

Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America

Constitution and Bylaws, Amended 2021

ARTICLE 1. Name and Objects

SECTION 1. Name

The name of the Club shall be the Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America.

SECTION 2. Objects of the Club

- a) To encourage and promote the intelligent breeding of purebred Miniature Bull Terriers and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection.
- b) To encourage the organization of independent local Miniature Bull Terrier Specialty Clubs in those localities where there are sufficient fanciers of the breed to meet the requirements of The American Kennel Club.
- c) 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.
- d) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and obedience trials.
- e) To conduct sanctioned matches and specialty shows and obedience trials under the rules and regulations of The American Kennel Club.
- f) To promote the general welfare of the breed and to oppose and prevent all forms of cruelty and inhumane practices to dogs.
- g) To promote friendship and cooperation among breeders and exhibitors of Miniature Bull Terriers and to encourage and assist them in every way possible for the benefit of the breed.
- h) To aid in securing favorable and just legislation for the health and welfare of the Miniature Bull Terrier.

SECTION 3

The Club shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of any proceeds 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 Bylaws as may be required to carry out these objects.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1. Membership

SECTION 1. Eligibility

There shall be five 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.

- a) Regular (Individual) membership enjoys all the privileges of the Club including voting and holding office. Regular members shall be adult residents of the United States (or its territories and possessions).
- b) Household membership consisting of two adults living in the same house in the United States (or its territories and possessions) where each individual shall have one vote.
- c) Life membership may be bestowed upon specific individuals who have demonstrated an active involvement in the Club for a minimum of 20 years. Qualification criteria for this status must be for meritorious service to the breed. Such membership must be proposed by a Board Member and receive a favorable vote of the Board. A candidate shall then be presented to the membership at the annual meeting where an affirmative vote of 75% of the members present shall confer life membership status on the named individual. Life members pay no dues but enjoy all rights, privileges, and responsibilities of Regular membership.
- d) Foreign membership shall apply to nonresidents of the United States (or its territories and possessions). Such members shall have all rights of membership except the right to hold office.
- e) Junior membership shall be available to United States residents (or its territories and possessions)

younger than 18, which automatically converts to Regular membership at age 18. Junior members shall have all rights of membership, except the right to vote and hold office.

SECTION 2. Dues

Membership dues shall be set from time to time by the Board of Directors, but shall not exceed \$100.00 per membership. In setting dues the Board of Directors may have different dues for different member classifications. Dues are payable on or before the 1st day of April each year. During the month of February, the Treasurer shall send to each member a dues notice for the ensuing year. No member may vote whose dues are not paid for the current 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 the Constitution and Bylaws of the MBTCA and the Rules of The American Kennel Club and AKC's Code Of Sportsmanship. The application shall state the name, address, and occupation of the applicant, together with his/her experience in dogs and shall carry the endorsement of one member in good standing. Accompanying the application, the prospective member shall submit dues payment for the current year.

All applications are to be filed with the Corresponding Secretary and a copy of each application shall be promptly sent to the Board of Directors to be voted on by secret ballot within 60 days. The Board will vote by secret ballot either by paper ballot or electronic voting conducted by an independent organization. Affirmative votes of 2/3 of the Board of Directors present at a meeting of the Board or 2/3 of the entire Board voting by mail shall be required to elect an applicant.

An application not approved by the Board may be presented by one of the applicant's endorsers at the next annual meeting of the Club and the Club may elect such applicant by favorable vote of 75% of the members present. Applicants for membership who have been rejected by the Club may not reapply within 12 months after such rejection.

SECTION 4. Termination of Membership

Members may be terminated:

- a) By resignation. Any member in good standing may resign from the Club upon written notice to the Corresponding 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.
- b) By lapsing. A membership will be considered as lapsed and automatically terminated if such member's dues remain unpaid 30 days after the 1st of April. However, the Board may grant an additional 30 days of grace to such delinquent members in meritorious cases. In no case may a person be entitled to vote whose dues are unpaid after April 1st.
- 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. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Club shall be held from September 1st through December 1st in conjunction with the Club's National Specialty if possible, at a place, date, and hour designated by the Board of Directors. Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be mailed and/or emailed by the Recording Secretary to each member at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting. The quorum for the Annual Meeting shall be 10% 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 Board, and shall be called by the Recording Secretary upon receipt of a petition signed by 10% of the members of the Club who are in good standing. Such meetings shall be held at such an hour and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. Notice of such meeting shall be sent by the Recording Secretary in any manner prescribed by the laws of the state in which the club is incorporated at least 14 days and not more than 30 days prior to the meeting. The notice of the meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting, and no other Club business may be transacted. The quorum for such a meeting shall be 10% of the membership in good standing.

SECTION 3. Board Meetings

There shall be 4 mandatory meetings of the Board of Directors each year, which shall be held at such times and places or via telephone conference call or via video conference as are designated by the President or by a majority vote of the entire Board. Notice of each such meeting shall be sent by the Recording Secretary in any manner prescribed by the laws of the state in which the club is incorporated to each member of the Board at least 14 days prior to the meeting, unless the majority of the Board waives the notice. The quorum for such a meeting shall be the majority of the board.

SECTION 4. Board Business

The Board of Directors may also conduct business by telephone conference call (including disciplinary hearings), or video conference call or by any other method permitted by the laws of the state in which the club is incorporated. Items voted upon by any method other than "in-person" must be confirmed in writing by the Recording Secretary within seven days.

ARTICLE III. Directors and Officers

SECTION 1. Board of Directors

The Board shall be comprised of the President, Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, AKC Delegate and two other persons, all of who shall be members in good standing who are residents of the United States. These members of the Board shall be elected for two-year terms in even numbered years as provided in Article IV. Board members shall serve until their successors are elected and installed. General management of the Club's affairs and fiduciary responsibilities shall be entrusted to the Board of Directors.

SECTION 2. Officers

The Club's officers, consisting of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding 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 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 specified in these Bylaws.
- b) The First 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 Second Vice-President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the First Vice-President in case of his/her death, absence, or incapacity.
- d) The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all meetings of the Club and the Board of Directors and of all votes taken by mail, and of all matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Club. He/she shall have charge of the member correspondence, notify members of meetings, notify new members of their approval for membership, notify officers and directors of their election to office, keep a roll of the members of the Club **who are in good standing** with addresses, which shall be sent to any member in good standing, upon written request, not more than once every Club year, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed by these Bylaws.
- e) The Corresponding Secretary shall act as Club representative in all matters involving correspondence with nonmembers and nonmember organizations. It shall be the responsibility of the Corresponding Secretary to deal with all queries from the public regarding the breed and Club function. The Corresponding Secretary shall at times be called upon to assist the Recording Secretary as directed by the Board of Directors, and carry out such other duties as are prescribed by these Bylaws.
- f) The Treasurer, in addition to those particularly specified in these Bylaws, shall collect and receive all monies due or belonging to the Club. He/she shall deposit the same in a bank designated by the Board, in the name of the Club. His/her books shall at all times be open to inspection by the Board and he/she shall report to them at every meeting the condition of the Club's finances and every item of receipt or payment not before reported. Any expenditure in excess of \$100 shall require Board approval, and at the annual meeting he/she shall render an account of all monies received and expended during the previous fiscal year. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount, as the Board of Directors shall determine, premium of such bond to be paid out of the funds of the Club.

- g) AKC Delegate – among other duties, the Delegate shall report to the Club all actions and matters discussed at AKC's Quarterly Delegate Meetings. The Delegate is an elected official and a voting member of the Board. Term of office is 2 years with an unlimited number of terms permitted.

SECTION 3. Vacancies

Any vacancies occurring on the Board or among the officers during the year shall be filled for the remainder of the positions term by a majority vote of the Board except that the Office of President shall be filled automatically by the First Vice-President, and the resulting vacancy in the Office of First Vice-President shall be filled by a majority vote by the Board. ***(In the event of a vacancy of the AKC Delegate, the club must apply to the office of the AKC Executive Secretary for approval of Delegate credentials).***

ARTICLE IV. The Club Year, Voting, Nominations, Elections

SECTION 1. Club Year

The Club's fiscal year shall begin on April 1st and end on March 31st. The Club's official year shall begin on January 1st of each year and end on December 31st. The elected officers and directors shall take office immediately after the Annual General Membership meeting and each retiring officer shall turn over to his/her successor in office all properties and records relating to that office between the date of election and the Annual General Membership meeting, or no later than January 1st.

SECTION 2. Voting

At the Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting of the Club, voting shall be limited to those members in good standing who are present at the meeting, **except** for the election of Officers, Directors and AKC Delegate and amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and Standard of the breed, which shall be decided by secret ballot cast by mail **or electronic balloting by an independent firm in accordance with State Law and AKC policy**. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. The Board of Directors may decide to submit other specific questions for decision of the members.

SECTION 3. Elections

The Election of Officers and Directors and AKC Delegate shall be held in even numbered years, and shall be conducted by secret ballot in any manner provided for by the laws of the state in which the Club is incorporated. Ballots to be valid must be received by the Recording Secretary or independent professional firm (election agent) designated by the Board by August 1st.

The nominated candidate receiving the largest number of votes for each position shall be declared elected. If any nominee, at the time of the annual meeting, is unable to serve for any reason, such nominee shall not be elected and the vacancy so created shall be filled by the new Board of Directors as per Article III.

SECTION 4. Nominations and Ballots

No person may be a candidate in a Club election who has not been nominated in accordance with these Bylaws.

In even numbered years a Nominating Committee shall be chosen by the Board of Directors before March 1st. The Committee shall consist of three members from different areas of the USA and two alternates, all members in good standing and cannot be a member of the current Board of Directors. The Board shall name a chairman for the Committee. The Nominating Committee may conduct its business by mail, email, and conference call.

- a) The Nominating Committee shall nominate from among the eligible members of the Club, one candidate for each vacant office and for each other position on the Board of Directors including the AKC Delegate and shall procure in writing the acceptance of each nominee so chosen. The Committee should consider geographical representation of the membership on the Board to the extent that it is practical to do so. The Committee shall then submit its slate of candidates to the Recording Secretary on or before April 15th who shall mail the list, including the full name of each candidate and the name of the state in which he/she resides, to each member of the Club on or before May 1st, so that additional nominations may be made by the members if they so desire.
- b) Additional nominations may be made of eligible members by written petition addressed to the Recording Secretary and received at his/her regular address on or before June 1st, signed by five

members in good standing and accompanied by the written acceptance of each such additional nominee signifying his/her willingness to be a candidate. Except for the position of Delegate, no person shall be a candidate for more than one position.

- c) If no valid additional nominations are received by the Recording Secretary on or before June 1st, the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected and no balloting will be required.
- d) If one or more valid additional nominations are received by the Recording Secretary on or before June 1st, he/she or an independent professional firm (election agent) designated by the Board shall, on or before July 1st, mail to each member in good standing a ballot listing all of the nominees for each position in alphabetical order, with the names of the states in which they reside, together with a blank envelope and return envelope addressed to the Recording Secretary or designated professional firm (election agent) marked "Ballot" and bearing the name of the member to whom it was sent. So that the ballots may remain secret, each voter after marking his/her ballot, shall seal it in the blank envelope which in turn shall be placed in the second envelope addressed to the Recording Secretary or designated professional firm. The Recording Secretary, (election agent) or designated professional firm shall check the returns against the list of members whose dues are paid for the current year prior to opening the outer envelopes and removing the blank envelope, and shall certify the eligibility of the voters as well as the results of the voting. -The balloting may be conducted electronically by an independent organization, which specializes in electronic balloting **in accordance with State Law and AKC policy**. The Recording Secretary shall notify the membership of the election results within 7 days after the voting has been completed.
- e) **Nominations cannot be made at the annual meeting or in any manner other than as provided above.**

ARTICLE V. Committees

SECTION 1

The Board may each year appoint standing committees to advance the work of the Club in such matters as specialty shows, obedience trials, trophies, annual prizes, 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 it on particular projects.

SECTION 2

Any committee appointment may be terminated by a majority vote of the full 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 Suspension

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.

SECTION 2. Charges

Any member may proffer charges against a member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or the breed. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Recording Secretary together with a deposit of \$100.00, 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, 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 or the breed. If the Board considers that the charges do not allege conduct that would be prejudicial to the best interests of the Club or the breed, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. If the Board entertains jurisdiction of the charges it shall fix a date of hearing by the Board or a committee of not less than three members of the Board, not less than three weeks nor more than six 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 personally appear in his/her own defense and bring witnesses if he/she wishes.

SECTION 3. Board Hearing

The Board or Board Committee shall have complete authority to decide whether counsel may attend the hearing, but both complainant and defendant shall be treated uniformly in that regards. Should the charges be sustained, after hearing all the evidence and testimony presented by complainant and defendant, the Board or Board Committee may by a majority vote of those present either reprimand or suspend the defendant from all privileges of the Club 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 Club meeting which considers the Board's or Board Committee's recommendation. Immediately after the Board or Board Committee 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. Disqualification

Any member of the Board of Directors directly involved in disciplinary charges as either complainant or defendant shall disqualify himself/herself from participation in the case in any role other than as a witness.

SECTION 5. Expulsion

Expulsion of a member from the Club may be accomplished only at a meeting of the Club following a Board or Board Committee hearing and upon the Board's recommendation as provided in Section 3 of this article. Such proceeding may occur at an Annual Meeting 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 of expulsion.

The defendant shall have the privilege of appearing in his/her own behalf, though no 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 if he/she wishes. The meeting shall then vote by secret written ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 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 By-laws and to the Standard of the breed 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 the recommendations of the Board by the Recording Secretary for a vote within 3 months of the date when the petition was received by the Recording Secretary. Proposed amendments to the Standard for the breed must be submitted to the members with recommendations of the Board by the Recording Secretary for a vote following the procedures established by the AKC Board of Directors.

SECTION 2

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at any time (or the Standard of the breed in accordance with AKC policies), provided a copy of the proposed amendment has been sent by the Recording Secretary to each member in good standing on the date of mailing, accompanied by a ballot on which a choice for or against the action to be taken shall be indicated. Dual-envelope procedures described in Article IV, Section 4(d) shall be followed in handling such ballots, to assure secrecy of the vote. The amendment proposed notice shall also specify a date not less than 30 days after the date of mailing, by which date the ballots must be returned to the Recording Secretary to be counted. The favorable vote of 2/3 of the members in good standing who return valid ballots within the time limit shall be required to effect any amendment.

SECTION 3.

No amendment to the constitution and bylaws (or to the Standard for the breed) that is adopted by the club shall become effective until it has been approved by the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club.

ARTICLE VIII. Dissolution

The Club may be dissolved at any time by the written consent of not less than 2/3 of the members. In the event of 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 nor any proceeds thereof, nor 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, the order of business, so far as the character and nature of the meeting may permit, shall be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Report of President
- Report of Corresponding Secretary
- Report of Recording Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Elections of Officers and Board
- Election of New Members
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

SECTION 2.

At a meeting of the Board, the order of business, unless otherwise directed by majority vote of those present, shall be as follows:

- Minutes of Last Meeting
- Report of Recording Secretary
- Report of Corresponding Secretary
- Report of Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Unfinished Business
- Election of New Members
- New Business
- Adjournment

ARTICLE X. Parliamentary Authority

SECTION 1.

Parliamentary Procedure

The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order, Revised shall govern the parliamentary procedure of the Club when not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of this Club and any other special rules of order the club may adopt.