

Bylaws of the North Texas Battle Group

Adopted 08 December, 2002

I. SCOPE

- A. The purpose of the North Texas Battle Group (also referred to as "The Club" elsewhere in this document) is to have fun through camaraderie and practice of the hobby of radio-controlled warship combat. The North Texas Battle Group is a private club and any person with a desire to have fun and the willingness to display good sportsmanship is welcome to apply for membership.
- B. Use of symbols, flags, or other images: The North Texas Battle Group will take no stance on any political or social issue or topic. The use or display of any symbol, flag, or other image by club members at club events will be done for the sole purpose of accurate depiction of historical events and artifacts only. The North Texas Battle Group does not promote or condone any group, policy, or viewpoint that may be represented by such symbols, flags, or other images.

II. CHANGES TO THIS DOCUMENT

- A. This edition becomes effective 08 June, 1999 and remains in effect until superceded by a subsequent revision.
- B. Any Regular Member of the North Texas Battle Group may submit a change request to these bylaws.
- C. Change requests must be submitted to the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, or Secretary, in writing, and include the following information:
 - 1. Version and date of the bylaws version that is proposed to be changed. This is required, to make sure that everybody is dealing with the current version of the bylaws.
 - 2. Specific paragraph number(s) that it is proposed be changed.
 - 3. Name of the individual proposing the change.
 - 4. Background and purpose behind the proposal.
 - 5. Specific wording of the proposed change, in terms of what words to strike out and/or what words to add.
- D. Any officer of The Club may be enlisted to assist a member draft a bylaw change request, and will make an honest good-faith effort to assist the member with interpretation, wording, location of applicable sections, and other associated matters.
- E. The change proposal must be published in The Club's official newsletter and voted on at the next Regular Meeting, or by absentee via mail or by telephone.
- F. An absentee ballot will be published in a newsletter prior to the rules meeting. Those unable to attend the meeting may fill out the ballot and contact The Club Secretary prior to the rules meeting, as stated above.

- G. A quorum of voting members, as defined in Section IV, must vote in favor of a rule change for the change to be adopted.

III. MEMBERSHIP

A. Eligibility

- 1. No person may be excluded from membership in the North Texas Battle Group, for reasons of race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, or advanced age.
- 2. Minimum age for membership is 18 years.

B. Types of membership

1. Regular Member

- a. A Regular Member is any recognized member who possesses one or more ships that have passed The Club's Technical Certification, as described in The Club's *Rules of Construction*.
- b. All Regular Members, whose memberships are in good standing, are entitled to one vote in all matters pertaining to The Club.
- c. All Regular Members are eligible to receive all benefits of being a member of The Club.

2. Associate Member

- a. Associate Memberships may be issued to individuals who own no technically certified ships.

3. Family Membership

- a. A Family Membership may be granted to all members of a co-resident family, who share a mailing address.
- b. Each Family Membership is entitled to two votes in all matters pertaining to The Club. Family membership votes may be cast in any way that the member family chooses.
- c. One representative of a family membership may cast all votes that the membership is entitled to - there is no requirement that additional family members be present.
- d. Families must own at least two technically certified ships to be eligible for a Family Membership.

C. All members must agree to the following:

- 1. Have as much fun as possible.
- 2. Abide by club rules.
- 3. Practice good sportsmanship.
- 4. Read and understand the North Texas Battle Group Rules, including this document, the Rules of Construction, Rules of Combat, and Technical Appendix.
- 5. Sign a copy of the Release of Claims on file with The Club Secretary.

- D. A member is considered to be in good standing, and eligible to participate in club activities, including voting on club business, under all of the following conditions:
 - 1. Their application for membership has been approved by a simple majority of The Club membership present at a Regular Meeting.
 - 2. The member pays any dues or other assessments payable to The Club in full.
 - 3. Their membership is not currently under suspension.
- E. Suspension or revocation of membership
 - 1. Membership in the North Texas Battle Group may be revoked by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the full current membership of The Club.
 - 2. Conditions or actions that may be considered cause for suspension or revocation:
 - a. Repeated refusal to follow club rules, policies, safety regulations, or bylaws.
 - b. Unpaid dues, or other fees that may be assessed by The Club under the authority of these bylaws.
 - c. Other conduct that is considered detrimental to the operation, well being, or image of the North Texas Battle Group.
 - 3. The CO may authorize refund in full or in part, of any current dues already paid by a member, upon membership revocation.

IV. QUORUM

- A. A quorum is defined as:
 - 1. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the entire eligible membership, for purposes of a bylaw change or membership revocation.
 - 2. $\frac{2}{3}$ of the current eligible membership, for purposes of changing any Rules of Construction.
 - 3. A plurality of the current eligible membership, for purposes of changing any Rules of Combat.
 - 4. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total eligible membership, or a plurality of the Board of Admiralty, for any other business.

V. DUES AND FEES

- A. The North Texas Battle Group reserves the right to assess dues to its members, as well as reasonable fees to all participants of club events, to help cover the cost of club operations.
- B. Dues cover a period from January 1 through December 31 of a calendar year.
- C. Dues will be prorated on a monthly basis for the remainder of the year, for members joining after the start of a calendar year.

VI. OFFICIAL SPOKESPERSON

- A. Only the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, or their designated representatives are authorized to represent The Club for the purpose of making arrangements or obligations for The Club.

VII. CLUB OFFICERS AND BOARD OF ADMIRALTY

- A. Commanding Officer (CO)
 - 1. Purpose: Watch over The Club, taking extreme care to maintain the spirit and morale of The Club.
 - 2. The previous year's Executive Officer (XO) is automatically promoted to CO on January 1. If the XO is unable to fulfill the duties of CO then an election will be held for the position of CO.
 - 3. Duties and Responsibilities
 - a. Responsible for the overall activities of the organization.
 - b. Has authority to override decisions of Executive Officer, Technical Officers and Safety Officers, but if in so doing the CO must bring the issue to a club vote at the next regular meeting.
 - c. Report to the general membership, at the Annual Meeting of The Club, on the general state and condition of The Club.
 - d. Vice-Chairman of The Club Board of Admiralty.
- B. Executive Officer (XO)
 - 1. Purpose: To manage The Club operations and to become intimately familiar with The Club rules and operations.
 - 2. Elected by a simple majority of members present at the Annual Meeting.
 - 3. Term of office will be one year, or until the end of the current calendar year, whichever comes first.
 - 4. Automatically promoted to CO on January 1, of year following tenure as XO.
 - 5. The XO is a member of the Board of Admiralty.
 - 6. Duties and Responsibilities:
 - a. Ensures all organizational commitments are fulfilled.
 - b. Has authority to break ties between Technical Officers on issues where 2 officers are required to agree.
 - c. Maintains control of the use of radio frequencies.
 - d. Acts on behalf of the CO in the absence of the CO.
- C. Safety Officer (SO)
 - 1. Purpose: To ensure that safe conditions are maintained for all persons present at club events and activities.
 - 2. All members present at a meet responsible for the safe execution of our hobby. The presence of a Safety Officer does not absolve any person from the requirement to behave in a safe and responsible manner.
 - 3. The SO is a member of The Club Board of Admiralty.

4. Duties and Responsibilities:
 - a. The SO is responsible to ensure that all ships are constructed and operated within the policies and rules established for The Club.
 - b. The SO is responsible to ensure that general safe conduct is observed by all participants and spectators at club events.
- D. Technical Officer (TO)
 1. Purpose: To inspect all warships and associated equipment and ensure said equipment complies with club rules, and to enforce club rules and to issue certification of ships' compliance with The Club's Rules of Construction.
 2. The TO may issue waivers to ships not in strict compliance, where non-compliance does not give the ship an advantage.
 3. The TO is a member of The Club Board of Admiralty.
 4. Duties and Responsibilities:
 - a. Inspect all ships for compliance to club rules and construction specifications and issues certification of ships.
 - b. Authorized to approve minor waivers when certifying ships provided that both Technical Officers agree on the waiver. The XO will break a tie vote. The CO may override the vote as defined in this section.
- E. Club Secretary
 1. Purpose: To maintain all minutes and other records.
 2. The Club Secretary is a member of The Club Board of Admiralty.
 3. Duties and Responsibilities:
 - a. Maintains waiver of liability forms for all members.
 - b. Maintains ship and Skipper roster and certification log sheets on ships owned by members of The Club.
 - c. Maintains minutes of all meetings.
 - d. Maintains membership roster, including addresses and telephone numbers.
 - e. Maintains scenario specific records as defined by individual scenario descriptions contained in the Rules of Combat.
 - f. Acts on behalf of the CO, in the absence of the CO and XO, or on behalf of the XO in the absence of the XO.
 - g. Prepare and file documents that may be required, to maintain The Club's not-for-profit corporation status.
 4. The office of Club Secretary may be combined with the office of Club Treasurer, with one person serving as Secretary/Treasurer.
- F. Club Treasurer

1. Purpose: To maintain accountability for club Treasury.
2. The Club Treasurer is a member of The Club Board of Admiralty.
3. Duties and Responsibilities:
 - a. Maintains and manages all club funds.
 - b. Disburses club funds for valid appropriations.
 1. The general membership or Board of Admiralty must approve appropriation of club funds.
 2. Produce and maintain financial reports and records, as required by law.
 3. Report to the general membership, at each Regular Meeting of The Club, the general financial condition of The Club, available club funds, and outstanding appropriations.
 4. Make an annual report to The Club membership of The Club's expenses, assets, and liabilities, to be presented at The Club's Annual Meeting.
4. The office of Club Treasurer may be combined with the office of Club Secretary, with one person serving as Secretary/Treasurer.

G. Commanders in Chief (CINCs)

1. Commanders in Chief are responsible for a specific area of club operation, under the supervision of an officer.
2. Commanders in Chiefs' positions may be created at any time through the provisions for Changes to this Document.
3. Commanders in Chief are appointed by the Commanding Officer, whenever a vacant CINC is available.
4. Commanders in Chief are members of The Club Board of Admiralty.
5. CINC positions may be combined, with any person serving in multiple CINC capacities, as well as combinations of CINC and any club officer.
6. Commanders in Chiefs' terms of office are indefinite.
7. Commanders in Chief may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of The Club membership.
8. The following CINC positions are defined:
 - a. Commander in Chief, Fleet Operations (CINCFLTOPS)
 1. CINFLTOPS reports to the Executive Officer.
 2. CINCFLTOPS is responsible for the general organization and operation of The Club fleet, including scheduling battles, battle preparations and logistics, battle locations, and general readiness on the part of The Club to conduct combat games.
 3. CINCFLTOPS supervises the functions of Officer of the Deck and Technical Officers.

- b. Commander in Chief, Communications (CINCCOMS)
 - 1. CINCCOMS reports to the Secretary.
 - 2. CINCCOMS is responsible for the general dissemination of club information, within The Club with the membership, and with the general public.
 - H. Officer of the Deck (OOD)
 - 1. OOD is responsible for the overall management of specific individual Combat Events.
 - a. General logistics.
 - b. Battle Site preparation and readiness.
 - c. Selection of and preparation for specific games.
 - d. Distribution of participants and assignments to teams, where needed by specific games.
 - e. Referees, TOs, and other necessary personnel.
 - f. General operation of the Combat Event, for the purposes of fun, in a safe environment for participants and spectators.
 - 2. OOD is appointed by and reports to the Executive Officer.
 - 3. OODs' terms last from appointment until their Combat Event is concluded.
 - 4. OODs may be relieved of duties by the Commanding Officer.
 - 5. OODs may serve in that capacity for multiple Combat Events; there is no restriction on the number of Combat Events that an individual may be appointed as OOD for.
 - I. Board of Admiralty
 - 1. The Board of Admiralty functions as an executive committee, for purposes of managing The Club's business and affairs.
 - 2. The Board of Admiralty consists of the following Officers and CINCs: President, CO, XO, SO, TO, Secretary, Treasurer, all CINCs.
 - 3. The Board of Admiralty is authorized to appropriate The Club's funds, enter into contracts and other agreements outside The Club, and otherwise manage The Club's business as it sees fit.
 - J. Grievance Committee
 - 1. Consists of the CO, or XO and any other 2 club members in good standing.
 - 2. This committee deals with grievances brought forth by club members, for any reason.
 - 3. Authorized to make decisions for The Club during events on issues other than safety, or technical issues, or rule changes when in their judgment it is not necessary or timely to wait for the next regular meeting.

VIII. MEETINGS

- A. General membership meetings of The Club will be held monthly.

- B. The Board of Admiralty will meet monthly, in conjunction with the general membership meeting.
 - 1. Special meetings of the Board of Admiralty may be convened as required to address The Club's business.
 - 2. All Board of Admiralty meetings will be open to attendance by any Regular, Associate, or Family Members.
 - 3. Only Board of Admiralty members may vote at Board of Admiralty meetings.
- C. The location, date, and time of the next monthly Regular Meeting will be determined at each monthly Regular Meeting.
- D. Special membership meetings or Board of Admiralty meetings may be called at any time by the CO, or XO in the absence of the CO.
 - 1. Notification of special meetings must be made at least 7 days in advance to the general membership, through regular (i.e. newsletter) or special mailings, or via telephone.
- E. An Annual Meeting will be convened in January of each year.
 - 1. The purpose of the Annual Meeting will be to elect club officers for the coming year, as well as conduct any business that might come before The Club at that time.
 - 2. The time, date, and location of the Annual Meeting may coincide with the Regular Meeting for that month.

IX. CLUB NEWSLETTER

- A. The Club will publish a newsletter that is to serve as the official channel for announcements and other messages to the general club membership.
- B. Club newsletter will be published on a monthly schedule.
- C. Responsibility for producing The Club newsletter belongs to The Club Secretary, who may delegate this function to other personnel.
- D. Any member may submit information to be published in the newsletter by submitting the information to The Club Secretary, or the designated newsletter editor.
- E. One newsletter subscription is provided by The Club per paid membership, and will be mailed to the address maintained by The Club Secretary.
- F. Nonmembers of the North Texas Battle Group may subscribe to club newsletter for a fee of \$US18.00 per calendar year. The CO has the authority to waive this fee.

X. RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF CLUB OPERATIONS

- A. The Club may establish rules to govern the conduct of its business, which is to promote and facilitate the building and operation of scale model warships under simulated warfare conditions.
 - 1. Rules of Construction govern the construction, dimensions, performance characteristics, armament, equipment, fitting out, preparation, and standards to which ships, shore batteries, and other equipment must adhere to be eligible to participate in sanctioned club activities.

2. Rules of Combat govern the conduct of activities engaged in by The Club, including the operation of ships, shore batteries, and other equipment, scoring, penalties, and other actions.
3. Technical Appendix provides a reference collection of data that applies to the construction and operation of ships, shore batteries, and other equipment.
4. Scenario Games Reference provides a collection of special rules and other provisions governing the operation of specific variations on the general Rules of Combat, which may be included in Combat Events.
5. The Board of Admiralty may enact and enforce rules of conduct to be followed during its meetings.

XI. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE NORTH TEXAS BATTLE GROUP