

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE 1

#### **Name**

1. The name of the Association shall be "Michigan Bow Hunters Association, Inc." indicated in abbreviations M.B. H. (As amended April 5, 1952.)
2. The Michigan Bow Hunters Association logo is a registered Trademark and solely intended for Association services. no person shall use the M.B. H. logo, or any part hereof, without prior authorization by the Board of Governors. (As amended April 6, 1991.)

### ARTICLE II

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Michigan Bow Hunters Association, Inc. shall be:

1. To encourage the use of the bow and arrow in hunting of all legal game and fish, and to protect, improve and increase the privileges of bow and arrow hunters.
2. To conduct a continuous educational program to acquaint the public with the bow and its uses as a practical and humane weapon, suitable under proper regulations, for the hunting of all legal game and fish on the American continents.
3. To cooperate with the State Department of Natural Resources and sportsmen and other conservation organizations in the propagation and conservation of game and fish, and its natural habitat, the forests, fields and waters.
4. To cooperate with the National Field Archery Association and other associations in fostering and the perpetuation of the use of the bow in accordance with its ancient and honorable traditions.
5. All Funds and assets of M.B.H. shall be used only for the purposes that are consistent with the purposes of M.B.H. and for actual administrative expenses in conduction of the affairs of M.B.H. under the direction and with the approval of the Board of Governors. The Board of Governors may purchase land, building, equipment, operate and maintain the same as required to further the purpose of M.B.H. (As passed May 4, 2008.)
6. Revenues of M.B.H. shall not be used for the benefit of any individual, member, or shareholder, of M.B.H. except to further the lawful purposes of M.B.H. (As passed May 4, 2008.)

### ARTICLE III

#### **Membership**

1. The membership of the Association shall consist of any person who has not been convicted of any violation of the Michigan game laws within twelve months prior to his

application for membership, and who is eligible to apply for and receive a Michigan hunting license.

2. Any person convicted of violations of the Michigan game laws shall automatically cease to be a member, but may be reinstated after twelve months by a majority vote of the Board of Governors, provided such suspended member is eligible to receive a Michigan game license.

3. The Board of Governors may suspend or expel any member for conduct detrimental to the interests of the Association.

4. The fees for membership shall be set at the discretion of the board. The officers, both voting and non-voting, shall not be required to pay membership fees during their term of office. They each shall be given a family membership.

5. All junior members, 17 years of age or younger shall be included in a family membership or youth membership. Junior members, 17 years of age or younger are not entitled to vote. (As amended 1948: April 11, 1959; April 2, 1960; April 7, 1973; April 19, 1975; April 23, 1983; April 4, 1987; April 16, 1988; and March 10, 1996.)

6. Any member that has reached their 65th birthday and has accumulated 45 years of membership shall be granted a life membership upon their request. It shall be the duty of the member to provide proof of the numbers of accumulated years has been attained if the records of the Michigan Bow Hunters Association are not complete. (As passed May 4, 2008.)

#### **ARTICLE IV** **Board of Governors**

1. The Board of Governors shall consist of the President, Vice President, the Immediate Past President, and twelve (12) elected members, one from each District, for a total of fifteen (15) members. (As amended November 13, 1948; March 25, 1961; April 18, 1964; April 6, 1991; March 10, 1996.)
2. The Board of governors shall control and manage the activities, policies and property of the association.
3. If a quorum is not present at a Board meeting, any business transacted shall have five (5) affirmative votes to pass. All board members shall have only one vote. (As amended April 18, 1964; April 5, 1967; April 6, 1991.)
4. All vacancies of the Board of Governors or any office other than the President shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Governors. A vacancy of the office of President shall be filled by the Vice President. (As amended April 18, 1964.)
5. The Board of Governors shall meet at the call of the President or at the request of three board members whenever he or they deem necessary, and at a time and place where at least a quorum can convene. All business of the Board of Governors, except at the annual meeting of the association, may be decided by mail or by E-mail. The Secretary, at the discretion of the President, or at the request of three members of the Board, shall submit any question requiring the action of the Board of Governors, to the members thereof by mail for their vote. (As amended July 17, 2010)
6. A petition signed by twenty-five (25) members in good standing and addressed to the President requesting action shall be submitted to the Board of Governors for its decision.

7. The Board of Governors shall meet in person at least twice a year at the call of the President. One meeting shall be prior to the Annual Membership Meeting of the Association and the other before January First. (As amended April 18, 1964; April 6, 1991.)
8. When a Governor of a district is unable to attend a Board Meeting, he shall delegate, in writing, (or) by phone or by E-mail to the Secretary prior to the meeting, one (1) of his Lt. Governors or County Representatives to represent him as his proxy at the meeting. The delegated Lt. Governor or County Representative shall be empowered with the rights and benefits of the Governor for that meeting only. Only Governors shall be represented by a proxy, except that a Past President may serve as proxy for the Immediate Past President. (As Passed March 23, 1963) (As amended April 18, 1964; April 4 1987; April 6, 1991; April 15, 2007; July 17 2010.)

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Officers and Their Duties**

1. Officers of this Association shall consist of a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Director and Treasurer. (As amended March 10, 1996)
2. The President shall preside over all meetings, appoint all committees, chair legislative committee, oversee all publicity of the association, delegate certain duties to the District Governors, and in general perform all duties incident to this office.
3. The Vice President, in addition to performing all the duties of the President when the President is unable to act, shall perform any assignments given to him by the president including, but not limited to, Chairman of the Raffle or Sweepstakes Committee. (As amended April 4, 2004)
4. The Recording Secretary shall keep all records of the Association, serve all notices of all meeting, conduct all correspondence, present a report at the annual meeting, and in general perform all duties incident to this office. (As amended March 10, 1996)
5. The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the Association, and pay them out at the direction of the Board of Governors. The Treasurer shall keep written records of the receipts and disbursements and make a written report at the annual meeting, and in general have the powers and perform the duties incident to this office.
6. The Membership Director shall keep all records of membership, receive membership fees, keep a record account of same, forward membership moneys to the Treasurer, provide a monthly membership update to the MBH News Editor and in general perform all duties incident to this office.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Elections and Terms of Office**

1. Annual election ballots may be printed in the Association's official publication instead of by mail ballot if the board of governors deems necessary. (As passed April 7, 1973.)

2. The Board of Governors shall appoint an election chairman each year. (As passed April 18, 1964) The chairman will appoint a committee consisting of the minimum of five (5) and a maximum of eight (8) members. (as amended April 4, 1987; April 18, 1989; July 14 2012)
3. All Governors to be elected by a mail vote between January 1<sup>st</sup> and the last day of February, by the members in each individual District. Governors of the odd-numbered Districts shall be elected on odd-numbered years, Governors of the even-numbered Districts shall be elected on even-numbered years. All Governors shall serve a two (2) year term. (as amended April 7, 1973)

The President shall appoint a nominating committee in all Districts which a Governor is to be elected. He shall take this action in September prior to the year of election, and the existing Governor shall be an ex-officio member of the nominating committee. The committee will make every effort to present at least two (2) nominees. Nominees can be published in the MBH Newsletter. The Board of Governors will make every effort to ensure at least two (2) from a District are on the election ballot. Nominations may be made by the membership of a District providing at least ten (10) people sign a petition for a nominee or 10% of the districts reflecting fractional numbers with a minimum of three (3). (As amended April 15, 1967; April 18, 1970; July 14 2012)

4. The Nominations for President and Vice President shall be on September First, to any member in good standing who meets the following qualifications:
  - a. Must be a resident of the State of Michigan.
  - b. Must be a past or present officer and shall have served at least two years as an officer Governor or Lt. Governor.

Nominations for the offices of President and Vice President shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary for consideration at the board meeting, which is held before January first. The Board of Governors shall then consider all nominees and submit to the membership those who are best qualified to hold said offices. The president and Vice President shall be elected by ballot in the odd-numbered years and shall serve a two (2) year term. A President shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive elected terms. (As amended July 14, 2012)

5. The mail ballot shall be held in the following manner for President, Vice President, and District Governors: (As amended July 14, 2012)
  - a. The election Chairman shall mail ballots to the entire membership via the Association's official magazine publication. This ballot will bear the return address of the election committee Chairman. Ballots shall be returned, postmarked no later than the last day of February of said election year. (As amended July 14, 2012)
  - b. At least 4 members of the election committee shall be present at the opening of the ballots and carry out the count. (As amended July 14, 2012)
  - c. All candidates shall be notified of the election results by the Election Committee Chair Prior to the Annual meeting and awards dinner.
  - d. Officers shall be inaugurated at the Spring Awards Banquet.(As Amended July 17, 2010)
6. All non-elected Officers and Directors shall be appointed by the Board of Governors and hold office at its pleasure.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Annual Meeting and Districts**

1. There shall be an annual membership meeting of the Association for the purpose of Amendment and adoption of Bylaws, modifications or change in the Constitution, and the transaction of any other business relating to the Association. (As amended February 8, 1947; March 23, 1964; April 18, 1964.)
2. The time and place of the annual meeting of the Association shall be decided by the Board of Governors at the Board meeting prior to January First of each year. (As amended April 18, 1964.)
3. Notice of the annual meeting of the Association shall be given by mail by the Secretary, or by an announcement in the Association's official magazine publication to all memberships in good standing at least two (2) weeks prior to the date of the meeting. (As amended April 18, 1964.)
4. A quorum at the annual meeting of the Association shall be thirty-six (36) members. (As amended April 18, 1964 and March 10, 1996.)
5. A member may submit a resolution concerning MBH policy for the annual meeting agenda providing the resolution is published in the MBH News at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting.
6. The Districts shall consist of the following counties:  
District 1 - All out of State of Michigan  
District 2 - Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Lake, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Missaukee, Osceola, Wexford  
District 3 - Alcona, Arenac, Clare, Crawford, Gladwin, Iosco, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Roscommon  
District 4 - Kent, Mecosta, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Ottawa,  
District 5 - Bay, Clinton, Gratiot, Ionia, Isabella, Midland, Montcalm, Saginaw, Shiawassee  
District 6 - Genesee, Huron, Lapeer, Sanilac, St. Clair, Tuscola,  
District 7 - Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, VanBuren,  
District 8 - Calhoun, Branch, Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, Jackson  
District 9 - Lenawee, Livingston, Monroe, Washtenaw  
District 10 - Macomb, Oakland, Wayne  
District 11 - Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Delta, Dickinson, Gogebic, Houghton, Iron, Keweenaw, Luce, Mackinac, Marquette, Menominee, Ontonagon, Schoolcraft,  
District 12 - Alpena, Antrim, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Montmorency, Otsego, Presque Isle,  
(As amended November 13, 1948; March 25, 1961; April 18, 1970; April 4, 1987; April 6, 1991; April 11, 1992; March 10, 1996, July 11, 2015)

## **ARTICLE VIII**

## **Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin January First.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Amendments**

1. Proposed amendments of this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the President and Constitution Committee at least 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting, providing the proposed submitted amendment is accompanied by the signatures of at least 25 voting members. Proposed amendments shall be published in the MBH Newsletter at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership present at any Annual Meeting, or a two-thirds (2/3) majority from the returns of a mail ballot, shall be required to adopt a proposed Constitutional amendment. (As amended April 18, 1964; March 10, 1996.)
2. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be submitted in writing to the President and Constitution Committee, and shall be published in the MBH Newsletter at least 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Bylaws of the Association may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting, or by the majority of the returns of a mail ballot. (As amended April 18, 1964; March 10, 1996.)

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Dissolution**

In the event of dissolution of the Michigan Bow Hunters Association Inc., all remaining assets shall be distributed for exempt purposes to the Pope and Young Club or another organization within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, for the education and promotion of bow hunting. In the event of none meeting these requirements, to a state or local government for a public purpose, for the education and promotion of bow hunting. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes. (As amended April 4, 2004; July 11, 2015)

## **BYLAWS**

1. For the purpose of M.B.H. awards and events, a bow shall be defined as a longbow, recurve or compound bow that is hand held, hand drawn, and that has no mechanical device to enable the hunter to lock the bow at full or partial draw. Other than energy stored by the drawn bow, no device to propel the arrow shall be permitted. Under

this definition, a crossbow is not deemed a bow and shall not be permitted for participation in events or for obtaining awards. Exception: Those with a permanent disability who have a crossbow permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources prior to March 5, 2009 may be allowed to participate in events and apply for awards. Also, those with a modified bow permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources may participate in events and apply for awards. (As amended March 23, 1963; April 9, 1994; March 12, 1995; March 10, 1996; July 18, 2009)

2. A Michigan Bow Hunters Big Game Award Gold Pin shall be awarded by the Association to a member in good standing who shoots a legal deer, bear, or elk in Michigan, and who submits a valid Big Game Award Application. Only one Big Game Award Pin shall be awarded to a member. The M.B.H. shall adopt the Pope & Young Club's rules for fair chase. No Big Game Award will be awarded for taken under the following circumstances:
  - a. Helpless in a trap, deep snow or water, or on ice.
  - b. From any vehicle, or boat under power.
  - c. While confined behind fences as on game farms, etc.
  - d. By jacklighting or shining at night.
  - e. By the use of any tranquilizers or poison.
  - f. By the use of any power vehicles or power boat for herding or driving animals, including use of aircraft to land alongside or to communicate with or direct a hunter on the ground.
  - g. By the use of electronic devices for attracting, locating, or pursuing live game, or guiding the hunter to such game, by the use of bow and arrow to which any electronic device is attached. (Exception: Those devices as are legal in Michigan.)
3. For the second, third, and fourth Big Game Awards, members in good standing who return their Big Game Awards Pin with a valid Big Game Award Application will receive a gemstone set into their pin: diamond for deer, ruby for bear and emerald for elk. (Man-made gemstones may be substituted as dictated by cost.) In the event a member bags a bear or elk for his first award, he may elect to have a ruby or emerald set in his pin for his second award, even though the second animal is a deer. Also if, after receiving his fourth deer award, a member bags a bear or elk, he may return his pin with his Big Game Award Application and have one of the diamonds replaced with a ruby or emerald. For awards five through nineteen, members receive embroidered chevrons bearing the award number.
  - a. For the twentieth Big Game Award, a member receives the MBH Silver Pin and certificate. Members may not receive more than two Big Game Awards for Deer for a given season. (As amended November 13, 1948; April 6, 1951; April 17, 1982; April 9, 1994; March 19, 1996, July 8, 2017)
4. Any member who loses a gold or silver Big Game Award Pin may replace the same by purchasing another from the Association. (As amended April 9, 1994.)
5. Each member shall receive an annual Membership Pin in either green, gray, or brown with their membership card. In the event a member received a Big Game Award in the current year, he will also receive a Goldenrod Annual Membership Pin. (As amended April 9, 1994.)

6. To be eligible for a Big Game Award, a member's Big Game Award Application must be received by the Membership Director postmarked no later than January 15th following the hunting season in which the animal was taken. (As amended April 9, 1994.)