

- **United Dog Sports of Northern New England, Inc.**

MISSION STATEMENT

United Dog Sports of Northern New England (UDSNNE) strives to provide multiple opportunities in a variety of canine activities which encourage and foster the relationship between dog and owner through positive, supportive strategies.

ARTICLE I

This Organization shall be known as the United Dog Sports of Northern New England. Its membership shall be made up of dedicated purebred dog enthusiasts of Northern New England and surrounding areas, or any person duly elected to membership.

ARTICLE II

The purpose of this club shall be to promote the best interests of dogs and their owners in all endeavors. To fulfill this Article, we promise:

1. To hold licensed UKC events that will be run in accordance with all the rules, policies, and procedures of the United Kennel Club for any UKC event the club is licensed for.
2. To exhibit and encourage in others true sportsmanship in all events.
3. To hold a variety of activities which showcase the abilities of canines, including, but not limited to confirmation and performance events.
4. To aid in the education of pet owners, breeders, competitors, and the general public regarding the true character, temperament, and capabilities of all dogs.
5. To dismiss from our membership without hesitation those who violate these by-laws and the principles of good sportsmanship and fair and honest conduct.
6. The club will not hold any other registry's events on the same day/location as that of any UKC event without the prior approval of UKC.
7. No UKC licensed or provisional status club may be given /handed over to/acquired/ purchased by any other group or persons at any time, for any reason. The changing of officers or handing over any officer designation does not apply unless the club follows their normal election of officers as outlined in their Constitution & By-Laws. Upon the club voting to demise their club status with UKC (dissolved), UKC must receive in writing, a letter signed by all officers stating that the club is to be dissolved, and any/all assets are to be donated to dog related charities.

ARTICLE III

We reserve the right to refuse any entry in our competitions, as well as membership in this Club to any individual, at the discretion of the Officers, Board of Directors, and members. However, no person shall be refused entry or membership on a basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, age (other than junior membership requirements), sexual orientation, or national origin.

There shall be two types of membership;

8. General membership for persons eighteen years of age and over who are in good standing with the United Kennel Club and who subscribe to the purposes of this club
9. Junior membership for persons 10-17 years of age.

Note: junior membership privileges will include attendance and participation at the general meetings and other club functions, but will exclude voting privileges and the right to hold office. Junior members may automatically become general members upon reaching their 18th birthday.

The method of obtaining membership in this Club shall be as follows:

10. Be sponsored by 2 members in good standing, and supply the following information: Name, Address, Phone Number, Email address, Occupation and breed(s) of dog(s).
11. Applicants must attend two meetings or events or combination thereof.
12. Application shall be in writing to the Membership Secretary.
13. Once application and dues are received by the Membership Secretary, applicant will be notified that their membership has been received and that a vote on said application will occur at the next regular meeting.
14. No applicant will be accepted to membership if he or she has been convicted of a felony, unless specifically approved by a majority vote of the Officers/Board and members.

ARTICLE IV

The following shall be the conditions of continuing membership:

15. The attendance of as many meetings as possible.
16. The attendance of and participation in all Club activities and shows/events to the satisfaction of the Officers/Board. However, the attendance clauses of Article IV, sections 1 and 2 shall be waived due to illness, disability, conflict with employment, excessive distance, or bona-fide previous commitments.
17. Any member known to: promote, support, raise dogs for fighting; knowingly sell, give, or trade dogs that will be used for fighting; condone or be associated with the facing off, game testing, rolling or pitting of dogs will have their membership automatically revoked. The member shall also be reported to United Kennel Club for disciplinary action as well.

ARTICLE V

The Officers shall be elected at the December meeting every year; effective January 1st of the following year. Any Officer may succeed him- or herself. All elections shall be by secret ballot and decided by a simple majority. The officers and their respective duties shall be as follows:

This article shall be used to govern the Officers of the Club.

18. PRESIDENT: shall preside at all meetings and conduct good order and discipline.
19. VICE-PRESIDENT: shall assist the president in the discharge of his or her duties, and will preside in his or her absence.

20. SECRETARY: shall keep an accurate record of all meetings and events. He or she shall preside in the absence of the other elected officers. He or she will send into the UKC by December 31 of each year the updated officers list and a current membership list of all members in good standing with the club.
21. TREASURER: shall keep an accurate account received and be responsible for the proper collection and distribution of all funds and accounts, under the direction of the Board.
22. The checks on the account(s) of this Club will be signed by either the Treasurer or the President.
23. The books and accounts of the Treasurer shall be audited annually, prior to the election of officers, by a committee appointed by the President.

ARTICLE VI

The Board of Directors of this Club shall be five to seven (5 to 7) in number, and elected at large by the membership.

ARTICLE VII

The annual dues of this Club shall be in the amount decided upon annually by the Officers/Board and shall be due and payable on or before January 1st. Any member who has not paid his/her dues by January 31st shall be dropped from the rolls and, if desiring to continue membership, must re-apply as articulated in Article III. However, if any member is in financial distress, his or her dues may be waived by a majority vote of the Officers/Board, on a case by case basis.

ARTICLE VIII

The meetings of this Club shall be held on dates and times agreed upon by the Board and the membership. Locations for meeting may rotate among the represented states to allow the fairest access to meetings.

ARTICLE IX

These By-Laws may be amended as deemed necessary by the Officers/Board and must be approved by a simple majority of the members present. Notice of a proposed change must be in writing, and the membership properly notified. UKC must be notified in writing as well. All changes to By Laws must be approved by UKC before becoming active.

ARTICLE X

General Regulations:

24. Members shall conduct themselves as ladies/gentlemen at all Club functions.
25. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages, firearms, or illegal drugs will be allowed on the grounds or in the buildings while participating in any club or licensed events.
26. These By-Laws shall be read by every applicant before being accepted into membership.
27. These By-Laws shall become effective immediately upon ratification.
28. To become effective, these By-Laws must be approved by a majority vote of all members present when the vote is taken.
29. All United Kennel Club policies will be strictly adhered to during all UKC events.

30. Members shall conduct themselves in an honest and sportsman like manner at all meetings and events.
31. The Officers/Board of the United Dog Sports of Northern New England shall have the inherent rights and powers to dismiss ANY member who is continually disruptive to the detriment of the orderly conduct of our meetings and/or events.
32. The Officers and Board shall serve as the nomination committee for all offices, board vacancies, and award recipients; however, any member in good standing shall have the right to make nominations from the floor.
33. Any individual suspended by United Kennel Club shall automatically be suspended from the club as well.

ARTICLE XI

The Club may be dissolved at any time by written consent of not less than 2/3 of the members. In the event of the dissolution of the Club, whether voluntary or involuntary of by operation of law, none of the property of the Club nor any proceeds thereof 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 property and assets shall be given to a charitable organization for the benefit of dogs, selected by the Board of Directors.

Read and approved by Officers/Board:

President
Vice President

Recording Secretary
Treasurer

Read and approved by membership

Amended: 3/10/13

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