

Overmountain Brewers Bylaws

Article 1. Name

Section 1.1 The name of the Organization shall be the Overmountain Brewers.

Article 2. Definitions

Section 2.1 Whenever the word “Club” is used in these bylaws, it shall mean the ‘Overmountain Brewers’ club.

Section 2.2 Whenever the term “Member” is used in these bylaws, it shall mean a person who has obtained membership in the club by paying club dues for the current year and signing a current membership and liability waiver form.

Section 2.3 Whenever the term “Officers” or “Executive Committee” is used in these Bylaws, it shall mean President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Director.

Section 2.4 Whenever the term “Majority vote of the Members” is used in these Bylaws, it shall mean a vote of more than fifty (50) percent of the members who cast a vote at a general club meeting.

Section 2.5 Whenever the term “two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Members” is used in these bylaws, it shall mean a vote of more than two thirds (2/3) of the Members who cast a vote at a general club meeting.

Section 2.6 The Overmountain Brewers Club fiscal year is January 1st through December 31st.

Section 2.7 Proxy votes must be communicated to the Executive Committee in a timely manner prior to a meeting/vote.

Section 2.8 Whenever the term “Steering Committee” is used in these Bylaws, it shall mean the Executive Committee and the members providing input for and/or members in attendance of Steering Committee meetings.

Article 3. Purpose and Objectives

Section 3.1 The purpose and objectives of the Overmountain Brewers Club may include:

1. To promote homebrewing and foster the art and science of quality brewing.
2. To promote the responsible appreciation of alcoholic beverages by encouraging education in history, technique, raw materials, and styles.
3. To organize the brewing community of the area to have regular meetings and special events (outings to breweries, judging, competitions, etc.) for the purpose of tasting, brewing, exchanging information, and fellowship.
4. To hold regular meetings promoting interaction between members.
5. To run all club business in accordance with the principles of democracy, with a Steering Committee and the Executive Committee guiding the decision making process.
6. To hold all members accountable to a general code of conduct, including, but not limited to, honesty, responsible drinking, and equitable contributions to the club.
7. To provide technical advice through education and skill development in regards to beverage styles, brewing techniques, and alcoholic beverage evaluation.
8. To maintain brewing resources for use by its members.
9. To foster friendly relationships with similar organizations.

Article 4. Code of Conduct

- Section 4.1 Excessive drinking is a hazard of the craft that brings us together. This is an undesirable and avoidable occurrence. Therefore, let it be resolved that no member shall drink to excess as defined by the Department of Motor Vehicles if they are driving themselves after the meetings. Additionally no member shall coerce, entice, or otherwise willingly suffer such abusive consumption on the part of any other member.
- Section 4.2 A policy of being responsible for your own consumption and pouring libations only for yourself shall be the norm.
- Section 4.3 Honesty and respect are valued principles to any society and integral to the trust we put in our fellow members. No member shall steal, be violent, or engage in behavior that is disrespectful to others or themselves.
- Section 4.4 This club is as much a cooperative as it is an educational and social instrument. Our strength is dependent upon the individual contributions that members give to the club. Each member will endeavor to pull his own weight by paying dues on time and by doing chores in proportion to the net benefits they receive from the club.

Article 5. Membership

- Section 5.1 Membership is open to any person 21 years of age or older, who is interested in homebrewing and in the sensory evaluation of fermented beverages.
- Section 5.2 Membership privileges include: access to club resources, ability to enter club competitions, and the right to attend club meetings including Steering Committee meetings and all club sanctioned events.
- Section 5.3 The annual membership dues for a Member will be determined by the majority vote of those members present at a regularly scheduled meeting on recommendation from the Steering Committee.
- Section 5.4 Full annual membership dues are due at the beginning of each calendar year.

Membership privileges, including voting rights, are not active until the member is current on payment. Membership dues for new members are full price during months January through June, and fifty percent (50%) during months July through December.

Section 5.5 Membership Responsibilities:

1. Act in an ethical and non-abusive manner
2. Adhere to the club's published Code of Conduct
3. Remit annual dues to Treasurer
4. Assist the club in meeting the objectives and purpose of the club

Section 5.6 A membership revocation with cause without option for appeal may be initiated by the Executive Committee or a member presenting cause to Executive Committee and requires a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 5.7 Guests may attend two meetings free of charge and are allowed to attend a maximum of two meetings before they are expected to join the club.

Article 6. Officers

Section 6.1 All officers shall be Members.

Section 6.2 Any Officer may be removed from office at any time by a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Members present at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 6.3 Should an Officer resign or be removed from office, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.

- Section 6.4 The PRESIDENT shall: Conduct regular club meetings; organize and preside over Executive and Steering Committee meetings; establish committees as needed for special projects; present initiatives and ideas for club activities; delegate club business to appropriate officers; conduct all voting; speak on behalf of the club and/or executive committee for any actions decided upon under review; represent the club in any business or other activity with other organizations. In addition, the president shall have the right to designate an alternate to act in his/her behalf at club functions or in club business.
- Section 6.5 The VICE PRESIDENT shall: promote club activities such as competitions, group activities, educational directions, organize tastings, outings, etc.; act on behalf of the president in club activities or business in his/her absence; in addition to any other duties that may arise.
- Section 6.6 The TREASURER shall: collect dues and revenues; collect and disburse funds for routine and special club business; provide a financial summary for the club; maintain the accounting of club moneys; maintain a directory of member information, including name, address, phone, and email address; in addition to any other duties that may arise.
- Section 6.7 The SECRETARY shall: record meeting minutes of any Club items discussed or acted on including any meeting of the Steering Committee or Executive Committee. Meeting minutes or news are posted via email the monthly news prior to each meeting, including any reports from PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, TREASURER, and MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR; in addition to any other duties that may arise.
- Section 6.8 The MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR shall: welcome new members, promote collegiality, work with the TREASURER and SECRETARY to establish/maintain a member information directory and ensure that signed waivers for members and guests are current; in addition to any other duties that may arise.

Article 7. The Executive Committee

- Section 7.1 The Executive Committee will be composed of the current elected President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Director.

Section 7.2 All Executive Committee decisions shall be determined by a majority vote of the officers. Voting numbers for/against/or abstain will be recorded by the Secretary.

Section 7.3 The Executive Committee as a group shall:

1. Act as the business office of the Overmountain Brewers Club
2. Propose an annual budget.
3. Initiate long range planning.
4. Decide policy issues of an organizational and financial nature.
5. Make confidential judgment in any case of peer review.
6. Preside over the club, uphold the Code of Conduct, and direct the club in such a manner to fulfill the objectives and purpose of the club.
 - (i) If any member of the Executive Committee finds anyone in violation of our code of conduct they shall, to the best of their ability, take appropriate action (such as arranging transportation for a driver too intoxicated to safely operate a motor vehicle) to protect the safety of the individual and the public.
 - (ii) Inappropriate conduct shall be cause to consider revoking membership.

Article 8. Elections

Section 8.1 Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Director), shall be elected by a majority vote of the Members in attendance at a regularly scheduled meeting.

Section 8.2 All voting shall normally be by secret ballot unless open voting is agreed upon by membership.

Section 8.3 Term of office shall be for one year starting January 1st.

Section 8.4 Elections for Executive Committee officers shall take place annually in December.

Section 8.5 Elections shall be announced preceding the election meeting.

Section 8.6 Nominations for officers shall be made from the floor at the November meeting with the consent of the nominee. Members wishing to run for an office but unable to attend the meeting may have their names put into nomination by submitting a written or verbal request to any member in good standing any time before the nomination meeting.

Section 8.7 Should more than two (2) candidates be nominated and run for any Executive Committee Office, the following shall prevail:

1. Any candidate receiving a majority vote of the Members shall be considered elected.
2. In the event of a Tie, the current years Executive Officers plus the next year's elected Executive Officers will provide the votes for a runoff election
3. Voting numbers will be recorded by the Secretary.

Section 8.8 Officers-elect are strongly encouraged to attend Executive and Steering Committee meetings before their term of office officially begins.

Article 9. Meetings and Events

Section 9.1 Official Club meetings shall normally be held monthly on a day agreed upon by the general membership.

Section 9.2 The Executive Committee may call additional meetings, postpone, reschedule, or cancel meetings. Any such changes will be communicated to the membership in a timely fashion.

Section 9.3 The meeting time, date, and location will be announced and communicated to the club.

Section 9.4 The Executive Committee must meet at least twice each year. These meetings may be accomplished through the use of email lists or physical meetings. If a physical meeting is to be had, the meeting dates, times, and locations will be determined by the Executive Committee and communicated to the Officers in a timely manner.

Section 9.5 Club sanctioned events are those posted in the club email and/or discussed during the business portion of regularly scheduled meetings.

Section 9.6 The Steering Committee Meeting must be held at least twice each year. These meetings may be accomplished through the use of email lists or physical meetings. If a physical meeting is to be had, the meeting dates, times, and locations will be determined by the Executive Committee and communicated to the membership in a timely manner.

Section 9.7 The Steering Committee Meeting will be attended by the Executive Officers and any member in good standing who wishes to attend.

1. All Steering Committee Meeting decisions shall be determined by a majority vote of the Executive Committee Officers.
2. The Steering Committee Meetings purpose is to as a group:
 - (i) Assist the Executive Committee with finalizing the proposed annual budget.
 - (ii) Assist the Executive Committee with long range planning.
 - (iii) Assist the Executive Committee in deciding policy issues of an organizational and financial nature.
 - (iv) Act as a steering body for the club, that is, to guide the club into activities that support the objectives and purpose of the club.
 - (v) Identify items that the club can improve upon to enhance the user experience of being a member.

Article 10. Changes to the Bylaws

Section 10.1 A written petition signed by twenty five percent (25%) of the membership delineating proposed changes in these By-Laws shall cause the Executive Committee to discuss and present for consideration by the entire membership.

Section 10.2 These bylaws may be accepted, altered, amended or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members via proxy vote and those in attendance of a meeting.