

Athens Homebrewers Club

By-Laws

Article I

Purpose

1. The Athens homebrewers club is an organization devoted to art and science of homebrewing. The purpose of the Athens Homebrewers club shall be:

To provide a venue for social interaction and activities centered on the foundation of homebrewing

To learn about beer, brewing techniques and expanding our brewing horizons

To coordinate and host homebrew competitions

To create an awareness for the hobby and appreciation of homebrewing

To promote the responsible use and enjoyment of beer

Article II

Powers

In furtherance of its purposes the Athens Homebrewers Club shall have the power to call and hold meetings, to collect and disseminate information, assess dues, and to conduct activities that are lawful and necessary to accomplish its purposes.

Article III

Membership

A member is any individual of legal drinking age who has paid his or her dues, is willing to abide by these by-laws, and who wishes to learn and share information about home brewing. Membership is open to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, or religious affiliation.

All members are entitled and encouraged to be actively engaged in the club and to voice their opinions and concerns about club activities. If ideas, issues or concerns arise, a member can request that such item is discussed during the regular club meeting by a show of hands of those attending the meeting. If additional time for action is required, the attendees may vote for such discussion to be postponed to the following meeting so that the general membership can be informed through the newsletter/email.

Each member's participation in the Athens Homebrewers Club is strictly voluntary. Each member realizes that participation may involve consumption of alcoholic beverages, which may affect perception and reaction. A member is expected to know their personal limits of alcohol intoxication and stay below those limits at all club functions. Those that do not or cannot maintain personal responsibility may be terminated by 2/3 majority vote of members.

Each member will be responsible for the conduct and actions of their guests.

Each member, guests of members, and prospective members accept sole responsibility and all liability for their conduct, behavior, and actions and further agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Athens Homebrewers Club, its officers and members from any and all claims or liability whatsoever resulting from the actions of the club, its members and guests of members.

Members should refrain from using the gathering as a platform for commercial or political pursuits and should act in an ethical and non-abusive manner. Members should maintain a cordial and constructive atmosphere.

Through membership in the Athens Homebrewers Club, each member agrees to and is bound by this article. All members shall fill out and sign a membership form that informs of the items listed in this article.

Article IV
Meetings

Regular monthly club meetings are to be held on the third Thursday of each month, beginning at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted by special announcement. Meetings are open to all members, their guests, and prospective new members.

A quorum is 1/3 of the current members – a quorum is necessary for all matters that require a vote.

Special meetings can be held at various dates and times for special events i.e. competitions, brew days, tours, etc. or as deemed necessary by the board and are open to all members.

Article V
Elections

The club will be facilitated by an Organizational Committee of 5 elected members.

The Organizational Committee members are elected by a majority vote of the active dues paying membership present at the October meeting.

Organizational Committee positions are open to all active dues-paying members.

Absentee votes can be submitted by email to the club secretary before the October meeting

Nominations for Organizational Committee are to be submitted on or before the September meeting. If no nominations are submitted and the current Organizational Committee is willing to continue in the current post, no election is necessary.

In the event that a committee member resigns the position will be filled by appointment from the board.

Article VI

Organizational Committee

The term of office for each position shall be 1 year. There is no limit on terms of office.

The duties for the Organizational Committee are as follows:

- Preside over all monthly club meetings and set the agenda for such.
- Appoint a board member to assume the duties of Treasurer
- Community relations
- Arrange special club committees
- Monitor the club forum
- Maintain a record of all monthly meetings and compile minutes.
- Edit the club by-laws as determined by the officers and ensure a copy of the by-laws is available to all members.
- Act as liaison with other organizations, particularly the American Homebrewers Association (AHA).

The Treasurer Shall:

- Have all responsibilities for managing the clubs financial activities including but not limited to:
 - Collecting dues and funds paid to the club,
 - Recording all receipts and disbursement of club funds,
 - Maintaining the club bank account,
- Provide a Treasurer's Report to the club on a quarterly basis and allow for free and open examination of check register and receipts by officers.
- Maintain a current and up to date roster of club members.
- Provide each current and active member a membership card.

Article VII
Dues

Dues are to be paid annually by the January meeting.

Dues are set currently at \$20.00 per person or \$30.00 per couple annually unless modified by the board and voted on by majority vote of members present.

Dues are due at membership sign-up and are valid through December 31 of the current year. For new members who join after May, dues are set \$10.00 per person and \$15.00 per couple until end of the year and then paid annually thereafter.

While membership is not mandatory to attend a Athens Homebrewers Club meetings or functions, it is highly encouraged and this policy should not be abused by guests. The Athens Homebrewers Club and its officers reserve the right to assess guest fees to offset expenses as becomes necessary.

Special Collections may be taken above and beyond dues to provide for special events or situations. In most instances, these collections shall be voluntary. If a mandatory special collection is requested, it may only be taken upon majority vote of dues-paying members present at an official meeting after appropriate notice (via email) has gone out the month prior to when the special collection vote will take place. This will allow a forum to discuss and debate the necessity of the special event/collection. If a dues paying member cannot be present, an absentee vote can be emailed to the Secretary.

Article VIII
Finances

All bills, payable notes, checks or other negotiable instruments for normal operations of the Athens Homebrewers Club will be managed by the Treasurer. Any single expenses not associated with normal monthly operation of the club are to be submitted for approval with a written justification, which shall be retained by the Treasurer. Expenditures in excess of \$50 up to \$100 shall require the approval by majority vote of the Board. Expenditures in excess of \$100 shall require majority vote of the members present.

No part of net proceeds of the Club shall or may under any circumstance benefit any single member or individual. Club funds shall be used only for Club events, purchases and membership benefits as approved by the Board, or general membership, depending on amounts.

Disposition of assets: Should the Athens Homebrewers Club brew club ever be dissolved or cease to exist, the financial assets of the Athens Homebrewers Club after payment of any debts and all obligations shall be distributed to a non-profit entity that is organized and operated exclusively for scientific, educational or community service purposes, and has established its tax exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code.

Article IX
Committees

From time to time, committees may be formed by the Organizational Committee to resolve issues or to accomplish club related tasks that may include but are not limited to: competitions, group brews, parties, special events, media relations, planning, nominations, etc. Any member may volunteer to serve on any committee. Non-members are not allowed to serve on committees. Committees will select their own chairperson and set meeting dates and agendas. Some committee meetings may take place away from the general meeting place. Committees shall reach desired decisions under their jurisdiction that reflect the best interest of the club. If a designated committee perceives a conflict between goals of the committee or general club, or wishes to seek a vote of approval on any item under their jurisdiction, they may call for a vote during the business portion of a general meeting without prior announcement.

Article X
Amendments

These By-Laws can be amended by majority vote of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting after an open discussion with the general membership has taken place. Prior notice of any amendment shall at a minimum be disseminated via email one month before the changes are proposed.