

Black Swamp Gamers Constitution and By-Laws

ARTICLE I: NAME & PURPOSE

Section A: Name – The name of this club shall be Black Swamp Gamers.

Section B: Location – The club main office is located at 205 Farnsworth Rd Suite E, Waterville, OH 43566.

Section C: National Affiliation – Black Swamp Gamers is not affiliated with any nationally known organizations. We are currently independent of any other board game clubs.

Section D: Purpose – The purpose of this club shall be:

- 1. To Provide a safe and encouraging atmosphere with like-minded people who have a common interest in board games, card games, etc; also known as hobby gaming.*
- 2. To give our members a relaxing and entertaining experience through group interaction and conversation.*
- 3. To raise awareness of the growing community of hobby gaming.*

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP, DUES, & MEMBER RIGHTS

Section A: Eligibility - Membership shall be open to the public for anyone who has an interest in Black Swamp Gamers upon payment of the dues as outlined in Section B.

Section B: Dues – Dues are as follows for each membership type:

Limited Partner –\$250 per year

Contributor –\$200 per year

Household –\$15 per month OR \$150 per year (max of 2 dependents)**

Member –\$10 per month OR \$100 per year

D&D Member –\$5 per month OR \$50 per year

All dues are to be paid in full once application has been approved, then if a membership is being renewed, 1-7 days prior to plan expiration date.

Section B: Membership Rights

Limited Partner - with approval from 2 other partners, only 7 positions available - This allows you to be a key holding partner in the club. Being a limited partner, you may be called upon to help open the building on game days and be a staff organizer of hosted events. This is a large responsibility and it is not handed out lightly. It will put you in charge if anything were to happen. This also allows you to hold private events. Limited partners can bring as many guests as they please, as often as they want (guests must still present a guest pass). This is to try and get them to convert to a members' status down the road. Limited Partners are also allowed to store their game collections at the shop. Lastly, being a partner also will allow you first access to game demos and special viewing events that BSG may hold with game designers in the future.

Contributor - This level of membership gives many of the same rights as a limited partner in terms of club influence but comes with less responsibility (pretty much a limited partner without the key to the door). You are welcome to host your own private events with friends on any day a key holder is present or you can schedule time with a partner to be available to open the building. Contributors are also allowed to bring as many guests as they please to boost membership numbers

and can store their collections at the shop. Contributors are also allowed first viewings of new games and demos that we host with game designers.

Household - This membership level is for families that still have dependents that live in the same house. This would NOT be a good plan for just 1 couple with no kids. This is meant to be able to add additional children to an account. ** - Up to a max of 2 dependents or rates change to \$5 extra per dependent. EX – a household member, his/her spouse, and 3 kids would have to pay \$20 per month. If they only had 2 kids, it would be \$15 or if they had 4 kids it would be \$25. ** - For yearly commitment, prices go up \$50 for each extra dependent. Age restrictions apply, see Article VIII, Section C.

Member - This allows you access to the building only when a key holding partner is available and on Saturday events. Members are allowed 3 guest passes per month.

D&D Members – This is exclusively for people who intend on ONLY playing D&D on group nights up at the clubhouse. This pays for the players use of space, electricity, use of club resources, etc. This membership does not allow them to play on regular games night and should only be at the club on planned D&D party nights.

NOTE - All plans (except D&D Members) listed are to be considered “Couples” plans. This means that every plan consists of its primary account holder, then 1 SPOUSE. This doesn’t include “Significant others” or “Longtime boyfriend/girlfriend”. Just as state law sees a married couple as 1 entity, this also applies for the club. For example, if a married couple with no kids would like to become members, they would only need a Member level plan for \$10 a month or \$100 a year. ID proof would be greatly appreciated. Be sure to list your spouse’s name on the application so that 2 membership cards can be printed.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section A: Officers – The officers shall be a Club President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Event Organizer, and Public Relations (PR) officer.

Section B: Eligibility – Officers must have a Limited Partner OR Contributor membership status.

Section C: Election – The officers shall be elected by ballot at the last meeting of the 4th quarter by a majority of the vote cast for that office by Limited Partners and Contributors.

Section D: Term – The officers shall serve for one year and their term of office shall begin at the commencement of the 4th quarter meeting. All officer positions can be held for multiple terms until they are voted out of office or choose to resign. Black Swamp Gamers 1st Quarter starts July 1st.

Section E: Vacancy – If a vacancy occurs in the office of Club President, the Vice-President shall assume the office for the remainder of the term and vacancies in any other office shall be filled by a special election.

ARTICLE IV: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section A: President – it shall be the duty of the Club President to:

- Preside at meetings
- Vote only in case of a tie
- Represent the club
- Appoint Events Committee chairpersons/members subject to the approval of the other officers

- Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees
- Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to this office

Section B: Vice-President – It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to:

- Preside in the absence of the President
- Serve as chairperson of the Events Committee

Section C: Secretary – It shall be the duty of the Secretary to:

- Record the minutes of all meetings
- Keep a file of the club's records
- Maintain a current roster of membership
- Issue notices of meetings and conduct the general correspondence of the club

Section D: Treasurer – It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to:

- Receive all funds and process Request for Payment, Deposit Slip, and Officer Signature Forms. This also includes control of the club bank account.
- Keep an itemized account of all receipts and expenditures and make reports as directed

Section E: Event Coordinator – It shall be the duty of the Event Coordinator to:

- Work with the Events Committee to organize and plan public Saturday events
- Keep in touch with local retail shop or conventions on allowing our members attendance to said event

Section F: Public Relations Officer – It shall be the duty of the PR Officer to:

- Maintain the clubs outward facing social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Intstagram, etc)
- Create posts of recent news for social media pages
- Generate ideas for local marketing, possibly working in tandem with the Event Coordinator.
- Concentrated efforts in networking and community outreach.

ARTICLE V: MEETINGS

Section A: Meetings – Regular Officer meetings shall be held on “any” Thursday of every month to discuss club happenings and ideas (preferable at least 2 weeks apart from each other), with Club-wide Members meetings every other quarter during the year; May and November, to discuss larger events, club finances, etc.

Section B: Special Meeting – Special meetings may be called by the President with the approval of the Events Committee.

Section C: Quorum – A quorum shall consist of at least 4 of the 7 officers or board members for meetings to be considered valid.

Section D: Parliamentary Authority – Officer majority shall govern this club in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

Section E: Board Member (non-officer) – In addition to officers stated above, other individuals listed in Article VIII Section F that attend the officer meetings are considered part of said officer meeting, allowing them to share ideas and comment on discussion. This role also allows for a right to vote with parliamentary authority. Board members are appointed by the President and Vice President and are to be person who have a background in the gaming community or the officers feel would provide important knowledge on topics.

Section F: Appointment by Proxy – In the event that an officer/board member can't make it to a meeting in which a vote will be held (ex: approval of new officers at our annual meeting), the board member must fill out the appropriate form allowing another board member (proxy) to vote on behalf of said board member (principal). Multiple principals can select the same proxy to represent their vote as long as the form is filled out and submitted prior to the voting date.

ARTICLE VI: EVENTS COMMITTEE

Section A: Responsibility – Management of this club's publicly held Events shall be vested in an Events Committee responsible to the entire membership to uphold these bylaws.

Section B: Membership – This committee shall consist of the officers as listed in Article III and appointed members.

Section C: Meetings – This committee shall meet at least once between regular meetings of the club to organize and plan future activities.

ARTICLE VII: OTHER COMMITTEES

Section A: Other committees – listed are possible future committees that may be needed once the club becomes more established: Marketing, Game Design, Fundraising, etc. When new committees are announced, they will be drafted into these bylaws once officers agree on the same conditions stated in Article VI (Responsibility, Membership, and Meetings).

Section B: Special Committees – The President shall have the authority to appoint any special committees, with the approval of the officers, from time to time as need demands.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

Section A: Selection – these bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the whole club membership.

Section B: Notice – All members shall receive notice of the proposed amendment at least five days before the meeting in which the two-third vote is needed.

Section C: Age Restriction – Although we encourage people of all ages to participate in the club and in the board game community, for liability reasons, we ask that all APPLYING members are 18 years of age and older. Household plans may include individuals under 18 years of age but must be accompanied by an adult. Remember that if you are bringing your children with you, they could be subjected to conversation that is not appropriate for their age.

Section D: Limited Partner Size Limit – Currently the limited partner size is set to 8 partners. In the future, this number may be increased depending on the club size and need. When it becomes acceptable to increase that limit, officers will hold a vote to increase it accordingly.

Section E: Guest Passes – Day passes are available for purchase at the front desk that will allow the presenter of the pass 1 free day of game play on any member day. Passes cost \$5 each and they do not expire. Passes must be approved and dated by an officer before being handed out. If they are received with no signature and date, they cannot be accepted. Guest should also sign the visitor sign in sheet when using said guest pass so that we can later contact them with membership information.

Section F: Current officers & Board Members – Current elected & appointed board members as of March 24th 2019 are:

Club President: Anthony Kniss
Club Vice President: Mike Pelton
Secretary: Daniel Crews
Treasurer: Natalie Kniss
Event Coordinator: Kyle Smith
PR Officer: Aimee Gruenwald
Board Members: Josh Sapp – Owner of Old School Gaming
Matt Gruenwald – Local Game Designer
JJ White – Original club founder

Section G: Club Liability Waivers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK OR INJURY POSSIBILITY

As a member, volunteer, or guest of the Black Swamp Gamers club and facility, each person recognizes the risk and acknowledge that there are certain risks of physical injury – including death, damages, property damage, or loss – which said person may sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with Black Swamp Gamers, or the use of the facilities or equipment.

WAIVER OF CLAIM FOR INJURY CLAUSE

Members, volunteers, or guests agree to waive and relinquish all claims that they may have for injuries or damages as a result of participating in the club or using the facilities or equipment against Black Swamp Gamers and its officers, agents, servants, employees, other volunteers, and affiliates.

RELEASE FROM LIABILITY CLAUSE

Members, volunteers, or guests do hereby release and discharge Black Swamp Gamers and its officers, agents, servants, employees, volunteers and affiliates from any and all claims for injuries, including death, damages, property damage, or loss which may have or may in future accrue to said person in account of participating in or volunteering for Black Swamp Gamers.

Section F: Fiscal Year for taxes – Black Swamp Gamers fiscal year begins May 1st

Revisions to bylaws Approved by & dated

Officer

Seconded

Date
