

## **Article I - Purpose**

### **Section I-1 - Purpose**

The Brew Free or Die Homebrewing club (herein referred to as "BFD") is an educational society dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of the hobby of homebrewing beer, mead, wine, and cider along with the enjoyment and promotion of the tasting of quality beer, mead, wine, and cider, both homebrewed and professionally brewed.

### **Section I-2 - Goals**

The goals of the club are to:

A - engage in enjoyable social activities focused on homebrewing as a common foundation.

B - learn more about beer, mead, wine, and cider; beer, mead, wine, and cider tasting; beer, mead, wine, and cider judging; and brewing beer, mead, wine, and cider techniques, based on sharing knowledge and experience.

C - promote the responsible use of alcoholic beverages by introducing others to the foods that properly pair with our libations.

## **Article II - Membership**

### **Section II-1 - Eligibility**

All persons of legal age to consume alcoholic beverages, with a sincere interest in the appreciation of good beer and/or homebrewing and willingness to abide by these bylaws and other reasonable decisions of the club officers, are eligible for membership. Membership applications are submitted at the individual level. Officers of the club may waive the annual dues of members who no longer reside within a reasonable distance of and who are unable to attend regular club functions.

### **Section II-2 - Acceptance**

Eligible persons seeking membership must pay their dues, and further agree to all membership obligations posted on our website.

### **Section II-3 - Types of Membership**

A - Regular Members are those members in good standing whose dues are current. There is no membership obligation for visitors.

### **Section II-4 - Rights and Liability of Members**

Each regular member of the club shall have the right to vote on club matters provided they are in attendance during a regularly scheduled BFD Business meeting. The members of the club shall not be liable for the debts or obligations of the club, including but not limited to issues involving bulk purchases. No member shall receive compensation for services rendered to the club except as otherwise approved by the officers of the club and by a majority vote in a regularly scheduled BFD Business

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meeting. A club member may be reimbursed for expenses reasonably incurred on behalf of the club, if and only if approved by the club officers or by a majority vote in a regularly scheduled BFD Business meeting.

**Section II-5 - Guests**

Members are encouraged to bring guests to club meetings and functions. It is anticipated that these guests will eventually join the club.

**Section II-6 - Membership Term**

The membership term of the club shall be based on the date the individual joins (which is a 12-month term); and accepts the terms of the bylaws. Dues are not prorated.

**Section II - Nondiscrimination**

Club membership shall not be denied to any individual on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or homebrewing method and technique. Extract and all grain brewers, despite their levels of experience, are given equal respect.

**Section II-8 - Hold Harmless**

I know that participation in club activities involves the consumption of an alcoholic beverage, and this may affect my perception and reactions. I accept responsibility for my conduct, behavior, and actions, and absolve the club, the owner of the meeting place, and author/s of this document, any responsibility for my conduct, behavior and actions. Participation includes any guests that may be present at club activities, wherever they may be held. The inclusion of these rules to our website results in a binding obligation for all members to the extent allowable under the law regardless of whether a signature has been obtained. This document has been prepared in good faith, but is designed or intended to be a substitute for a homeowner seeking counsel of his/her own regarding its legality. No member involved in the preparation of these bylaws may be held responsible for any acts or omissions in its preparation.

**Article III - Voting**

**Section III-1 - Eligibility**

All regular club members who have dues currently paid up are eligible to vote.

**Section III-2 - Items Put to Vote**

The club's officers shall decide when and the kinds of issues to be voted on by the membership. Any member may petition to any officer for issues to be brought to a Vote.

### **Section III-3 - Election Dates**

Regular elections are held annually, with nominations beginning in October. New officers take office on January 1st. Special elections may be held as determined by the majority vote of the club officers. If electronic elections are held, the election will be held open for at least 3 weeks. If in-person elections are held, this will occur at the Club's holiday party and/or December business meeting.

### **Section III-4 - Nominations**

Nominations shall be made by any regular member. Officer nominations can be made during a business meeting, event, or via email to the club Secretary. If electronic elections are held, nomination deadlines will be socialized in writing via club email and business meeting minutes. If in-person elections are held, nominations can be made until the voting process begins.

### **Section III-5 - Voting Method**

Voting will be held either in person via secret ballot, or electronically via polling (i.e SurveyMonkey / Google Forms). Voting format will be at the discretion of the current officers.

## **Article IV - Officers**

### **Section IV-1 — Officer Positions**

A - The following positions make up the list of elected officers:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Past President

B - Other appointed positions may be established and abolished at any time by the elected officers, or by the majority of the membership in a valid vote. Ordinarily, these positions include Membership Chairman, Newsletter Editor, etc.

### **Section IV-2 — Officer Responsibilities**

President - This officer is responsible for the conduct of the meetings. The President can cancel a meeting with a majority vote of the other officers, or appoint a regular member to preside over a meeting if other officers are unavailable. Often, the president is the one who plans the meetings and arranges for an interesting demonstration or discussion. The president reviews the financial records of the club quarterly or as needed. The President will also oversee any official club competitions and any other club activity committees.

Vice President - This officer assists the president as necessary including conducting the meeting in his absence. Other responsibilities include overseeing select club activities as deemed appropriate by the club (e.g. Homebrewer's Jamboree, special

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brewing projects). The Vice President may organize the tasting portion of the meeting, ensuring that there is an adequate supply of beer.

Treasurer - This officer handles the finances. The treasurer collects dues and sees that they are deposited in the club's accounts. The Treasurer keeps the financial records and will file monthly reports for audit by the President. This officer will also maintain the membership list, manage club assets and promotional items. The Treasurer will also be responsible for upkeep of club insurance, the Brew Free or Die tradename and the club's tax status.

Secretary – This officer is responsible for any meeting minutes (collecting & dispensing). This officer will be responsible for oversight of club records. The Secretary is also responsible for maintenance of the club's name tags and securing the location for each club meeting.

Past President - This officer assists the current officers as requested.

**Section IV-3 — Removal of Officers**

Any officer of the club may be removed by the vote of a majority of the regular members. The vote for removal must be conducted at a legitimate and scheduled club meeting, with more than two-thirds of the regular members voting. Notification to the membership that a special election will be held on the removal of an officer must be included in the agenda of the monthly meeting at least 7 days in advance.

**Section IV-4 — Officer Resignation**

Upon the resignation of an officer, the remaining officers shall select a person to take the responsibilities of the officer who left. The selected person shall serve out the remainder of the resigned officer's term.

**Article V - Nonprofit Organization**

**Section V-1 - Nonprofit Status**

The club is declared as a nonprofit organization. This does not give it tax exemption status under the rules of the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) unless applied for and received at a later date.

**Article VI - Calendar Year & Dues**

**Section VI-1 - Calendar**

Dues are paid annually. The dues for all types of membership are set by the officers, with the majority approval of the membership at a regularly scheduled BFD Business

Meeting.

### **Section VI-2 - Financial Report**

The Treasurer shall report the financial status of the club in the treasurer's report at each meeting and provide a detailed accounting of all club transactions at the end of each calendar year which will be available for audit by the President.

## **Article VII - Meetings**

### **Section VII-1 - Meetings of Members**

Members shall meet monthly unless otherwise instructed by the club officers. Monthly meetings are normally held on the second (2nd) Friday of each month.

### **Section VII-2 - Meeting Procedure**

BFD Meetings will consist of two separate sessions open to any Regular Member. BFD Business Meeting. The Business Meeting will be held in due course during the general meeting. In transacting official business, efficiency and common sense will prevail. The format of the meeting will be as follows: minutes of the prior business meeting, officer's reports, committee reports, old business, new business. In each case, any requested action by regular members during the meeting must be stated in the context of a legitimate motion to be voted upon during the business meeting. Any at-length discussion will be reserved for after the business meeting. BFD General Meeting. The BFD General Meeting is held before and after the business meeting. The general meeting will consist of introductions, discussion, programs, and sampling. Voting will not occur during the general meeting unless the presiding officer makes an exception. Club activities, finances, procedures and policy may be discussed during this meeting.

## **Article VIII - Contingency Fund**

### **Section VIII-1 - Fund**

A contingency fund may be established and maintained by the Treasurer to cover unexpected expenses or losses of the club. The amount of the fund shall be established by a majority vote in a regularly scheduled BFD Business meeting, by the President, the Treasurer, or a majority vote of the officers.

## **Article IX - Bylaw Acceptance Changes**

### **Section IX-1 - Acceptance**

These bylaws are accepted at the time of adoption by a majority vote of regular Members.

**Section IX-2 - Procedure for Changes**

Any regular member may make a motion for a change in the bylaws at any regularly scheduled monthly business meeting. When changes are suggested, the petition must be presented in writing. The vote on this motion will be at the next regularly scheduled monthly business meeting. The officers of the club will make every reasonable attempt to notify all regular members of the impending vote within ten days prior to the vote, but they are under no obligation to do so. Failure to notify the membership does not negate the scheduled vote. A vote of the majority of the regular members in attendance is required to approve a change in the existing Bylaws.

**Amendments:** None at this time