



THE WEIMARANER ASSOCIATION

RULES

Definitively Approved by the KC 18th May 2023

1 NAME

The association shall be called: **THE WEIMARANER ASSOCIATION**. (Hereinafter called the Association.)

2 OBJECTS

a. To encourage, promote and protect the breeding of the Weimaraner, to meet the breed standard and to fulfill its role as a hunting, pointing, retrieving gundog.

b. To co-operate with other clubs and bodies having similar interests throughout the world.

3 MEMBERSHIP

The Association shall consist of an unlimited number of members.

4 OFFICERS & VICE PRESIDENTS

a. The officers shall comprise, President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer. All these officers shall be ex-officio members of the committee, with full voting rights. No person shall hold more than one officer post.

b. Up to five Honorary Vice Presidents may be appointed on nomination by the Committee for a period of three years, who shall be ex officio members of the Committee, but without voting powers unless occupying at the same time an elected position carrying its own voting power. Honorary Vice Presidents are subject to Committee Standing Orders. To be eligible for appointment candidates must have had an unbroken period of membership of 5 years as at 1st March in the year of appointment, have served as an elected Officer or as a Member of the Committee within the preceding 10 years, and must have occupied elected positions for an aggregate of a minimum of 5 years within those 10 years. On expiry of their term, Honorary Vice Presidents shall be eligible for re-appointment.

c. In the case of the resignation, retirement or incapacity of the President, an Honorary Vice President, selected in order of seniority, shall fulfil the duties and responsibilities of the President, designated as **Senior Vice President** to serve until the next AGM at which the vacancy can be filled.

5 COMMITTEE

a. The affairs of the Association shall be administered by a committee which shall consist of not more than ten members of the association, who shall be elected as stated in RULE SIX.

On election, appointment or co-option, any officer or committee member shall be subject to Committee Standing Orders, such standing orders to regulate the conduct of the members of the Committee in the pursuance of their duties in the service of the Association and its Members. (The standing orders to be supplementary to the rules of the Association, copies of which may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary).

b. The entire management of the Association shall be entrusted to the committee. The committee shall have the power to arbitrate in cases of dispute between members when asked by both parties to do so.

c. The committee shall have the power to deal with any questions relating to the management of the Association not specifically mentioned in these rules.

d. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually. The President, the Honorary Vice-Presidents and members of the committee, shall each serve for a period of THREE years and shall be eligible for re-election or reappointment.

e. On the same day, as soon as practicable after the Annual General Meeting at which it is elected, the committee shall hold a meeting at which it shall elect from its members, a Chairman and Vice-Chairman to serve for the term of that committee. In the case of the resignation, retirement or incapacity of the Chairman duly appointed under this rule, the Vice-Chairman shall vacate the Vice-Chairmanship to become the Acting Chairman until the next occasion that the committee can vote to appoint a new Chairman to serve until the next AGM. A vacancy in the role of Vice-Chairman may be filled at the next opportunity for the committee to vote.

f. The committee shall meet at least four times during the year.

Officers and Committee members participate in a committee meeting when:

- i.** the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with these rules, and,
- ii.** they can communicate to the other participants any information or opinions they have on any particular item of business of the meeting.

It is irrelevant where the officer or committee member is, or how they communicate with each other. Such participation shall be recorded as “virtual attendance” and satisfy attendance requirements, subject to rule 5(i). If all the persons participating in the meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is situated.

A copy of the minutes of each meeting shall be sent by the Honorary Secretary to each committee member within twenty-eight days of the meeting.

g. Where a matter is considered to be urgent by two officers of the Association, a decision on that matter may be arrived at by committee members voting via email on a definitive resolution put by the chairman or vice-chairman, or in their absence by an officer of the

committee. The decision being decided by a majority of votes received by email from serving committee members within the prescribed time frame and being minuted at the next formal committee meeting.

h. The quorum for a Committee meeting will be 4. This will include any Officer of the Association and at least 3 elected members.

i. Committee members shall advise the Secretary prior to a committee meeting if they are unable to attend. A Committee member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings (excepting one virtual attendance) without a satisfactory explanation will be deemed to have resigned from the committee. Such a deemed resignation will debar that committee member from standing for re-election at the very next AGM.

j. The committee may appoint members of the Association to fill any honorary post they deem necessary; any such post shall be confirmed by the membership of the Association at the following Annual General Meeting before being deemed to be a continuing office. The committee may co-opt any fully paid-up member to fulfill a specific task. Those co-opted shall not have voting powers in the management of the Association.

6 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

a. Any member of the Association shall be eligible for election to the committee or as an officer provided he or she has been a fully paid up member for at least one year on the 1st March in the year of the election. No persons whilst an undischarged bankrupt may serve on the committee or hold any office or appointment within a Kennel Club registered society. Members are not eligible for election to any office or to the committee while holding office or being a committee member of any other Weimaraner breed club.

b. All nominees shall signify their agreement to stand and be proposed and seconded by fully paid-up members who have been members for at least one year on the 1st March in the year of election. Nominations shall be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary not less than 28 days prior to the date of the AGM.

c. The serving committee may propose a member for Honorary Life Membership which must be ratified by a majority vote at the next Annual General Meeting.

d. All nominations for election shall be dealt with at the Annual General Meeting. There shall be executed an election by a secret ballot, the voters being those members so entitled and present at the Annual General Meeting. Of the nominees for the committee, those with the most votes shall fill the vacancies on the committee for the ensuing year.

The office of President, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be decided by the nomination receiving the highest number of votes. Two members present at the meeting shall be appointed to make the distribution and collection of voting papers and to act as tellers in counting the votes.

7 ELECTION & CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

a. Any person wishing to become a member of the Association shall make application to the Honorary Membership Secretary on the official form. This form shall include an undertaking to abide by the rules of the Association, accept the Data Protection related

policies of the Association, and shall carry the signature of two fully paid-up members as proposer and seconder of the application.

b. A person under the age of eighteen may be proposed as a junior member by a member who is their parent or guardian and be seconded by any other member. A junior member may not propose or second any other person for membership, nor nominate or second any candidate for election to any office or to the committee. A junior member is not eligible to serve in any office or as a committee member. Junior membership carries no voting rights at any general meeting. A junior member enjoys all other privileges of membership.

c. The applicant shall not be considered a member until the application has been considered and voted upon by the committee: Three negative votes shall exclude the applicant. In the case of non-approval the committee is not required to disclose its reasons for not approving a candidate for membership. The names of newly elected members shall be minuted and the applicant informed accordingly by the Honorary Membership Secretary. A copy of the Association rules shall be made available to any bona-fide applicant for membership upon request.

d. Any former member wishing to rejoin the Association shall apply as if a new applicant for membership.

e. A member shall only be deemed to be a fully paid-up member if and when his/her subscription has been paid in full at the prevailing rate for the current financial year. Subscriptions received at less than the prevailing rate shall be forfeit if not made up to the full amount and shall be treated as donations in the year with no membership rights accruing.

f. Members are to conduct themselves in a respectful and courteous manner towards each other, and to officers and members of the committee. Members should refrain from action, particularly, but not exclusively, on social media, which would publicly undermine the reputation of, and/or be injurious to, the Association, its members or fellow breed clubs. Any breach of these requirements by a member shall, by a resolution of the committee, lead to a formal written warning. Persistent breaches of a similar nature would not be compatible with continued membership of the Association. Accordingly, the member shall be invited to resign from membership. This clause does not impair the right of action or protections under rule 13(d).

g. Members may propose by resolution for the decision of the Annual General Meeting that a member be made an Honorary Life Membership.

8 GENERAL MEETING

a. A General Meeting shall be convened by the Honorary Secretary on a suitable date (on or before 30th June) each year, notice of which shall be forwarded to members in writing not later than the end of February, inviting nominations for officers and committee and proposals to be placed on the agenda. This shall be known as the Annual General Meeting and shall be for the following purposes:

i. To receive the report of the committee and the Statement of Accounts.

ii. To elect the officers and the committee.

iii. To discuss and vote upon any proposals duly placed on the agenda of which prior notice has been given to the Honorary Secretary not less than 28 days prior to the meeting. Proposals received which concern matters reserved for deliberation by members under arrangements prescribed by 11(g) to ensure wider participation via virtual Special General Meetings may be placed on the agenda for discussion but voting will necessarily revert to electronic voting as prescribed by 8(d).

iv. To appoint two suitably qualified persons unconnected to the committee, or one professional auditor, to conduct an independent examination of the accounts.

v. No business shall be discussed or transacted at an Annual General Meeting unless notice thereof appears on the agenda, with the exception of routine matters or those which in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting are urgent.

b. At every General Meeting of the Association the President shall be invited to take the Chair. Should he/she decline or in his/her absence Vice Presidents shall be invited in turn in order of seniority to take the Chair. In the absence of a willing candidate then a Chairman elected by and from the members present shall preside. No person who holds office for, or is a committee member of, any other Weimaraner breed club may take the chair.

c. A Special General Meeting shall be summoned by the Honorary Secretary if at least 20 fully paid-up members send a signed requisition stating the subject to be discussed and the resolution to be proposed. The date of the meeting so convened shall be within two calendar months of the requisition being received.

d. A Special General Meeting may be called on any matter at the discretion of the committee. The committee may designate that any special general meeting called under 8(d) by the committee, (i.e. not a special general meeting called under rule 13 (d)), may be held virtually. Opportunities are to be provided for members to put questions, make comments and receive answers, which are to be communicated to all members, before the electronic voting interval commences. The electronic voting interval is to be clearly stated as well as the voting deadline time and date. The electronic voting record of a virtual meeting must be preserved by Association. This rule does not impair in any way the rights of members to requisition SGMs under 8(c).

e. In the case of there being an equal number of votes on any motion, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

f. All resolutions at a General Meeting shall be passed by a majority vote, excepting matters specifically referred to in these rules. The rules of the Society may not be altered except at a General Meeting, the notice for which contains specific proposals to amend the rules. Resolutions for the alteration of the rules, introduction of new rules or reversal of any former act or decision, shall, for a meeting held physically, require a two thirds majority vote of those present and voting, and for a meeting held virtually, require a two thirds majority vote of those voting electronically. Any such resolution, if passed, shall be brought to the notice of all members as soon as practical after the meeting. Such alterations to the rules shall not be brought into force until the Kennel Club has been advised and has given approval to the alterations.

g. Only fully paid-up members shall be entitled to vote at a General Meeting. Each member shall be entitled to one vote immediately upon acceptance of membership. In the case of joint membership, each member of the partnership shall be entitled to one vote.

h. Members shall receive notice and an agenda of any physical general meeting at least twenty-one days prior to the date of the meeting. In the case of a virtual general meeting, members shall receive notice and an agenda at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting.

9 MINUTES

a. Minutes of all meetings shall be kept by the Honorary Secretary which shall be recorded in a minute book.

b. Minutes of all general meetings shall be sent to all members by the Honorary Secretary as soon as practicable.

10 NOTICES

a. Members of the Association shall provide a valid email address to which all notices, bulletins and announcements shall be sent. Exceptionally, notices may, at the discretion of the committee, be sent to the last known postal address of the member. All notices shall be considered delivered on the date on which such notices are emailed or sent

b. The Weimaraner Association must maintain an up-to-date list of members and their addresses, and, if so requested, make the list of names available for inspection by the Kennel Club and members of the society. A declaration of the number of members of the society must be made with Annual Returns.

11 FINANCE

a. The financial year of the Association shall be from 1st January to 31st December.

b. The annual subscription shall be as deemed by the members in general meeting. The subscription shall be due on 1st March for the ensuing year, 1st March to end of February following. Joint membership may be any two members of the same household or joint owners of a Weimaraner. Non-voting junior memberships shall be available to minors until they reach eighteen years of age, at which point on paying an uplift to the single subscription rate, single membership will be granted with full participation rights.

c. Any member elected on or after the 1st December shall pay the full subscription, which will entitle him/her to membership not only until end of February immediately following, but also for the subsequent year from 1st March to end of February then following.

d. The committee shall consider and propose for consideration by members in general meeting, a recommendation as to the honoraria to be paid for the current financial year, such recommendation to anticipate the appreciation of the members and their recognition of the complexity, the time and effort invested, the volume and importance of the work undertaken by the incumbents in receipt of honoraria, and their performance in delivering the same. The members in general meeting to ratify or further deliberate and revise by formal amendment properly proposed and seconded, with the case for and

against being put. Such amendment to the substantive motion may be decided by show of hands, at the discretion of the Chair, but the resultant substantive motion to determine the adequacy of the proposed honoraria shall be determined by secret ballot.

e. There shall be a bank account operated in the name of the Association and cheques for withdrawal of monies shall be signed by any two of the following committee members: Chairman of the committee. Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary, Show Secretary. In the case of online payments, the Honorary Treasurer will set up the payment instruction and electronic release shall be effected by any other authorised signatory from the above list. All ordinary revenues of the Association shall be paid into this account, membership subscriptions shall be received into the designated membership account.

The Association is authorised to operate savings, investment, Treasury or bond accounts to hold longer term accumulated capital, legacy or endowment funds with the aim to secure, as best as possible a return on such funds to maintain and preserve capital.

f. The accounts shall be kept by the Honorary Treasurer who should be suitably qualified and who shall be responsible for the financial management of the Association. The Examiners, two suitably qualified persons, or one professional auditor, unconnected to the committee, shall be appointed at each general meeting who, after an independent examination of the books and records, shall certify that the association accounts are in conformance with same. Such independent examination to be conducted for the ensuing year before the Annual General Meeting. If the Examiners appointed by members at the annual general meeting do not accept the appointment, or are unable to undertake the role for any reason, or if the general meeting is otherwise unable to make an appointment, then the Treasurer may recommend to the committee suitable replacement examiners to fill a casual vacancy as the need arises, but it shall be for the committee to collectively approve any such appointments.

g. In the event of a significant legacy or endowment being made to the Association, then special measures shall be instituted by resolution of the committee for the proper management, investment and ultimate allocation of the funds newly received. At all times the Association will act as a distinct and independent entity, and at all times the management, investment and ultimate allocation of the funds newly received shall be in accordance with the founding objects of the Association as elaborated in its objects specified at Rule 2(a). The committee is obligated to seek as wide a participation of the members in the formulation of a general strategy to deal with the legacy or endowment and this will ordinarily be achieved by regular consultation via a virtual Special General Meeting as befits the special nature of the legacy or endowment, recognising that some legacies will come with stipulated conditions as to the uses to which they may be put. The committee may seek guidance from the members or put to them specific proposals for active decision making, in keeping with the general strategy adopted by the committee.

h. A statement of the accounts shall be circulated to all members present at the Annual General Meeting, and then sent out to all members with the minutes of the Annual General Meeting. Also, any paid-up member, on request, can have a copy of the certified accounts sent to them fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting.

12 ASSOCIATION PROPERTY

The property of the Association shall be vested in the committee. In the event of the Association ceasing to exist, a special general meeting shall be called to decide the disposal of all assets and settlement of any liabilities of the association. The Kennel Club shall be notified within six months and the persons named as Officers and Committee of the Association on the last return furnished to the Kennel Club will be held responsible for the proper winding up of the Association.

13 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

a. Any member failing to pay his/her annual subscription by 1st **April** shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Association.

b. Any person ceasing to be a member of the Association shall forthwith forfeit any and all subsequent rights upon the Association, nor shall there be any entitlements to a refund of any part of a subscription paid.

c. Any members who shall be disqualified for any reason under Kennel Club Rules A11j (5) and/or Kennel Club Rule A11j (9) shall ipso facto cease to be a member of the Association.

d. If the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the committee of the association be injurious, or likely to be injurious, to the character or interests of the Association, the committee of the Association may, at a meeting, the notice convening which includes as an object the consideration of the conduct of the member, determine that a Special General Meeting of the Association be called for the purposes of passing a resolution to expel him/her. Notice of the Special General Meeting shall be sent to the accused member, giving particulars of the complaint and advising the place, date and hour of the meeting that he/she may attend and offer an explanation. If at the meeting, a resolution to expel is passed by a two thirds majority of the members present and voting, his/her name shall forthwith be erased from the list of members, and he/she shall thereupon cease for all purposes to be a member of the Association except that he/she may, within two calendar months from the date of such meeting, appeal to the Kennel Club upon and subject to such conditions as the Kennel Club may impose.

e. If a member is expelled for discreditable conduct in connection with dogs, Dog Shows, Trials or Competition, the Association must report the matter in writing to the Kennel Club within seven days and supply any particulars required.

14 DISPUTES

The Weimaraner Association acknowledges that the Kennel Club is the final authority for interpreting the Rules and Regulations of the Society in all cases relative to Canine or Society matters.

15 The Association shall not join any federation or societies or clubs.

16 ANNUAL RETURNS TO THE KENNEL CLUB

a. The officers acknowledge that during the month of January each year, Maintenance of Title fee will be forwarded to the Kennel Club by the Secretary for the continuance of registration and that by 31st July each year, other returns, as stipulated in Kennel Club regulations for the registration and maintenance of societies and breed councils and the

affiliation of agricultural societies and municipal authorities, be forwarded to the Kennel Club. The officers also acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of any change of Secretary of the society which may occur during the course of the year. The officers acknowledge their duty to inform the Kennel Club of the month in which the society's Annual General Meeting is held and to notify the Kennel Club of any subsequent amendments to that date.

b. The committee of the Association will formulate a judges list which will be divided into five parts, namely A1, A2, A3, B and C and must be compiled annually stating the date on which they expire.

A1 List. Judges who have previously been approved to award CCs and have carried out the appointment.

A2 List. Judges who, if invited to judge by a society, would in principle be approved by the Kennel Club to award CCs for that occasion.

A3 List. Judges who are recommended by a Breed Council or Breed Club as being suitable to award CCs in the breed, but not yet approved by the Kennel Club for inclusion on an A2 List.

B List. Judges who have been approved by the Breed Council/Club to judge at shows without CCs or Open shows.

C List. Drawn up by a Breed Council/Club this should comprise aspirant judges who do not fall into any of the above categories.

17 CONDUCT

a. No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling of a dog at any time whilst at a licensed venue, including its environs, car park and caravan parks and approaches.

b. The owner, exhibitor, handler or other person in charge of a dog at Kennel Club licensed Events must, at all times, ensure that the dog is kept under proper control whilst at the licensed venue, including its environs, car and caravan parks and approaches.

18 CODE OF ETHICS

The membership will be expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the Code of Ethics approved by the association.

19 DATA PROTECTION:

The Association shall comply with all relevant data protection laws applicable in the United Kingdom and shall adopt and publish a Data Privacy Notice, and a Data Retention Policy. It is a condition of membership that members accept the Data Protection policies of the Association which may be revised from time to time.

Note:

As Approved by SGM 25th March 2023 and approved by KC 27th April 2023, and 18th May 2023.