

**MIDWEST TRI-STATE CHAPTER**  
**OF THE**  
**NORTH AMERICAN VERSATILE HUNTING DOG ASSOCIATION (NAVHDA) / SOUTH**  
**DAKOTA HUNTING DOG CLUB**  
**BYLAWS**  
**REVISION 4, MARCH 6, 2019**

**ARTICLE 1: NAME AND PURPOSE**

Section 1: Name

The organization will be known as Midwest Tri-State NAVHDA / South Dakota Hunting Dog Club, a chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA) and the American Kennel Club (AKC), hereafter referred to as “The Chapter” and the “Parent Organizations”, respectively.

Section 2: Purpose

The purposes of the Chapter are:

- a. To affiliate with the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association and the American Kennel Club and abide by the Constitution, Bylaws and rules of the Parent Organizations.
- b. Foster, improve, promote and protect the hunting dog breeds in North America by such activities as:
  1. Conducting field tests for the versatile breeds according to the test standards of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association and conducting all hunting dog tests according to the rules and standards of the American Kennel Club.
  2. To disseminate knowledge by conducting and sponsoring training clinics to assist handlers in training their hunting breed dogs for both hunting and tests.
  3. Encouraging and actively promoting sportsmanlike conduct in the field, at all hunting tests and require observance of game laws and regulations.
  4. Promoting the use of versatile hunting dog breeds, and all hunting dogs breeds to other hunters and sportsmen and women.
  5. To encourage the training of judges.
- c. The chapter shall not be conducted or operated for profit and no part of the net earnings of the Chapter shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Chapter shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 1, Section 2, hereof.
- d. No substantial part of the activities of the Chapter shall be the carrying on or propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Chapter shall not participate in, or intervene in (including publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of a candidate for public office.

- e. The members of the chapter shall adopt and may from time to time revise such bylaws as may be required to carry out these objectives.
- f. Notwithstanding any other provision of these by-laws, the Chapter shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United State Internal Revenue Law.

Section 3:

The Chapter is a nonprofit organization pursuant to the laws of South Dakota.

**ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP AND DUES**

Section 1: Membership

- a. Membership in the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association is required.
- b. Spouses and family members under age 18 are eligible to participate in Chapter activities as non-voting members.
- c. Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form approved by the officers and which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by the constitution and bylaws of the chapter and the rules of the American Kennel Club.

Section 2: Dues

- a. Annual dues shall be payable on January 1 of each year and shall apply for one calendar year.
- b. Dues must be paid by the March meeting of each year or membership will be terminated.
- c. Dues paid after the August meeting shall be deemed adequate for the balance of the year in which they are paid and for the next succeeding year.
- d. The membership will determine chapter dues. A majority vote of the membership is required to change the amount of dues.

Section 3: Discrimination and Sexual Harassment

- a. The Chapter is an equal opportunity organization to which anyone may belong regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin ancestry, citizenship, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability.
- b. Persons who bring complaints of discrimination or harassment or assist in the investigation and disposition of such complaints shall not be subject to harassment, interference, or intimidation or retaliation.

**ARTICLE 3: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Section 1: Executive Council

- a. The Executive Council of the Chapter shall consist of four officers elected by the general membership.
  - a. President
  - b. Vice-President
  - c. Secretary
  - d. Treasurer
- b. Any voting member in good standing is eligible to hold office
  - 1. Dues are up-to-date

2. Attends meetings regularly
3. Participates in Chapter activities (training, testing)
4. Experienced with hunting dogs

Section 2: President:

- a. Presides over the monthly meetings and any board meetings.
- b. Appoints active members to fill vacancies occurring between elections.
- c. Appoints committees and project leaders as needed.

Section 3: Vice President:

- a. Acts as the president in the absence of the President.
- b. Responsible for leading the recruiting/nominations committee that will visit with members to fill positions on committees, project leaders and to run for elected positions.
- c. Responsible for providing a slate of nominations for the positions of the Executive Board. This list is to be presented to the general membership January 1 of each odd numbered year.

Section 4: Secretary

- a. Conducts all correspondence of the Chapter's business.
- b. Maintain a roster of current members.
- c. Records the minutes of all meetings.
- d. Prepares year-end report for the Parent Organizations.

Section 4: Treasurer

- a. Maintains all financial records of the Chapter.
- b. Pays all bills and receives all incoming funds for the Chapter.
- c. Maintain the Chapter checking account.
- d. Provides a written Treasurer's report to the Executive Council and members at each monthly meeting.

Section 5: Executive Council Spending Authority

- a. The Executive Council has the authority to spend chapter funds up to \$1,000 maximum for any combination of items or services deemed necessary if the item or service is needed prior to the next scheduled monthly club meeting.
- b. In the event of the Executive Council spends funds between monthly meeting the Executive Council must notify the membership in a timely fashion (1 week) of the decision.
  1. The notification must include:
    - i. What the funds will be used for
    - ii. How much was spent
    - iii. Why was this unable to be held until the next monthly meeting
  2. Notifications
    - i. Club website posting
    - ii. Group email to the entirety of the membership

## **ARTICLE 4: APPOINTED POSITIONS**

Section 1: Definition

- a. The following posts may be appointed as needed to support Chapter activities.
- b. Appointments will be for a specific period, no more than one (1) year.

Section 2: Director of Testing

- a. Responsible for the organization and operation of all tests held by the chapter.
- b. Appoints Test Chairperson, Field Marshall, and Secretary for each test.
- c. Responsible for coordinating apprentice judges at Chapter tests.
- d. Responsible for the selection and housing of all judges serving in Chapter tests.

Section 3: Director of Training

- a. Responsible for the organization and operation of all training events held by the Chapter.
- b. Assists chapter members with solving training problems.

Section 5: Director of Promotions

- a. Responsible for the organization of committees for all promotional events and oversees those committees.
- b. Responsible for ensuring that the committee members have provided for media coverage and advertising for Chapter events.
- c. Responsible for the ongoing efforts to increase membership.

Section 7: Bird Buyer

- a. Maintains a file on sources of birds for use in training.
- b. Responsible for supplying birds for the various functions.
- c. Responsible for the care of all birds used at chapter events.

Section 7: Director of Land Acquisition

- b.

**ARTICLE 5: ELECTIONS**

Section 1: Frequency

- a. Elections will be conducted annually (for a term of office of one year) at the regular September meeting of each year.
- b. Newly elected Executive Board Members will assume office January 1 of the next year.

Section 2: Method

- c. Nominations will be made at the August meeting.
- d. Elections will be by voice vote of the members present at the September meeting.
- e. Paper ballots may be employed at the discretion of the President.

**ARTICLE 6: FIELD TESTS**

- a. All tests will be conducted in accordance with the requirements established by the Parent Organizations.
- b. No prizes beyond those of the Parent Organizations will be awarded any participants of tests conducted by the Chapter.

**ARTICLE 7: CHAPTER PROCEDURES**

Section 1: Chapter Meetings

- c. Chapter meetings will be held on a monthly basis January through September.
- d. The annual meeting shall be held in the month of January, at which officers for the ensuing year shall take office. Each retiring officer shall turn over to the successor in the office all properties and records relating to that office at the January meeting.
- e. Discipline: Any member who is suspended from all the privileges of the AKC automatically shall be suspended from the privileges of this club for a like period. An

individual member may prefer charges against another individual member for alleged misconduct prejudicial to the best interest of the club. Written charges with specifications must be filed in duplicate with the Secretary together with a fee of \$100.00 which shall be forfeited if such charges are not sustained by the officers following a hearing. The Secretary shall promptly send a copy of the charges to each officer or present them at an officer's meeting, and the officers shall first consider whether the actions alleged in the charges, if proven, might constitute conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the club. If the officers consider that the charges do not allege conduct which would be prejudicial to the best interests of the club, it may refuse to entertain jurisdiction. The officers will have complete authority, if the charges are sustained after hearing all the evidence, to recommend suspension of all club privileges for a period of time, or the officers may recommend to the membership that the penalty be expulsion. The membership shall then vote by secret ballot on the proposed expulsion. A 2/3 vote of those present and voting at the meeting shall be necessary for expulsion.

Section 2: Financial Statement

- f. The Financial Statement will be presented at each meeting of the Chapter.

Section 3: Amendments to Bylaws

- a. Amendments will be presented in writing to the membership at two consecutive meetings prior to voting on the amendment.
- b. The vote may occur at the same meeting as the second discussion of the amendments.
- c. Approval of amendments to the Bylaws will require approval of two thirds (2/3) of the voting members present.

Section 4: Committees

- a. Committees may be formed from time to time to handle specific, short-term issues for the Chapter.
- b. Any currently active member may serve on a committee.

Section 5: Political Activities

- a. The Chapter may, from time to time, support specific legislation or activities related to hunting, sporting dogs, conservation issues, etc.

Section 6: Dissolution

- a. The Chapter is not organized for profit and no part of the net earnings or assets of the Chapter shall inure to the benefit of any private individual.
- b. In the event of liquidation or dissolution of the Chapter, the balance of all money and other property received by the Chapter from any source, after payment of all debts and obligations of the Chapter, shall be used or distributed exclusively for purposes within Article 1, Section 2. This organization will be chosen by a majority vote of the membership of the Chapter.

Section 7: Delegate to NAVHDA Meetings

- a. Article VII, Section 3 of the NAVHDA By-Laws (Revised 1977) provides for attendance of a Chapter delegate at the annual meeting of NAVHDA, with voting privileges on all executive conducted at the meeting.
- b. When deemed advisable and feasible, the Executive Council of the Chapter will select a member of the Chapter to attend.
- c. This delegate may be any currently active member of the Chapter.

Section 8: Chapter Training Grounds (hereafter to referred to as “the Grounds”)

- a. When and where feasible the Chapter will maintain grounds for training and testing.
- b. Grounds managed by the Chapter are for the exclusive use of members in good standing and whose dues are current.
- c. Members exercising their dogs will yield to members actively training.
- d. Members may, from time to time, invite guests and their dog to train as a recruiting tool.