

1 **OHIO STATE TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION, INC**

2 **Constitution**

3 (Revised September 9, 2022)

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6 **PREAMBLE**

7 We, the trappers of Ohio, associate ourselves for the following purposes: to  
8 promote sound environmental education programs; to promote sound  
9 conservation, legislation, and administrative acts; to save and faithfully defend  
10 from waste the natural resources of Ohio; to secure a continued annual fur  
11 harvest using the best tools presently available for that purpose; and to cooperate  
12 with other organizations and agencies with compatible goals.

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14 **ARTICLE 1 - NAME**

15 The name of this Organization shall be the "Ohio State Trappers Association, Inc",  
16 hereinafter called "OSTA", incorporated as a 501 (c) (6) nonprofit corporation  
17 under the laws of the State of Ohio. The insignia of the Association shall be the  
18 triangle shape with the association name and the fox on the inside.

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20 **ARTICLE 2 – DEFINITIONS**

- 21 1. Elected officers shall be President, Vice-President and Treasurer.
- 22 2. Director shall be an individual nominated by the President and approved by  
23 a simple majority vote of the Board.
- 24 3. Coordinators shall be individuals nominated by the President and approved  
25 by a simple majority vote of the Board to assume specific duties.
- 26 4. Board shall be considered the elected officers, directors, and coordinators.
- 27 5. The Executive Board shall be a smaller group of officers and directors to  
28 carry out needed business between board meetings.
- 29 6. Member shall refer to an individual whose application has been accepted  
30 and who is current in their dues.
- 31 7. Committee shall refer to special commissions created to accomplish a  
32 specific task.
- 33 8. The word WILL is deemed a future mandatory action.
- 34 9. The word SHALL will be deemed as a required or mandatory action.
- 35 10. The word MAY shall be deemed a permissive action.
- 36 11. Approval shall mean a simple majority of those voting on any topic or item.
- 37 12. Policy/Procedure shall be established by the Board to address special  
38 and/or usual circumstances not included in this document.

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ARTICLE 3 – PURPOSE

1. To promote the fur industry within the state of Ohio and nationally.
2. To promote sound professional wildlife management and the harvest of the surplus of a renewable natural resource.
3. To instruct members in the legal capture of furbearing animals and the processing and marketing of pelts.
4. To provide educational programs for public use.
5. To discourage and eliminate unjust and illegal trade practices in the marketing of furs.

ARTICLE 4 – INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Any person who believes in the taking of surplus, renewable natural resources may become a member of this organization. Membership shall be classified as follows:

1. Regular Membership
2. Junior Membership – 15 years of age and under
3. Family Membership – spouse, children, step-children and grandchildren living at one address
4. Senior Membership – 65 years of age and over
5. Lifetime Membership
6. Lifetime Membership – President’s Club

Dues:

1. Dues shall be established by the Board of Directors
2. Dues are payable on the member’s anniversary month. Members whose dues are not paid within one month of their anniversary month shall be dropped from membership.

Rights of Members:

1. Any member in good standing 16 years of age and over shall have one vote at the general membership meeting at the convention.
2. Holders of family memberships shall have up to 2 votes at the general membership meeting at the convention.
3. All members shall have the right to attend and be heard at all official regular meetings of the Board, except during executive session thereof.
4. Voting members are eligible to be considered as a candidate for office after two consecutive years of membership.

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77 Discipline/Dismissal

- 78 1. Members shall not engage in conduct injurious to OSTA or its object. Any  
79 member may be dismissed from the organization if they violate any of the  
80 purposes of the organization or does not meet its membership  
81 requirement.
- 82 2. The Dismissal must proceed in the following manner:
- 83 a. A written statement of cause must be submitted to the Executive  
84 Board by a member in good standing.
- 85 b. The Ethics committee – the Executive Board and others appointed as  
86 needed - shall handle allegations of misconduct.
- 87 c. The Executive Board will hold a hearing requesting both parties to be  
88 present at a reasonable time for both parties.
- 89 d. The Executive Board, upon hearing the evidence, may dismiss the  
90 member by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive  
91 Board.
- 92 3. The Board of Directors may adopt policies regarding reinstatement of a  
93 member.

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95 ARTICLE 5 - ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

96 Elections

- 97 1. The elected officers shall be: President, Vice-President and Treasurer. All  
98 candidates shall be voting members in good standing and at least two  
99 consecutive years of membership.
- 100 2. An election of officers each even-numbered year will determine the officers  
101 immediately taking office. They will have a term of two years.
- 102 3. Uncontested elections shall be by acclamation at the general membership  
103 meeting.
- 104 4. Contested elections shall have a mail-in ballot capability determined by the  
105 Board of Directors.
- 106 5. Should there be no annual convention the Board will establish a procedure  
107 that will allow for the elections to take place otherwise in accordance with  
108 this constitution.

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110 Duties of Elected Officers

- 111 1. The President shall be responsible for maintaining the operations of the  
112 organization, which shall include the nomination of appointees and various

- 113 committee chairmen to perform the functions of the organization to the  
114 Board of Directors. Presidential appointments (excluding committees) shall  
115 become effective upon majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- 116 2. The Vice-President shall carry out the President's duties when the President  
117 is unable to do so or when the President delegates those duties to the Vice-  
118 President.
  - 119 3. The Treasurer shall keep a financial record of the OSTA; shall perform all  
120 financial duties necessary to its operation and as prescribed by the  
121 Association's Bylaws. *(specific job responsibilities will reside in the By-laws  
122 and/or job description)*
  - 123 4. The Executive Board for this organization shall be comprised of the three  
124 elected officers, the three Regional Directors, the Executive Director, the  
125 National Trappers Association (NTA) Director, and one representative  
126 elected from the Board of Directors.
  - 127 5. The Executive Board may meet at any time to fill vacancies or to carry out  
128 any other business of the organization. A quorum of 5 is required to pass  
129 on any action.

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#### 131 ARTICLE 6 – GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

132 There shall be a general membership meeting held each year at the annual  
133 convention. Should there be no annual convention, a general membership  
134 meeting shall be called by the President with approval by the Board of Directors.  
135 The membership shall be notified of the meeting in at least one of several ways:  
136 the Buckeye Trapper, the OSTA website, electronic social media or by standard  
137 postal service.

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#### 139 ARTICLE 7 - CHANGING OF THE CONSTITUTION

- 140 1. The Board of Directors will propose any changes to the Constitution at the  
141 regular annual meeting.
- 142 2. The membership shall be presented with these proposed changes at least  
143 three months prior to the regular annual meeting.
- 144 3. Any proposed changes may be amended by a majority vote of the members  
145 present.
- 146 4. Any proposed changes or amended changes shall either be accepted or  
147 rejected by a majority vote of the members present.

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#### 149 ARTICLE 8 – BYLAWS

150 The organization shall establish bylaws to carry out the policies set forth in the  
151 constitution. A simple majority vote by the Board of Directors is required to  
152 approve bylaws or make changes in existing bylaws.

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#### 154 ARTICLE 9 – DISSOLUTION

155 If the Board of Directors and the membership vote to dissolve the organization, all  
156 assets shall be liquidated and debts shall be reconciled. Remaining assets shall be  
157 disbursed to an Internal Revenue Service 501 (c) organization whose purposes  
158 would benefit the members of this organization.

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