

**BY-LAWS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
TEXAS GULF COAST COUNCIL OF DIVE CLUBS**

(As revised and updated through the General Business Meeting held in May, 2001)

ARTICLE I. EXPENDITURE OF MONIES

Section I. Expenditures of up to \$500.00 which have been previously budgeted by the Board of Directors, may be paid directly upon presentation of the proper bills or receipts by the Chairman of that event or activity.

Section II. Other non-budgeted expenditures of up to \$50.00 may be approved by the Executive Committee.

Section III. Any non-budgeted expenditure of over \$50.00 must be approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II. DUES

Section I.

- a) A Full Member-club's annual dues shall be \$35.00.
- b) An Affiliate Member club's annual dues shall be \$25.00.
- c) An Associate Member club's annual dues shall be \$15.00. Under certain circumstances this membership fee can be waived if approved by the Board of Directors (this is only for clubs that are affiliated with public educational institutions and whose members are predominately full time students).

Section II. Individual memberships for members of member-clubs shall be \$10.00.

Section III. Individual memberships for all others shall be \$15.00.

ARTICLE III. DEFINITIONS

Section I. TGCC-sanctioned events shall be approved and/or promoted by TGCC. The TGCC shall be neither liable for the indebtedness nor shall it receive any profits from such events.

Section II. TGCC-sponsored events shall be directly arranged and/or funded by the Council as approved by a quorum of the Board of Directors present at a meeting.

Section III. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, the TGCC may promote and/or advertise other water-related activities or events.

ARTICLE IV. PUBLICATIONS

Section I. The "Deep Sea Digest" shall be the official club publication. It shall be published at least bi-monthly.

ARTICLE V. DATE BY WHICH DUES MUST BE PAID

Club and individual dues shall be paid to the TGCC by the second meeting of each calendar year or all

voting rights shall be relinquished until reinstatement.

Club and individual dues shall be paid to the TGCC by the forth meeting of each calendar year or all mailing rights shall be relinquished until reinstatement.

ARTICLE VI. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

The TGCC Secretary will notify the President when a Full Member club has missed two (2) consecutive meetings. Should that club miss a third consecutive meeting, the club shall be designated as an Affiliate club, but may be reinstated by the Executive Committee upon written request by that club stating their intent to be active voting members of the Council.

Any Full, Affiliate or Associate Member Club or its members, or any TGCC Individual Members may attend any General Business Meeting.

ARTICLE VII. VOTING

Voting shall be by voice vote. If there is even one (1) "no" vote, a revote for the purpose of the minutes shall be taken by hand to count the "yes" or "no" votes, and to record how each club voted on the motion. Voting on any TGCC business shall only be done by Full Member clubs. Affiliate, Associate and individual members shall not have voting privileges.

ARTICLE VIII. DEFINITION OF PAST PRESIDENT

The definition of Past President shall be the President for the previous calendar year.

ARTICLE IX. REPRESENTATIVE AUTHORIZATION

Each Full Member club President must provide written notification identifying whom their club's TGCC representative and alternates will be. The annual club information form will serve as the initial written notification for this purpose. Without a delegation letter, only that club's President would have voting privileges at TGCC meetings.

All Affiliate and Associate Member Clubs must annually complete and submit the club information form providing club representative, mailing and newsletter instructions.

ARTICLE X. BUDGET

A yearly TGCC budget shall be presented by the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors at the January meeting. The budget must be approved by the April meeting.

ARTICLE XI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VOTE

The Executive Committee (known as Council officers) shall have no vote except in case of a tie when the presiding officer shall have one (1) vote. An individual may not be a member of the Executive Committee and serve as a TGCC Full Member Club representative.

ARTICLE XII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Nominations for candidates running for election to the Executive Committee (known as Council officers) shall be closed at the end of the October General Business Meeting.

ARTICLE XIII. MEMBER CLUB REQUIREMENTS

Any Skin or SCUBA Diving Club located along the Gulf Coast or adjacent states may become a member of the TGCC providing:

1. They are a non-profit organization.
2. They provide to TGCC a copy of their Constitution & By-Laws.
3. They promote safe diving practices.
4. Hold general member meetings with their club members a minimum of four (4) times a year.

ARTICLE XIV. CLUB AWARDS

TGCC recognizes the work done for it, member clubs and/or the community with several unique awards:

1. Neptune Award – A point based individual award based upon events/contests sanctioned by TGCC.
2. Service Awards – Recognition for the work done for TGCC by departing Executive Committee members.
3. Member-of -the-Year – Recognition of an individual for work done for TGCC and/or the dive community.

Approved and ratified on _____ by:

TGCC 2001 Officers:

TGCC 2001 Full Member Representatives:

_____ President
Larry LaBorde

_____ John Taylor – Bay Area Divers

_____ First Vice President
Charles Kerr

_____ Walt Mihalik – Fanta Sea Divers

_____ Second Vice President
Mike Knerr

_____ Kristi Foster - HammerHeads

_____ Treasurer
Sally Knerr

_____ Michael Leiser – H. Disabled Scuba Divers Assn.

_____ Secretary
Ja Van Pruett

_____ Glen Payne – Houston Underwater Club

Frank Burek – Hou. U/W Photographic Society

Tom Burns – Lunar fins

Lydia Locke – Nubian Dive Club

Michael Szewczyk – Wet Set