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# ROCKY MOUNTAIN BORZOI CLUB

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## CONSTITUTION

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### ARTICLE I

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#### NAME AND OBJECTIVES

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##### SECTION 1

The name of the Club shall be the *Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club*

##### SECTION 2

The objectives of the Club shall be:

- A. To encourage and promote quality in the breeding of purebred Borzoi and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection;
- B. To urge all members and breeders to accept the standard of excellence by which the Borzoi shall be judged;
- C. To do all in its power to protect and advance the interest of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike conduct at all conformation and performance competitions, as well as, club sponsored functions;
- D. To conduct licensed and sanctioned specialty shows, obedience trials, lure coursing trials, and any other event for which this club is eligible, under the rules of the American Kennel Club, and other performance events in accordance with American Kennel Club policies on non-AKC performance events.

##### SECTION 3

The Club 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 inure 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 Constitution and Bylaws as may be required to carry out these objectives.

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BY-LAWS

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ARTICLE I

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MEMBERSHIP

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SECTION 1

Eligibility

- A. There shall be four (4) types of membership; one junior membership and three (3) additional membership categories open to all persons 18 years of age or older in good standing with the American Kennel Club, who subscribe to the purposes of this club. While membership is unrestricted as to residence, the club's primary purpose is to be representative of the breeders and exhibitors in its immediate area.
1. *Junior Member* - shall be open to all nine (9) through seventeen (17) years old;
    - a. Junior members must be in good standing with the American Kennel Club and subscribe to the objectives of the Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club.
    - b. Junior members shall not have the right to vote or hold office.
    - c. A Junior member may automatically convert to regular membership upon reaching their eighteenth birthday.
    - d. Junior members will be eligible for all special awards given by the Club and welcomed to participate in all Club activities and as spectators at all general membership meetings with a voice but no vote.
  2. *Individual Member* - shall be open to all persons eighteen (18) years of age or over, who are in good standing with the American Kennel Club who subscribe to the purposes of this Club. An Individual Member enjoys all club privileges including the right to vote and hold office.
  3. *Household (Dual) Member* - shall be open to two (2) adults in the same residence, sharing good standing with the American Kennel Club and subscribe to the purposes of this Club. An adult family member cannot be automatically added to an established Individual Membership, unless they are already a member. An Individual Membership can be converted to a Family Membership conditioned on the prospective member meeting the stipulated requirements for all new members. If the family member addition is approved by majority vote, the dues for that membership will be adjusted accordingly on the same timetable as that for all new members.
  4. *Associate Member* - shall be available to any individual who wishes to receive the Clubs' newsletter, and be on the various news lists that the regular membership may have. This individual needs only to apply for Associate membership and be approved by majority vote. An Associate Member may not hold office or vote on any matters of the club.
- B. Applicants for full membership must attend two (2) Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club functions, *one of which must be a meeting*, and be approved by a majority vote.

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**MEMBERSHIP (CONT)**

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**SECTION 2**

Dues

- A. Membership dues shall be \$20.00 per year for Individuals, \$30.00 per year for Household Members, and \$15.00 per year for Associates, payable on or before January 1st of each year.
- B. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current year.
- C. New members, who pay after October 1st, do not have to pay for the following year.
- D. During the month of November, the Treasurer shall place a reminder for dues to be paid for the upcoming year on the website maintained for the Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club membership, and in its newsletter or other news lists maintained for the membership. this November dues announcement shall constitute notification.
- E. Junior membership dues shall be the same as that of the individual membership, except when either or both parent(s) are members in good standing and reside at the same address in which case, the dues shall be one half (\$10.00) of the regular membership dues. In this exception, no separate club bulletins or any other club matter shall be provided to said Junior Member.
- F. Dues will not be accepted until all outstanding debts to the Club are paid in full.

**SECTION 3**

Election to Membership

- A. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form as approved by the Board of Directors, which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by this Constitution and the rules of the American Kennel Club. The application shall state the name, address, and any other information as the Board of Directors may direct. It shall carry the endorsement of two members who are in good standing.
- B. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.
- C. All applications are to be filed with the Secretary and each application is to be read at the first meeting of the club following its receipt.
- D. At the club meeting following the first reading, the prospective member will be voted upon.
  - 1. Affirmative of 2/3 of the members present shall be required to elect the applicant, providing a quorum is present.
  - 2. Voting shall be via secret ballot at that meeting.
- E. Applicants for full membership must attend two (2) Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club functions, one of which must be a meeting. The applicant must be present for the second reading and the vote.
- F. The vote for membership may be extended to a future meeting by approval of the BOD.
- G. Any individual whose application for membership has been declined may not reapply for membership within six (6) months from the date for which the application was declined and must, again, meet new member requirements.

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MEMBERSHIP (CONT)

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**SECTION 4**

Termination of Membership

Memberships may be terminated:

- A. By resignation.
  - 1. Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Secretary
  - 2. no member may resign while in debt to the Club.
  - 3. Dues obligations are considered a debt to the Club and they become incurred on the first day of each fiscal year.
  - 4. Obligations other than dues are considered a debt to the club and must be paid in full prior to resignation.
- B. By lapsing.
  - 1. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such Member's dues remain unpaid thirty (30) days after January due date.
  - 2. The Board may grant an addition of up to sixty (60) days of grace to such delinquent members.
  - 3. 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.
- C. By expulsion.
  - 1. A membership may be terminated by expulsion as provided for in Article VI of these Bylaws.

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ARTICLE II

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MEETINGS AND VOTING

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**SECTION 1**

Club Meetings

- A. Meetings of the Club shall be held within the greater Denver area at least six (6) times a year, at a place, date, and hour designated by the Board of Directors. Notice of each such meeting shall be made available to members via electronic means (email, the Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club web page, current electronic news lists. i.e. yahoo and google groups, etc., at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.
- B. The quorum shall be twenty percent (20%) of the membership authorized to vote.

**SECTION 2**

Special Club Meetings

- A. 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 meeting 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. The petition may be delivered to the Secretary by written or electronic means, and the Secretary will notify the Board upon its receipt.
- B. Such special meetings shall be held within the greater Denver metro area at such place, date and hour as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such meetings. Notice of such a meeting shall be made available to members via electronic means at least five (5) days and not more than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. Said notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other Club business shall be transacted.
- C. A quorum of such meetings shall be twenty percent (20%) of the voting members in good standing.

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MEETINGS AND VOTING (CONT)

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**SECTION 3**

Board Meetings

- A. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President and shall be called by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least three (3) members of the Board. Notice of such a meeting shall be made available to members of the Board via electronic means: email, a notice posted to the Board's specific Yahoo! Group, or both. Meetings shall be held as issues arise requiring the Board's attention, or otherwise deemed appropriate by the Board. These meetings will occur within the greater Denver area at such date, hour, and place as may be designated by the person or persons authorized herein to call such a meeting, or such meetings may be similarly conducted by telephone, digital or electronic means. Any such request shall state the purpose of the meeting and no other business shall be transacted. The Board is expected to arrive at a decision for action, or resolution of an issue, within seven (7) calendar days of the meeting. Failing to achieve the necessary decision or resolution requires the Board to notify the membership of this failure and the issue that resulted in its inaction.
- B. A quorum for such meetings shall be a majority of the Board.

**SECTION 4**

Voting

Each Individual or Household member in good standing whose dues are paid for the current year, except Junior Members, and who has attended at least two meetings in the previous twelve (12) months, excluding the December meeting and Christmas Party, 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.

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ARTICLE III

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OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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**SECTION 1**

Board of Directors

- A. The Board shall be comprised of the President, the Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, three (3) other persons, and the immediate past President, all of whom are members in good standing and who are eligible to vote. The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for one (1) year terms at the annual meeting as provided in Article IV and shall serve until their successors are elected.
- B. 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 with regard to the Club and its membership meetings and the Board and its meetings.

Duties

**The President:**

- A. Shall preside at all of the meetings of the Club and of the Board of Directors, and shall have the duties and powers normally appurtenant to the office of the President in addition to those partially specified in these bylaws.
- B. The President is limited to two (2) consecutive one (1) year terms.
- C. The President shall also automatically serve as a member of the Board of Directors for one (1) term immediately following their presidential term.

**The Vice-President:**

Shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in the case of the President's absence, incapacity, or death.

**The Secretary:**

Shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and of the Board of Directors and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club. They shall have charge of correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify applicants of their election to or rejection of membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed by these bylaws.

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**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS (CONT)**

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**The Treasurer:**

- A. Shall collect and receive all money due or belonging to the Club. The Treasurer shall deposit same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club.
- B. The Treasurer's book shall be open at all times for inspection by the Board and he shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt and payment not before reported
- C. At the annual meeting they shall render an account of all money received and expended during the previous fiscal year.
- D. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Board of Directors shall determine.
- E. Additionally, the Treasurer shall keep a membership roster of the Club, their current membership status, and contact information.

**SECTION 3**

Vacancies

- A. The President will call a meeting of the Board specifically for the purpose of filling a vacancy immediately upon notification of a vacancy.
- B. 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 the members of the Board at its first regular meeting following the creation of such a vacancy, or at a special board meeting called for that purpose. The Board will fill this vacancy within ten (10) calendar days from the time the President was notified of the vacancy.
- C. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled automatically by the Vice-President. The resulting vacancy in the office of Vice-President shall be filled by the Board as indicated for other mid-term vacancies.



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ARTICLE IV

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CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, AND ELECTIONS

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**SECTION 1**

Club Year

- A. The Club's Fiscal Year shall begin on the first (1st) day of January and end on the thirty-first (31st) day of December.
- B. The Club's Official Year shall begin immediately at the conclusion of the election of new officers at the annual meeting, and shall continue through the conclusion of the election at the next annual meeting.

**SECTION 2**

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting shall be held in the month of December, at which Officers and Directors for the ensuing year shall be elected by secret, written ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Section 4 of this Article. They shall take office immediately upon conclusion of the election and each retiring officer shall turn over to his successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within thirty (30) days after the election.

**SECTION 3**

Nominations

- A. No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated.
- B. During the month of August, the President shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) members and two (2) alternates, not more than one of the five of whom may be a member of the Board.
- C. The President shall name a Chairman for the Committee and it shall be the Chair's duty to conduct committee meeting(s) which shall be held on or before October 1.
  - 1. The Committee shall nominate one (1) candidate for each office and three (3) candidates for the three (3) other positions on the Board.
    - a. After securing the consent of each person so nominated, the committee shall immediately report their nominations to the Secretary in writing or via electronic means..
  - 2. Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Secretary shall, before October 15th, notify each RMBC member in writing, email, or other electronic means, of the candidates so nominated.
  - 3. Additional nominations may be made at the November meeting by any member in attendance, (*nominations by letter, email or phone are not acceptable*), and provided that the person so nominated accepts the candidacy when his name is proposed.
  - 4. No person may be a candidate for more than one (1) position.
  - 5. Nominations may not be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided in this Section.

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D. CLUB YEAR, ANNUAL MEETING, AND ELECTIONS (CONT)

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**SECTION 4**

Elections

- A. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected.
- B. The three (3) nominated candidates for other positions on the Board (Directors) who receive the greatest number of votes for such positions shall be declared elected.
- C. There shall be no votes cast by absentee ballots or proxy.
- D. Eligible voting members must be present at the annual meeting to vote for candidates running for office. An eligible voting member is one who has met the criteria specified in Article II, Section 4, Voting.

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ARTICLE V

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COMMITTEES

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**SECTION 1**

Committees

Each year, the President may appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as specialty shows, obedience trials, lure coursing trials, and other performance events, trophies, annual prizes, membership, and other club sponsored events and activities 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 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 or electronic notice to the appointee. The Board may appoint successors to those persons whose services have been terminated.

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ARTICLE VI

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DISCIPLINE

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**SECTION 1**

American Kennel Club Suspension

Any member who is suspended from any of the privileges of the American Kennel Club shall automatically be suspended from the privileges of this Club for a like period. When the Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club becomes aware of a member's suspension from the American Kennel Club, the member will be sent a registered letter notifying them of their immediate suspension from the Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club by the Secretary acting under instruction from the Board.

**SECTION 2**

Charges

- A. Any member may prefer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed.
  1. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary, together with a deposit of **\$25.00**, which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the Board following a hearing.
  2. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each member of the Board, or present them at a Board Meeting.
  3. 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.
    - a. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct that would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction.
    - b. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges, it shall fix a date of a hearing by the Board, not less than three (3) weeks or more than six (6) weeks thereafter.
  4. The 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 personally appear in his own defense and bring witnesses if he wishes.

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**DISCIPLINE (CONT)**

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**SECTION 3**

Board Hearing

- A. 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.
- B. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by both the complainant and the defendant, the Board may, by majority vote of those present, suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club for not more than six (6) months from the date of the hearing.
  - 1. In such case, the suspension shall not restrict the defendant's right to appear before his fellow members at the ensuing Club meeting that considers the Board's recommendation.
- C. Immediately after the Board has reached a decision, its findings shall be put in written form and filed with the Secretary.
- D. The Secretary, in turn, shall notify each of the parties of the Board's decision and penalty, if any.
- E. For particularly egregious offenses, the Board reserves the right to recommend expulsion to the membership and to notify the American Kennel Club of its action.

**SECTION 4**

Expulsion

- A. Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at a meeting of the Club following a Board hearing and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this Article, providing a quorum of the eligible voting members are present. Such proceedings 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.
- B. The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his own behalf, though no evidence shall be taken at this meeting.
- C. The President shall read the charges and the Board's findings and recommendations, and shall invite the defendant, if present, to speak in his own behalf if he wishes.
- D. Eligible voting members shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion.
  - 1. A two thirds (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.

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ARTICLE VII

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AMENDMENTS

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**SECTION 1**

Amendments to the Constitution:

- A. May be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written petition addressed to the Secretary, signed by twenty percent (20%) of the membership in good standing.
- B. The procedure for amending the Constitution is as follows:
  - 1. The petition to amend, once received by the President, will be submitted to a committee appointed by the President.
  - 2. The committee established to review the proposed amendment will be comprised of three (3) people, at least one of whom is drawn from the petitioning group to serve as the proposed amendment's advocate.
  - 3. This committee will review the proposed amendment and submit a consensus report to the Board with its recommendations.
  - 4. The Board will promptly review the consensus report submitted by the committee.
  - 5. The Secretary will submit the Board's review and recommendations to the membership for a vote within three months of the date when the initial petition for amendment was received by the Secretary.

**SECTION 2**

- A. The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting, or special meeting called for the purpose, by a two thirds (2/3) secret vote of the members present and voting at any regular meeting called for that purpose.
- B. The proposed amendments must have been included in the notice of the meeting, and such notice must have been provided to each member at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting.
- C. Notification will be provided to the membership through announcements on the Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club's website, the membership Yahoo! Group, the newsletter, and by individual email.

**SECTION 3**

No amendment to the constitution bylaws that is adopted by the club shall become effective until it has been approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club.

**SECTION 4**

The Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club reserves the right to establish standing rules to manage the operations of the Club.

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ARTICLE VIII

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DISSOLUTION

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**SECTION 1**

Dissolution

- A. The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than two thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing.
- B. 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 any proceeds thereof, nor any assets of the Club shall be distributed to any members of the Club.
- C. After payment of the 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.

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ARTICLE IX

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

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**SECTION 1**

At meetings of the Club, 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 Committees  
Election of Officers and Board (at annual meeting)  
Election of new members  
Unfinished business  
New business  
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:

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



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ARTICLE X

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PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

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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 this Constitution and any other special rules of order the Club may adopt.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Good Standing:**

A member whose dues are current, faces no disciplinary action arising from charges within the Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club, is not currently suspended from the Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club, and is in good standing with the American Kennel Club is considered to be in "good standing."

**Eligible Voting Member:**

A member in good standing who has attended at least two meetings of the Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club in the previous twelve (12) months, excluding the December meeting and Christmas party.

**Electronic Means:**

Several electronic means are available. For the purpose of this document Electronic means will mean; Email, *membership only* news lists established by a BOD appointee to provide news to the membership.