

THE GENTS AUTO CLUB

BY-LAWS

The Membership of the Gents Auto Club of Spokane enacted these Revised By-Laws,
Effective March 1, 2023
(Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included)

MISSION STATEMENT

The object of this organization shall be to promote safe and sportsmanlike driving practices on the streets, highways and at competitive events. To stimulate interest in the appearance, operation, ownership, and enjoyment of the automobile. To support the community in a philanthropic manner where appropriate. We also acquaint the public with the functions of organized hot rod clubs while showing them the joys of motoring as a sport as well as just a means of transportation.

Article I. NAME

- Section 01 The name of this organization shall be "The Gents Auto Club of Spokane," hereinafter called " Club" or "The Gents".
- Section 02 The Club shall have such official insignia as the membership shall determine.

Article II. MEMBERSHIP

- Section 01 There shall be four types of membership in the Club:
1. Active
 2. Prospective
 3. Honorary
 4. Associate
- Section 02 Membership Descriptions
1. Active Members are to be members in good standing in the club and are welcome to all the benefits therein, including but not limited to, attendance at all club functions, voting on club business, wearing all club insignia, and clothing
 2. Prospective Members are those in the process of becoming a member of the Club. Once their application for membership has been accepted, they enter a probationary period that lasts until they are finally voted on for membership. If the Prospective member does not have a car that is suitable to represent the GENTS, the period of probation will extend until the Prospective member acquires an acceptable vehicle. The intent of this extended probationary period is to provide a way for a new member to learn about the club, taking advantage of the automobile knowledge existing within the general membership that will assist the Prospective Member in acquiring and modifying a car that can then be admitted into the Gents. The initial probationary term will not exceed 18 months and can be extended by a vote of the membership. Once the terms of the Probationary Period have been met, the Prospective Member will qualify to be voted on for membership by the General Membership as outlined below.

- a. During the probationary period the Prospective Member will be welcome to attend all club functions and are encouraged to interact with other club members so that they are made familiar with club procedures and activities. They are not allowed to vote on club business, nor are they allowed to wear clothing associated with a full member of the Club.
 - b. An Active member of the Club must sponsor a prospective member. A club member may only sponsor one prospective member at a time.
 - c. A prospective member must have a valid driver's license, fill out an application for membership and have proper insurance. The application will be reviewed by the new member chairman to ensure prospective member has met all qualifications.
 - d. A prospective member must have a car meeting the requirements as outlined in "Addendum 1.1" attached below. Adherence to this provision is subject to the term of the Probationary Period outlined above.
 - e. Prospective member and his sponsor shall bring prospective member's car to a Club meeting, weather permitting, where he will be introduced. His car will be reviewed by a 3-member car inspection committee at some point prior to a vote on membership. Sponsor shall notify the President that he will be bringing a prospective member to the meeting. Should the Prospective Member not have a qualifying car he will be subject to the Probationary Period outlined above.
 - f. A qualified Prospective Member must attend at least four meetings of the Club before being voted on for membership. This will include Official club functions.
 - g. At the next general meeting following successfully completing the four meeting/function requirement, the Prospective Member will be voted on for Regular Membership.
 - h. Said vote must result in at least 85% of the members in attendance at the meeting voting in favor of admittance.
 - i. Should the Prospective Member fail to get the required 85% of the vote, said member may reapply following the same procedure as a new prospective member.
3. Sponsors' Duties
- a. Ensure member meets qualifications to join the Club.
 - b. Attest to prospective member's character and reliability.
 - c. Accompany prospective member and his car to the Club meeting and ensure member is knowledgeable of all requirements to join the club.
 - d. Assume responsibility for prospective member's conduct.
 - e. The sponsoring member will be given a copy of the current Club Roster so that he can check off the members names as he introduces the prospective member through his probationary period.

Section 03

Membership Categories

1. Honorary Membership may be conferred upon a person by vote of the membership for meritorious service to the Club and the Hot Rod Car culture in general. Honorary Members can attend all club functions, they pay no dues and are not allowed to vote on Club business. They will be allowed to purchase and wear Club Clothing.

2. Associate Members are persons that have been a dues paying member of the Club and have moved over one hundred Miles from Spokane. They are allowed to attend all club functions and vote, in person, on club business. They are allowed all the rights of Active Members but pay 50% of the current dues.
3. Members of the Club must be known to be of good character and be at least 21 years of age. Special consideration may be given to prospective members, under the age of twenty-one, who hold a current valid driver's license and are a relative of an active member.
4. The marital spouse of an active member in good standing may become an active member as long as the current member stays active, and the spouse pays the annual dues on time. Spouse may share the club car or own their own.
5. Any member who commits unsafe driving acts on public streets or highways, or whose conduct is otherwise detrimental to the purpose and standing of the Club may be fined, be expelled from the Club or put on probation by two thirds vote of all members, after being given a proper hearing.
6. Any member who is continually absent from club meetings or functions without due cause may be expelled from the Club by a two-thirds vote of the active club members during a regular club meeting.

Section 04 Son or daughter of an active member may use his parent's car to qualify for membership (all other requirements remain the same).

Article III. ORIGINAL MEMBERS

Section 01 An original member can be reinstated by attending a Board meeting and is eligible for membership at first club meeting. Must pay dues (car optional). An Original Member returning to the club can request honorary membership. An Original Member is defined as one that was a member of the Gents between 1963 and 1967.

Article IV. EXPULSION OF MEMBERS

Section 01 Members will be reprimanded by the Board or expelled by a majority vote at a Club Meeting upon anyone of the following grounds:

1. Misconduct or intemperance at Club meetings or events.
2. Derogatory remarks about the Club or its members.
3. Misrepresentation of the Club.
4. Failure to perform Club member duties.
5. In the event a member does something to tarnish the Gents or cause harm to another Gents member, the Board can impose a punishment to fit the crime along with a majority vote from the membership approving of the punishment.

Section 02 Members will be automatically expelled for the following:

1. Convicted of a felony.
2. Substance abuse.
3. Sale and/or managing of illegal merchandising, drugs, etc.
4. Failure to stay current with all monies due.

Article V. REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERS

Section 01 If a member leaves the Club in good standing, he may rejoin the Club by paying the current annual dues and chargeable events, prorated. The member's request must be presented in person or in writing to the Board for approval.

- Section 02 Members who leave the Club for reasons of military service shall be reinstated without any penalty whatsoever or payment of any added fees.
- Section 03 Any member who was expelled from the Club may not rejoin the Club unless the expulsion was solely for not paying dues or performing membership duties. The expelled member may be readmitted by paying all dues in arrears at the time of expulsion, and an added penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100.00). The expelled member must come to a Board meeting and receive approval, after which he may attend a club meeting where he will be voted on for re-admittance to the Club.

Article VI. INSURANCE

- Section 01 Members must maintain current insurance on all vehicles to be driven to Club meetings, functions or events.
- Section 02 Club to carry General Liability Insurance including Directors and Officers coverage. The limits of Liability for such coverage will be determined following advice of the Insurance Broker.

Article VII. FEES AND DUES

- Section 01 Dues are to be paid at time of entry (pro-rated after July 1 to one half of the yearly rate). The dues may be changed accordingly by a two-thirds vote of members.
- Section 02 The dues for the active members of this club shall be payable to the Treasurer at the first meeting of each year or upon entry.
- Section 03 If a member has not paid his yearly dues by March 31, his ability to discuss and or vote on club business will be withheld until such time as his dues are paid in full.
- Section 04 Any member whose dues are in arrears twelve months or longer will be subject to being removed from active club membership. Members so removed that want to continue with their club membership must have their membership status sponsored, voted upon, and approved in the same manner as a new member. It is understood that there may be extenuating circumstances that will adjust this Section upon action of the elected officers.

Article VIII. OFFICERS and G-board

- Section 01 The elective officers of this club shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms.
- Section 02 In addition to the elected officers of the Gents Auto Club a G-Board will be constituted. The G-Board will consist of a maximum of ten members chosen by the elected officers, each of whom will appoint two members to the G-Board representing the clubs general membership. The G-Board will be advisory only and will discuss subjects affecting activities, policies, and procedures. They will also recommend items that should be brought to the general membership meeting agenda. G-Board members retain their club voting rights during general membership meetings. The G-Board will meet once a month, usually a week prior to the general membership meeting. To qualify as a member of the G-board, one must have been a member in good standing in the Gents Auto Club for a period of no less than one year.
- Section 03 G-Board members serve at the will of the sponsoring elected officer and as such will need to be confirmed by that officer yearly.

Article IX. ELECTIONS and TERM OF OFFICE

- Section 01 All nominees for office shall be active members in good standing.
- Section 02 All nominees for President and Vice President shall be active members of at least two years in good standing.
- Section 03 All nominees for President of the Gents must have served in another officer position for a minimum of one term.
- Section 04 All elected and appointed officers must remain active members in good standing during their term of office.
- Section 05 Nominations may be made from the floor and all voting shall be by majority vote of the quorum as described in Article XI section 01.
- Section 06 Term of office shall be two calendar years, January through December
- Section 07 Officers shall be elected at the November meeting prior to the beginning of the new term and shall assume office at the first regular meeting of the new term. All officers other than the Treasurer will hold office for one term or until their successor are duly elected or qualified. Treasurer shall hold office for three years. All officers other than the Treasurer shall hold office for a maximum of two consecutive terms. Treasurer shall hold office until a successor is duly elected or qualified. Upon election of a new treasurer, and secretary, the outgoing treasurer and secretary shall remain on board for at least three (3) months.
- Section 08 If an officer cannot complete his term of office, or elects not to, the President will appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term.
- Section 09 Officers may be removed from office by majority vote one month after recall discussion during a normally held Club meeting. Replacement of Officers shall be by Roberts Rules of Order.

Article X. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- Section 01 The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club; appoint such committees as necessary to conduct all the activities of the Club; conduct the directives of the board of directors and decide the place for future meetings. In the absence of one of the officers at a meeting the President shall appoint a temporary replacement if there is a need for one; shall co-sign checks; serve as chairman of the G-Board; conduct the directives of the G-Board; decide the place for future meetings; review and approve/deny all club expenditures exceeding \$500; review/audit financial status reports at year-end and host a year-end club function to introduce the newly elected Board for the following year.
- Section 02 The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence; co-sign checks and render services to the Club as they are needed, along with helping the President. The Vice President serves as the New Membership Chairman. Ensure that club's liability insurance policy is set up per the By-Laws requirements. Be aware of pertinent legislation that would have impact on club's automotive interest and status accordingly. Handle all "Social Media" activities.
- Section 03 The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the Club meetings, keep the membership records; give notice of all regular and special meetings of the membership and board of directors; handle club correspondence and scrapbook and keep custody of all records of the Club. Take written records of all Club, General & Boar meetings; report monthly at said meetings, the notes/records taken at the previous meeting and publish a monthly newsletter and distribute to the club membership.

Section 04 The Treasurer shall collect dues; collect all other money due the Club; keep the Club books; make payment from club funds when so ordered to by the board of directors; shall countersign all club checks; keep an account of all club money matters. To manage all club monies and keep/compile financial records; supply monthly financial status at monthly General Membership and Board meetings; maintain a bank checking account for the club and car show funds; compile year-end financial data to be used in income tax reporting; ensure tax reports are submitted on time and review all financial reports at year-end with President and new Treasurer following.

Section 05 The Sergeant-At-Arms will maintain order and ensure meetings are conducted on time, announce start of meetings to obtain membership attention, lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and ensure meetings start as scheduled. Reprimand members who are disruptive to the meeting in progress, see that the orders of the President are carried out, sell 50/50 raffle tickets at General Membership meetings and enforce Roberts Rules of Order.

Article XI. MEETINGS

Section 01 A quorum shall be constituted by the presence of at least 60% of the Club's active participant membership. The meeting sign-in sheets from the previous year are used to show an average active membership. No Club business mentioned in these by-laws, which calls for a vote at a meeting, shall be voted upon by less than a quorum. The Board will audit current membership to ensure that a quorum is present for voting purposes at every meeting. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the quorum is needed to pass any motion

Section 02 Regular membership meetings shall be held at a time and place decided by the President.

Section 03 Any Officer or Board member may call special board meetings and special membership meetings.

Section 04 Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the parliamentary proceedings of the Club, unless otherwise provided by these laws.

Section 05 The order of business for all meetings of the Club and board shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call of officers by exception
3. Introduction of visitors
4. Approval of minutes of earlier meeting(s)
5. Reading of correspondence
6. Report of Secretary
7. Report of Treasurer
8. Report of committees
9. Old Business
10. New Business
11. Announcements
12. Adjournment

Article XII. AMENDMENTS

Section 01 Proposed amendment(s) to these By-Laws can be submitted to the Board by a Regular Member so it may be submitted to the General Membership for adoption. Any such adoption must be made by vote in accordance with the voting conditions outlined in Article XI section 01.

Section 02 Amendments so adopted shall take effect at once.

Article XIII. MEMBERSHIP DUTIES

Section 01 Committees: The Board may authorize specific committees to manage certain club functions. If there are insufficient volunteers for a committee, the officers may appoint members to serve.

1. Inspection Committee: This committee consists of a minimum of three (3) Club members and one (1) committee chairman. They shall be responsible for checking cars for plaques, safety equipment and issuing points during inspections. They shall also serve as a board of grievance during membership disputes.

Section 02 The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall not serve as a committee chairman during his elected term.

Article XIV. PREVIOUS RULES AND BY-LAWS

Section 01 All rules and by-laws of the Club enacted before the enactment of these By-Laws are hereby superseded and revoked.

Signed and Attested to: March 1, 2023



President – Steve Williams

This document is protected by Copyright and is for the exclusive use of The Gents Auto Club of Spokane.

Any use of this document without written permission of The Gents Auto Club of Spokane constitutes a violation of that Copyright.

©March 2023