

# Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.

## **By-Laws**

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

#### **PREAMBLE**

#### **CHAPTER 1           MEMBERSHIP**

- 1.1   Membership criteria
- 1.2   Membership classifications
- 1.3   Establishment of other membership classifications
- 1.4   Guests

#### **CHAPTER 2           OFFICERS**

- 2.1   Classification of Officers
- 2.2   Term of office
- 2.3   Limit of succession
- 2.4   Powers and duties of the Executive Board

#### **CHAPTER 3           GOVERNANCE**

- 3.1   The Executive Board
- 3.2   Creation of By-Laws
- 3.3   Governing body
- 3.4   Judicial Body
- 3.5   Discharge of responsibilities

#### **CHAPTER 4           ELECTIONS**

- 4.1   Determination of elections
- 4.2   Vote entitlement
- 4.3   Absentee balloting
- 4.4   Interim vacancies

#### **CHAPTER 5           DUES AND FEES**

- 5.1   Establishment of annual dues
- 5.2   Dues and member eligibilities
- 5.3   Establishment of fees

**CHAPTER 6            AFFILIATIONS**

- 6.1    Status with SASS and NCOWS
- 6.2    Affiliation with NRA
- 6.3    Designation of organizations meetings

**CHAPTER 7            AUTHENTICITY**

- 7.1    Compliance with authenticity requirements
- 7.2    Responsibility for documentation
- 7.3    Firearms compliance

**CHAPTER 8            VENDORS AND DEALERS**

- 8.1    Vendor merchandising
- 8.2    Vendor authenticity requirements
- 8.3    Vendor variance requirements
- 8.4    Member merchandising

**CHAPTER 9            RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- 9.1    Firearms
- 9.2    Clothing
- 9.3    Range Rules and Regulations

**CHAPTER 10          DISSOLUTION**

- 10.1   Executive Board duties

**CHAPTER 11          AMENDMENTS**

- 11.1   Amendment procedures

# WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, INC.

## BY-LAWS

### PREAMBLE

Resolved that the **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** is a not-for-profit living history and shooting organization formed of individuals to promote interest in the period of American History known as the "OLD WEST", specifically the period from 1865 to 1899.

# WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, INC.

## BY-LAWS

### CHAPTER 1: MEMBERSHIP

**1.1** Any citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or over, may become a full member of this organization after application and payment of the usual initiation fee and/or dues. Membership shall not be denied because of sex, age, religion, race, national origin or physical handicap.

#### **1.2 MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS:**

**1.2.a MEMBER** Any responsible person at least 18 years of age- full membership rights, including the rights to vote and to hold office.

**1.2.b REGULAR MEMBERSHIP** Husband, wife and all dependent children less than 21 years of age at the time dues are paid--full membership rights for husband and wife.

**1.2.e HONORARY MEMBER** May be bestowed upon a worthy former member or other deserving individual by the membership--full membership rights except the right to vote or to hold office. Requires no payment of dues.

**1.2.f CHARTER MEMBERSHIP** Those active members officially members as of 30 April 1996 shall be recognized on the membership rolls and in other ways as might be appropriate by the membership.

**1.2.g INDIVIDUAL LIFE MEMBERSHIP** Any responsible person at least 18 years of age--full membership rights for life, including the right to vote and to hold office.

**1.3** The **EXECUTIVE BOARD** may create other categories of membership by a two-thirds (2/3) vote when a quorum is present.

**1.4 GUESTS** must comply, to the best of their ability, with established criteria for clothing and firearms to participate in official events.

# WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, INC.

## BY-LAWS

### CHAPTER 2: OFFICERS

**2.1** The officers of this organization shall be known as the **EXECUTIVE BOARD** and shall consist of the following, elected from within and by the membership: their terms and duties being described in the BY-LAWS:

**2.1.a** The **MARSHAL** shall function as the President of the organization. The **Marshal** shall execute daily the edicts of the organization and shall preside over all General meetings and **SASS** related activities. He or she may appoint committee members as needed, subject to the approval of the **Executive Board**. The **Marshal** shall work in cooperation with the **NCOWS Marshal** toward achievement of the organizations' common goals. In emergency situations, the **Marshal** may make required decisions, subject to later review by the **Executive Board**.

**2.1.b** The **NCOWS MARSHAL** shall preside over **NCOWS** related activities. He or she may appoint committee members as needed, subject to approval of the **Executive Board**. The **NCOWS Marshal** shall work in cooperation with the **Marshal** toward the achievement of the organizations' common goals. The **NCOWS Marshal** shall serve as an assistant to the **Marshal** where needed. In emergency situations, the **NCOWS Marshal** may make required decisions, subject to later review by the **Executive Board**.

**2.1.c** The **DEPUTY MARSHAL** shall function as the Vice President. Serves as acting Marshal in the absence of the Marshal. Shall serve as the Sergeant-at-Arms at meetings of the membership.

**2.1.d** The **NCOWS DEPUTY MARSHAL** shall function as Vice President of **NCOWS** related activities. Serves as acting **NCOWS MARSHAL** in the absence of the **NCOWS Marshal**.

**2.1.e** The **EDITOR** shall edit and distribute a newsletter and other **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** publications.

**2.1.f** The **BANKER** shall function as the Treasurer. Has charge of all **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** funds. He or she may not disburse funds without the approval of the **Executive Board** (such approval to include the establishment of the annual budget). He or she maintains the master list of current members of the **Wisconsin Old West Shootists**.

**2.1.g** The **JUDGE** shall function as the Chief Safety/Range Officer at **SASS** events. Has the power to appoint Deputy Judges for individual **SASS** events from the **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** membership. Has the authority to approve or certify appropriate firearms or calibers, subject to the approval of the **Executive Board**. The **SASS Judge** will

have copies of the latest SASS Shooters Handbook, the RO-I Handbook and the RO-II Handbook immediately available at all SASS shoots in order to fairly adjudicate any disputes or questions of rules.

**2.1.h** The **NCOWS JUDGE** shall function as Chief Safety/Range Officer at **NCOWS** events. Has the power to appoint Deputy Judges for individual **NCOWS** events from the **WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, INC.** membership. Has the authority to approve or certify appropriate firearms/calibers, subject to the approval of the **Executive Board**. The **NCOWS Judge** will have a copy of the latest Tally Book immediately available at all **NCOWS** shoots in order to fairly adjudicate any disputes or questions of rules.

**2.1.i** The **NCOWS TERRITORIAL REPRESENTATIVE** shall function as the liaison between the **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** and the **National Congress of Old West Shootists**. The **NCOWS Territorial Representative** must meet the conditions set forth by **NCOWS** to hold said office.

**2.1.j** The **SASS TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR** Shall function as the liaison between the **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** and the **SINGLE ACTION SHOOTING SOCIETY**. The **SASS Territorial Governor** must meet the Conditions set forth by **SASS** to hold said office. A more complete description of the duties of the Territorial Governor can be found at the **SASS** website, [www.sassnet.com](http://www.sassnet.com).

**2.1.k** The term for each elected officer shall be for one (1) calendar year. The officers will be elected by the membership from the membership. Officers may hold duplicate positions if no one is running for the second office (e.g. the positions of Marshal and **NCOWS Marshal** may be held by the same person, if he/she is a member of **NCOWS**).

**2.2** In addition to the elected **Executive Board**, the **Executive Board** by a majority vote from within the **Executive Board**, may at their discretion annually appoint up to six (6) **Directors At Large** to assist in the operation of the organization. Three of these **Directors At Large** may be a **Facilities Director**, A **Social/Publicity Director**, and a **Long Range Director**. These appointed **Directors at Large** will have full and equal privileges and responsibilities of elected **Executive Board** members.

**2.2.a** The **Executive Board** may select from the membership a **Recording Secretary**, a **WebMaster** and a **Statistician**. The **Recording Secretary**, the **WebMaster** and the **Statistician** shall serve as members of the **Executive Board** and their terms of office shall be indefinite.

**2.3** There shall be no limit to succession in office.

**2.4** These officers, acting together, shall constitute the **Executive Board** of this organization. The **Executive Board** has all of the powers of the organization in the intervals between meetings with any limits established by the **BY-LAWS**.

**2.4.a** A Quorum of the **Executive Board** is required to conduct business at regular meetings, and is defined as a simple majority of the **Executive Board**.

**2.4.b** The **Executive Board** shall establish and schedule **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** shootouts throughout the year.

**2.4.c** Members of the **Executive Board** also represent the membership at large of the **WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, Inc.** Each member of the **Executive Board** has the responsibility to bring issues and concerns of the membership to the attention of the **Executive Board**, to discuss those issues, to propose solutions and vote on motions to resolve those issues to the benefit of the **WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, Inc.** If a member of the **Executive Board** is absent more than four scheduled meetings in an elective year, without valid reasons acceptable to a simple majority of the **Executive Board**, that position will be declared vacant. A replacement for that position will be appointed by a majority vote of the **Executive Board** for the remaining term of office.

# WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, INC.

## BY-LAWS

### CHAPTER 3: GOVERNANCE

**3.1** The **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** shall be governed by a representative body, the **Executive Board**. Elected from the full membership at large. Each member of the **Executive Board** shall have equal voice and vote.

**3.2** The **Executive Board** shall create rules and regulations in regard to the administration, membership, financing policy, activities and general welfare of the **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** These shall be the BY-LAWS of the organization.

**3.3** The **Executive Board** shall determine all questions of the **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** business and policy not specified in these BY-LAWS and shall, in all respects, be the governing body of the organization. To this end the **Executive Board** shall be limited and bound by the provisions of this constitution and the Articles of Incorporation in all matters, except as otherwise provided for under the Corporation Laws of the State of Wisconsin.

**3.4** The **Executive Board** shall act as a judicial body in regard to matters of dispute within the membership. When taking disciplinary action as described in the BY-LAWS, the Board must call a special meeting to consider the question. The individual involved shall be given thirty (30) days notice in writing of the charges, the time, date and place of the meeting. The accused may be present, call witnesses and offer a defense.

**3.5** Further responsibilities of the **Executive Board**. The Board shall discharge the following responsibilities:

**3.5.a** Conduct the financial policies of the **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.**

**3.5.b** Appoint individuals to be in charge of the specific **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** functions.

**3.5.c** Assess membership dues.

**3.5.d** Authorize and determine the editorial and business policies of any publications established by **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.**

**3.5.e** Approve Honorary membership.

**WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, INC.  
BY-LAWS**

**CHAPTER 4: ELECTIONS**

**4.1** The time, date and place of the elections shall be determined by the **Executive Board** and announced to the membership at least sixty (60) days in advance.

**4.2** Each member 18 years of age and older is entitled to one vote.

**4.3** The **Executive Board** shall provide for absentee balloting in the election.

**4.4** Interim vacancies and newly created positions on the **Executive Board** shall be filled by appointment. The **Executive Board** shall advertise the vacancy in the *SPUR newsletter* and select the interim officer *by majority vote of the Executive Board* from interested club members.

# WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, INC. BY-LAWS

## CHAPTER 5: DUES AND FEES

**5.1** Dues shall be paid on a calendar year basis and paid in full by March 31st. If dues are not paid within thirty (30) days of their coming due, the member will be dropped from the membership roll. Reinstatement will be made upon payment of dues owed and any reinstatement fee.

**5.1.a** Membership Dues shall be established by the **Executive Board** at the beginning of each calendar year and be communicated to the membership in *The Spur*.

**5.1.b** The **Executive Board** may opt to discontinue offering new *Life Memberships*. However, *Life memberships* already in existence will continue to be honored.

**5.2** A member must have *all* dues paid in order to be eligible to vote, hold office, participate in shoots or events as a member, or enjoy any other privileges or benefits of this organization.

**5.2.a** **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** membership is contingent upon payment of dues and other assessments as required by the **Executive Board**. Members who fail to pay said assessments shall be barred from events until payment is made and may suffer other disciplinary measures from the Board.

**5.3** Shoot Registration and Shooting Fees shall be established by the **Executive Board**. Fees will be announced in advance of the shoot or event.

**5.3.a** Shooters less than 18 years of age are exempt from paying shoot fees at all events.

# WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, INC. BY-LAWS

## CHAPTER 6: AFFILIATIONS

**6.1** The *Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.* will establish and maintain a Posse status with the **SINGLE ACTION SHOOTING SOCIETY** and the **NATIONAL CONGRESS OF OLD WEST SHOOTISTS**.

**6.2** The *Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.* will establish and maintain affiliation with the **NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION** and other such organizations as the **Executive Board** deems appropriate.

**6.3** The organization's meetings shall be held at any appointed time or site the **Executive Board** designates.

# WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, INC. BY-LAWS

## CHAPTER 7: AUTHENTICITY

**7.1** Members shall have a one year period in which to comply with the **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** requirements for SASS or NCOWS (as appropriate for an event) in items of apparel, accoutrements and firearms. Members will be expected to continually demonstrate progress in meeting authenticity requirements. Non-compliance with the organization's authenticity requirements shall make the individual's membership subject to review by the **Executive Board**.

**7.2** It is the responsibility of the individual to assure compliance of all items of apparel, accoutrements and firearms.

**7.3** All firearms must comply with SASS requirements at Wisconsin Old West Shootists/SASS matches and with NCOWS requirements at Wisconsin Old West Shootists/NCOWS shoots.

# WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, INC. BY-LAWS

## CHAPTER 8: VENDORS AND DEALERS

**8.1** Vendors wishing to sell merchandise or services at **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** sponsored events must obtain permission from the Judge or his/her Deputy. Such permission will be conditional on the vendor satisfying the requirements of this BY-LAW.

**8.2** Vendors wishing to sell merchandise or provide services in the immediate visual area of the shooting participants and spectators may only display and sell original or authenticated replica goods or services of the period 1865-1899. The seller and his/her employees shall be appropriately dressed and accoutered for the time period and their display of merchandise shall be appropriate to the historical period or be reflective of the time period (eg, digitally-produced photographs).

**8.3** Vendors wishing to sell merchandise or services of a general "western" nature but who do not or cannot conform to the stipulations of BY-LAW 8.2 may do so if sequestered from the immediate visual vicinity of the shooting range participants and spectators.

**8.4** Individual **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** members may from time to time display and offer for sale appropriate items at meetings and shoots without otherwise being subject to the restrictions placed on commercial vendors.

# WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, INC. BY-LAWS

## CHAPTER 9: RULES AND REGULATIONS

**9.1 Firearms:** Shall meet the criteria set forth by the **SINGLE ACTION SHOOTING SOCIETY**. If the shoot is advertised as a **NATIONAL CONGRESS OF OLD WEST SHOOTISTS** sanctioned event, **NCOWS** criteria will be met.

**9.2 Clothing and accoutrements** must meet the criteria set forth by the **Single Action Shooting Society** for **SASS**-sanctioned events. If the shoot is advertised as a **National Congress of Old West Shootists** sanctioned event, clothing and accoutrements must meet the requirements of **NCOWS**. The **NCOWS** shoot master may relax these rules for **NCOWS-Greenhorn** events.

**9.3 Range rules and procedures** shall follow **SASS** guidelines at **SASS** shoots and **NCOWS** guidelines at **NCOWS** shoots. These guidelines shall be kept as documents separate from these by-laws. Copies of the latest issue of each of these documents will be kept at the range for reference.

# **WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, INC. BY-LAWS**

## **Chapter 10: Dissolution**

**10.1** If, at such time the **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** should cease to be a viable entity the assets of the organization shall be sold at the direction of the **Executive Board**. Any residual funds after financial obligations are met shall be donated to the **National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action**.

# **WISCONSIN OLD WEST SHOOTISTS, INC. BY-LAWS**

## **CHAPTER 11: AMENDMENTS**

**11.1** Any proposed amendments to these BY-LAWS may be introduced by any member of the club at any regular meeting or special meeting called for the purpose, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment(s) has been sent to each club member by United States mail at least ten days previous to the meeting. A two-thirds vote of the members present will be necessary to pass the amendment(s).

These BY-LAWS were adopted by the membership of the **Wisconsin Old West Shootists, Inc.** on March 20, 2010.