

# Escambia River Muzzle Loaders, Inc. By-Laws

September 2008

## Article I

**Name:** This organization shall be known as the Escambia River Muzzle Loaders, Inc. AKA, ERML

## Article II

**Purpose:** The Escambia River Muzzle Loaders, Inc. is formed exclusively for the purpose for which an Educational Corporation may be formed under the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of the State of Florida, and not for pecuniary profit or financial gain. The specific purposes for which this Corporation is organized are.

- (1) To promote community interest and welfare by educating the citizenry in the safe handling of firearms,
- (2) To maintain a range to conduct and promote safe muzzle loading and other shooting activities for recreation and competition,
- (3) To maintain our rights as guaranteed to us by the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

## Article III

**Membership:** Membership in this club shall be available to a person who is at least 18 years of age upon payment of dues, who has not been convicted of a felonious act.

### Section A:

1. Membership: Family membership consists of a primary member and spouse. (2 cards) Any person under the age of 18 must be accompanied on the ERML, Inc. range by an active card-carrying parent.

2. Guest: All guests must be accompanied on the ERML, Inc. range by an active card-carrying member. Liability Waiver Forms Policy will be presented in the Policy and Procedures Manual.

**Section B:** Each paid membership shall be entitled to one vote per active card.

**Section C:** No member of the club in arrears will be eligible to vote or enjoy other privileges of the club.

**Section D:** A member will receive a one year membership extension after documented participation in three volunteer work days in a 12-month membership period. The BOD will determine which activities qualify as a work day.

**Section E:** ERML, Inc. membership requires current membership in either the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association or the National Rifle Association.

**Section F:** A member of the Board of Directors will receive a one year membership extension for each term of office served.

**Section G:** ERML shall make available Honorary Memberships to persons anxious to express support for ERML and its goals. Said Memberships: 1) Shall be made available for \$25.00 each and for one year's duration, 2) Shall not have Range Privileges or Voting Rights in ERML elections, 3) Shall not require NRA or NMLRA Membership, and 4) Shall be provided a membership card identifying the holder as an Honorary Member.

**Section H:** All Funds from Honorary Membership Fees shall be used for ERML Educational College Scholarship Fund or for ERML's Education Fund.

**Section I:** Before receiving a permanent membership card or shooting on the ERML Range, each new member must attend and successful complete a BOD authorized Orientation Class.

## **Article IV**

### **Meetings:**

**Section A** – Regular meetings will be the first Thursday of each month at a place and time agreed upon by the Board of Directors. (Currently, Village Inn on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue—In front of Cordova Mall—7:15 PM.)

**Section B** – Members present at the monthly and annual meeting shall constitute a quorum. All issues to be voted on shall be decided by a simple majority of those present at the meeting unless specified elsewhere in the By-Laws.

**Section C** –When the Board of Directors hold meetings outside the regular monthly meetings, they will give an accurate description of these meetings and when they were held at the next monthly business meeting.

**Section D** – Board of Directors meetings shall have two-thirds of the Board of Directors present to constitute a quorum. Issues voted upon shall be decided by a simple majority vote.

**Section E** – The April meeting of each year will be designated the Annual Meeting for the purpose of electing officers and voting on proposed changes to the by-laws.

**Section F** – Nominating committee will be appointed by the President at the January business meeting prior to elections.

**Section G** – Nominating committee will present a slate of nominees at the February business meeting for both Escambia River Muzzle Loaders, Inc. and Sister Corporation

ERML Sportsmen's Foundation, Inc. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at this meeting.

**Section H** – Newly elected officers will be installed as the first order of business at the May meeting.

## **Article V**

### **Board of Directors:**

**Section A** – Board members must be a member of the Escambia River Muzzle Loaders, Inc.

**Section B** – Board members will be elected for a one year term.

**Section C – The Board of Directors shall consist of the following elected officers:** President, Vice-President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Range Master, Registered Agent, Range Manager, Web Master, Education Director, Public Relations Director, Members-at-Large (2)

### **Section D – Board of Directors Responsibilities:**

1. Handle the day-to-day activities of the Organization including supervision of committees, public relations, education and setting of dues/assessments.
2. Approval of and Funding for Special Projects deemed necessary by the BOD must be voted upon and approved at a monthly membership business meeting.
3. Create and distribute a Policies and Procedures Manual for the Club at the June Membership Business Meeting.
4. Duties of all Members of the Board of Directors will be established on a yearly basis and included in the Policies and Procedures Manual.
5. The Board of Directors will conduct an annual Financial Review as outlined in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

**Section E:** Each Shop selling memberships will have a representative as a voting Member on the BOD-- Jay's, Tradewinds, Gateswood, and Uber's

**Section F:** In the event that an uneven number of members are seated on the ERML Board of Directors, the Board of Directors shall appoint, by a majority vote, another Member-at-Large at the May Board of Director's Business Meeting so that the Board of Directors shall have an even number of members.

## **Article VI**

**Range Rules** – A List of Range Safety Rules will be made part of the Policy and Procedures Manual and will be made available to all members of the Organization.

## **Article VII**

**Termination of Membership** – Any Club member breaking the Range Safety Rules or engaging in activities that discredit the Escambia River Muzzle Loaders, Inc. will receive one warning in the form of a certified letter notifying him/her to appear before

the Board of Directors. If this member does not respond within fifteen days after receipt of said letter, he/she will be dismissed with no possibility of appeal, reinstatement or reimbursement.

### **Article VIII**

**Amendments** – Any regular member may petition in writing any time during the year, but not later than the end of the February General Business Meeting to have a By Law deleted, added or modified. The Board of Directors can make necessary By Law changes. A two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors must vote to approve any necessary changes. Any necessary changes to the By Laws made by the Board of Directors must be reviewed and voted upon at the next Annual Meeting.

### **Article IX**

**Dissolution of Organization** – At such time as a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors deems it appropriate to dissolve the Organization, said action will be presented at the next monthly membership meeting along with Board of Directors proposals to Membership regarding retirement of Club assets. Any action item agreed upon by a simple majority of members present at the monthly membership meeting involving retirement of Club assets will be forwarded to all active members of this Organization by ballot. A two-thirds majority of returned ballots will be required to dissolve the Organization. Dissolution process will be outlined in the Policy and Procedures Manual.

### **Article X**

**Committees** – All Committees of the Organization shall be established as directed in the Policy and Procedures Manual.

### **Article XI**

**Signing of Checks for Organization** – Signing of checks for the Organization shall require the signature of two officers of the Board of Directors unless specified otherwise within the Policy and Procedures Manual.

### **Article XII**

**Governing Entity** – All business meetings of this Organization shall be conducted under ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED, 10th EDITION unless specified otherwise in the Policy and Procedures Manual.

Parliamentarian to be elected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at its May Meeting. Preferably, Parliamentarian should be a volunteer. Parliamentarian will be a non-voting participant at Board of Directors and monthly membership business meetings.