Golden Retriever shall be judged;
- (d) to do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging participation in and sportsmanlike conduct at dog shows, field trials, agility trials, tracking and obedience trials;
- (e) to conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows, field trials, agility trials, tracking and obedience trials under the rules of the American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 3.** The club shall not be conducted for profit and no part of any profit or remainder or residue from receipts or donations to the Club shall inure to the benefit of any member or individual.

## ARTICLE II

### MEMBERSHIP

**SECTION 1. Eligibility.** Membership shall be open to all persons who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club and who subscribe to the objectives of the Club. Regular membership shall be open to all such persons seventeen (17) years of age and older. Junior membership shall be open to all such persons eight (8) years of age and older but have not reached their seventeenth birthday. Junior members shall automatically become regular members on their seventeenth birthday for the remainder of the current calendar year with no further payment of dues.

**SECTION 2. Dues.** At each annual meeting the Board of Directors shall fix the amount of the annual dues for the ensuing year. Dues shall be payable on the first day of January for each year. the treasurer shall send each member a statement of his dues for the ensuing year.

Charter Members shall be considered members in good standing without payment of dues.

**SECTION 3. Voting.** Regular members whose dues are paid for the current year shall be entitled to voting privileges at any club meeting. Junior members shall carry no voting privileges. Charter members shall carry no voting privileges unless annual dues have been paid.

**SECTION 4. Approval for Membership.** In order to be considered for membership, one of the following requirements must be met by prospective members:

1. Attend two club meetings, or
2. work at two club events, or
3. Attend one club meeting and work at one club event.

Each applicant for membership shall apply on a Board approved application form, which the applicant may obtain from the Secretary. The applicant agrees to abide by the Constitution, the By-Laws and Code of Ethics of the Club, as well as the rules of the American Kennel Club.

Applications shall be submitted to the Board of Directors, and each application shall be acted upon at the first such meeting of the Board of Directors to occur after the filing of said application with the Secretary.

The applicant shall state the name and address of the applicant. It shall also list the two membership requirements that the applicant completed. It must also carry the signed endorsement of one member in good standing in the Club.

The completed application form shall be returned to the Secretary with the appropriate dues. Applications shall be submitted to the Board of Directors, and each application shall be acted upon at the first such meeting of the Board of Directors to occur after filing said application with the Secretary.

Favorable votes of a majority of the Board of Directors shall be required to accept an applicant. The Secretary shall notify the applicant of his or her acceptance or rejection.

- a. Members accepted after October 1st are not required to pay dues for the following calendar year. In the event that an applicant's membership is rejected, the applicant has the right to request a hearing before the Board of Directors.
- b. Prospective Junior members applying for membership are required to participate in two (2) Club functions, not necessarily meetings, and shall request an application from the Club Secretary.

**SECTION 5. Termination of Membership.** Membership may be terminated:

- a. 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. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Club and become incurred on the first day of the calendar year.
- b. By lapsing. Dues are to be paid on or before January 1st for the current fiscal year. A member shall be considered lapsed and automatically terminated when a member's dues remain unpaid on the first day of April of the fiscal year. Members whose memberships have lapsed may be reinstated by payment of current year's dues prior to December 31st. Former members whose memberships have lapsed beyond December 31st must apply for membership in accordance with ARTICLE II, SECTION 4.
- c. By expulsion. In accordance with ARTICLE VII, SECTION 4.

## ARTICLE III

### MEETINGS

**SECTION 1. Club Meetings.** Regular meetings of the Club shall be held on Long Island in the months of January, March, May, June, September and November. Hour and place for such Regular Club meetings shall be designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of such Regular Club meetings shall be mailed to each member by the Secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the Regular Club Meeting. The quorum for such Regular Club meetings shall be ten (10) percent of the regular members in good standing, but at no time shall the quorum be fewer than fifteen (15) regular members.

**SECTION 2. Special Club Meetings.** Special Club meetings may be called by the President, or by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, or by the Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by ten regular members of the Club. Special meetings of the Club shall be held on Long Island and at such time and place as may be designated by the person or persons authorized to call such meetings.

Written notice of such meetings shall be mailed to each member by the secretary at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting and said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business may transacted thereat. The quorum for such meetings shall be ten (10) percent of the regular members in good standing, but at no time shall the quorum be fewer than fifteen (15) regular members.

**SECTION 3. Board Meetings.** Regular board meetings of the Board of directors shall be held on Long Island in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. Hour and place for such Regular Board meetings shall be designated by Board of Directors. Written notice of such Regular Board meetings shall be mailed by the Secretary to each Board member at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for such Regular Board meetings shall be (5) Board members.

**SECTION 4. Special Board Meetings.** Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President at any time or by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three (3) members of the Board. Such special meetings shall be held on Long Island at such hour and place as may be designated by the person authorized herein to call such meetings. Each board member shall be notified by the Secretary at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of said meeting. The quorum for such meetings shall be (5) Board members.

## ARTICLE IV

### OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

**SECTION 1A.** Board of Directors. Management of the affairs of the Club shall be entrusted to a Board of nine (9) directors, all of whom shall be members in good standing. Each year, three (3) directors shall be elected to three (3) year terms of office at the Club's annual meeting as provided in ARTICLE V.

**SECTION 1B.** Eligibility for the Board of Directors. Only one person (1) from any individual household may be nominated to serve at any one time on 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 with regard to the Club and its meetings and the Board and its meetings.

- a. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Club and the Board, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of President in addition to those specified in the Constitution and By-Laws.
- b. The Vice President shall have the powers and exercise the duties of the President in the event of the absence or incapacity of the President, and assist the President in the performance of his/her duties as directed by the Board.
- c. The Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the club and of the Board and all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club. He/she shall have charge of correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify officers and Directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club with their addresses and carry out such duties as are prescribed in the Constitution and By-Laws.
- d. The Treasurer shall notify new members of their approval for membership and shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club and receipt thereof. He/she shall deposit in a bank satisfactory to the Board , in the name of the Club. His/her books shall be open at all times to inspection by the Board and he/she shall report to every Board and General meeting the condition of the Club's finances and at the annual meeting he/she shall render an account of all monies expended during the previous fiscal year. The treasurer's book shall be audited prior to the Annual meeting in accordance with ARTICLE V, SECTION 1.

**SECTION 3.** Election of Officers. The officers designated in SECTION 2 of this Article shall be elected annually by a majority of the Board of Directors from among their numbers at a meeting of the Board which shall be held immediately following the election for Directors at the annual meeting. After submission of nominations, voting shall be by secret ballot.

**SECTION 4.** Vacancies. All vacancies occurring on the Board or in any office during the year shall be filled for the remainder of the official year by a majority vote of the Directors of the Board at its first meeting following the creation if such vacancies. At the next annual election,

the membership shall elect directors as required to fill the unexpired terms created by such vacancies.

**SECTION 5. Terms of Office.** All Officers and Directors shall serve in their respective capacities from the time of their election until their successors are elected. However, no person may serve on the Board of Directors for more than six (6) consecutive years and no person may hold any one particular office for more than two (2) consecutive years.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **THE CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTION OF DIRECTORS, NOMINATIONS**

**SECTION 1. Club Year.** The Club's official year and the Club's fiscal year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the elections at the annual meeting and shall continue through the elections at the next annual meeting. The Club's books shall be closed not more than thirty (30) days nor less than ten (10 ) days prior to the annual meeting, at which time the books shall be presented for audit to an auditing committee appointed by the Board of Directors: no member of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 2. Annual Meeting.** The annual meeting shall be held in the month of November, at which Directors shall be elected by secret, written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with SECTION 4 of this Article.

**SECTION 3. Elections.** From the nominated candidates for the positions on the Board of Directors, the candidates who receive the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected.

**SECTION 4. Nominations.** No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been duly nominated.

At least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting the Board of Directors shall select a nominating committee of five (5) regular members and a first and second alternate (who shall act only in the absence of one or two of the regular committee members), no more than one (1) of whom shall be a member of the Board. The Secretary shall notify the committee members and alternates of their selection. The Board of Directors shall select one (1) of the regular committee members to act as chairman of the committee, with the exception of the Board member, and it shall be his/her duty to call a meeting of the committee members which shall be at least fifty (50) days prior to the annual meeting. A quorum of five (5) members of the committee shall be required to transact business.

- a. The committee member shall nominate at least one (1) but no more than two candidates for each vacancy on the Board of Directors designating the terms of office for which each shall run, and after obtaining the consent of the nominees, the committee shall report their nominations (accepted and declined) to the Secretary in writing, which report shall be made at least forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting.

- b. Upon receipt of the nominating committee's report, the Secretary shall notify each member in writing of the candidates so nominated, which notice shall be mailed forty (40) days prior to the annual meeting.
- c. Additional nominations may be made by written petition to the Secretary signed by five (5) regular members, The petition must be filed with the Secretary at least twenty (20) days prior to the annual meeting and must be accompanied by each such nominees written acceptance of the nomination. (However, no person who has declined the committee's nomination may be nominated by petition.) Thereupon, the Secretary shall notify each member of all persons duly notified. Such notice shall be incorporated in the call for Annual Meeting.
- d. No nominations shall be accepted from the floor of the Annual Meeting or in any manner other than herein specified.

**SECTION 5.** Delegate to the Golden Retriever Club of America, Inc. (GRCA) The Board of Directors, shall prior to the May General Meeting, at such time as the Club is a member of the GRCA select at least two (2) candidates for the position of delegate to the GRCA. The names of said candidates shall be in the call for the May General Meeting. Additional nominees may be made by written permission to the Secretary signed by five (5) regular members. The petition must be filed with the Secretary at least fifteen (15) days prior to the June General Meeting and must be accompanied by each such nominee's written acceptance of the nomination. Thereupon, the Secretary shall notify each member of all persons duly nominated. At the June General Meeting, the membership shall elect the delegate for the ensuing GRCA year.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **COMMITTEES**

**SECTION 1.** The board shall each year appoint special committees to advance the work of the club in such matters as dog shows, field trials, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, membership and other fields which may be well served by committees. Such committees shall always be subject to the final authority of the Board. Additional special committees may also be appointed by the President to aid on particular projects. The Club President shall be a "member ex-officio" of all committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **DISCIPLINE**

**SECTION 1.** American Kennel Club (AKC) Suspension. Any member who is suspended from the privileges of the AKC shall automatically be suspended from the privileges this Club for a like period.

**SECTION 2. Charges.** Any member may prefer charges against another member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club, its members or the breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a deposit of \$10 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not substantiated. The Secretary shall promptly notify the Board which shall meet and fix a date of a Board hearing not less than three (3) weeks nor more than six (6) weeks thereafter. The Secretary shall promptly send one copy to the accused by certified mail together with a notice of the hearing. The defendant may personally appear in his/her own defense and bring witnesses if he/she wishes.

**SECTION 3. Board Hearing.** If so desired by the parties involved, they may be represented by counsel. Notice of such representation shall be submitted to the Secretary at least one (1) week prior to the date of the hearing. Should the charges be substantiated after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the Board may by majority vote of those present suspend from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing. 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. The suspended member has the right to appeal to the General membership. Notice of the appeal shall be in the Call of the General Meeting. A simple majority of the votes cast shall be required to nullify the action of the Board.

**SECTION 4. Expulsion.** Expulsion of a member from the Club may only be accomplished at a meeting of the Club following a board hearing and upon the Board's recommendation. Such proceeding may occur at a regular or special meeting of the Club to be held within sixty (60) days but not earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of the board's recommendation of expulsion. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his/her behalf, though no additional evidence shall be taken at this meeting. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendations and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his/her own behalf. The meeting shall then vote in secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and voting at this meeting shall be required for expulsion. Notice of such a hearing shall be incorporated in the call of said meeting.

**SECTION 5. Board Expulsion.** Any Board member absent from three (3) consecutive Board Meetings may be removed from the Board of Directors by a majority of the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1.** This Constitution and By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting or special meeting called for this purpose; but the proposed amendments must be embodied in the call for any such meeting in accordance with ARTICLE III.

## ARTICLE IX

### DISSOLUTION

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

## ARTICLE X

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

**SECTION 1. Club Meetings.** At Club meetings, the order of business so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of the last meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Reports of the Committees
- Election of Delegate to the GRCA (at June meeting in accordance with ARTICLE V, SECTION 5.)
- Election of Board Members and Officers (at Annual Meeting)
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

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

- Minutes of the last meeting
- Report of the President
- Report of the Secretary
- Report of the Treasurer
- Reports of the Committees
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

**SECTION 3.** Except otherwise specified in this Constitution and By-Laws, Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised) shall govern.