

# **CONSTITUTION of Texas Gulf Coast Council of Dive Clubs**

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

## **ARTICLE I. NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Texas Gulf Coast Council of Dive Clubs (herein referred to as TGCC).

## **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose and objectives of the TGCC are:

- a) To promote safe skin and Scuba diving.
- b) To encourage, coordinate and promote cooperation and water safety among all divers, member and non-member clubs.
- c) To defend and advance the legal rights and privileges of all divers through appropriate state and federal legislation.

## **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section I.**

1. Diving Clubs may be admitted to Full Membership by the Executive Committee, after submission of their club's constitution and/or by-laws or charter. Full Member clubs shall have the privilege of voting and being represented at all general meetings of the TGCC and shall receive the publication of the TGCC.
2. A Diving Club may be admitted as an Affiliate Member by the Executive Committee, after submission of their club's constitution and/or by-laws or charter. Affiliate Member clubs shall have the privilege of being represented at all general meetings of the TGCC, but do not have the privilege of voting, and shall receive the publication of the TGCC.
3. A Diving Club may be admitted as an Associate Member by the Executive Committee, after submission of an application. Associate Member clubs do not have the privilege of voting but shall receive the publication of the TGCC.

**Section II.** Individuals who are members of recognized member club may join TGCC as individual members and will have the privilege of attending all general meetings of the TGCC; will be eligible to hold office (if a certified diver), will receive the publications of the TGCC; and will be entitled to purchase and wear or display such insignia as the TGCC may adopt.

**Section III.** Individuals who are certified divers but not members of a recognized member club may be accepted to Individual TGCC membership by the Executive Committee. They shall receive the publications of the TGCC and shall have the privilege of being present at all meetings of the TGCC, but may not vote or hold office. They will be entitled to purchase and wear or display such insignia as the TGCC may adopt. Note: Individuals who have lost their membership in a member club or TGCC due to misconduct may be declined TGCC membership by the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section I.** The Executive Committee of the TGCC shall consist of the following elected officers: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. No person shall hold the same office for more than three (3) consecutive years. It shall also include the immediate past TGCC President.

**Section II.** Each elected officer shall be a certified diver and shall be a member of a member-club.

**Section III.** These elected officers shall be elected at the November General Meeting and shall hold office for the following calendar year.

## **ARTICLE V. DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**Section I.** The Executive Committee shall be responsible to the Board of Directors and under it shall perform the day to day administrative function of the TGCC, including:

- a) Consider and act upon applications for membership in the TGCC.
- b) Appoint special officers and committees.
- c) Act as the Appeals Committee for the purpose of settling disputes. Such appeals shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the President. All decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.
- d) Act as the Credentials Committee to determine authorized club representatives to the Board of Directors.
- e) Prepare a budget at the beginning of each year for approval of the Board of Directors. This budget may be amended by the Board of Directors.
- f) In addition, the Executive Committee shall have such other powers and duties as the Board of Directors may direct.

**Section II. President.** The President shall preside at all meetings of the TGCC and perform other duties as may be delegated by the Board of Directors.

**Section III. First Vice-President.** The First Vice-President shall perform all duties as may be delegated by the President or Board of Directors; and in case of absence or incapacity of the President perform the duties of the President. It shall also be the duty of the First Vice-President to ascertain that a proper TGCC representative be present at each TGCC-sanctioned event; that said

event is conducted properly, and a written report of the event is prepared and placed in the TGCC records within thirty (30) days.

**Section IV. Second. Vice-President.** The Second Vice-President shall perform all duties as may be delegated by the President or Board of Directors; and in case of absence or incapacity of both the President and First Vice President perform the duties of the President. It shall be the responsibility of the Second Vice President to keep informed of all legislation affecting sport divers, be the TGCC's liaison with other diving Councils, regional or national diving organizations. The Second Vice President shall also be the TGCC liaison for efforts to promote and encourage diver safety training.

**Section V. Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The Secretary duties also include a correct roll of all the clubs which are members of the TGCC, and of the delegates from such clubs; and of the individual members of the TGCC.

The secretary shall provide a copy of the record of minutes to each board member within 3 weeks after the close of the meeting.

**Section VI. Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies and deposit same in the name of the TGCC in such bank as may be approved by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall pay all bills authorized by the Executive Committee and/or Board of Directors and keep an accurate statement of this account. The Treasurer shall make a detailed report at each monthly meeting of all receipts and expenditures of the TGCC and a summary at the Annual Meeting. All checks are to be signed by the Treasurer and either the President or First Vice-President.

## **ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Committee and one (1) authorized representative from each Full Member Club. Each must be a certified diver.

## **ARTICLE VII DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Section I.** The Board of Directors shall direct the activities of the TGCC.

**Section II.** Fill vacancies among offices of the Executive Committee.

**Section III.** The Board of Directors may remove any officer of the Executive Committee, Director, or individual member whose conduct is, in the opinion of four-fifths (4/5) of the voting power of the Board, not in the best interests of the TGCC.

## **ARTICLE VIII. VOTING**

**Section I.** Voting is a privilege of the representatives of Full Member Clubs.

**Section II.** No member of the Board of Directors may exercise more than one (1) vote at any meeting.

**Section III.** The Executive Committee (known as Council Officers) shall have no vote except in the case of a tie when the presiding officer shall have one (1) vote. Members of the Executive Committee may serve simultaneously as a Council Officer and as Full Member Club Representative, however the Council Officer acting as the presiding officer may not serve as a Full Member Club Representative.

**Section IV.** There shall be no proxy vote.

## **ARTICLE IX. MEETINGS**

**Section I.** There shall be a regular meeting at such time and place as the Executive Committee may determine, at a minimum of every other month.

**Section II.** The Annual Meeting shall be the November meeting. The election of the Executive Committee shall be held at the Annual Meeting.

**Section III.** Special Meetings of the TGCC may be held upon the written or electronic request of any five (5) member clubs. Such request shall be sent to the president of the TGCC, who shall forthwith call the meeting to be held within six (6) weeks upon receipt of such requisitions, at such time and place as the President may designate.

Special General Meetings of the TGCC may also be called by the Executive Committee, to be held at such time and place it may designate.

**Section IV.** Fifteen (15) days' notice of meetings called by the President or Executive Committee pursuant to the provisions of Section III shall be given by mail or electronic notification with electronic confirmation to each Director.

**Section V.** A majority of the Full Member clubs shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the TGCC. A simple majority vote of the Full Member clubs present at the meeting will suffice to approve matters brought before the TGCC except amendments to the Constitution or the By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE X. DUES**

Dues shall be as stated in the By-Laws.

## **ARTICLE XI. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Section I.** At all meetings the order of business shall be:

- a) Roll call of all member clubs.
- b) Secretary's minutes from the last meeting.
- c) Treasurer's report.
- d) Reports of committees and officers.

- e) Reports by member clubs.
- f) Unfinished business.
- g) New and miscellaneous business.
- h) Election of officers and Executive Committee members, as needed.
- i) Adjournment.

**Section II.** Roberts Rules of Order, Revised, shall control the proceedings of all meetings where not controlled by this Constitution or By Laws.

**ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS**

**Section I.** Amendments to this Constitution may be adopted at a special General Meeting of the TGCC by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the authorized member-club representatives, provided that notice of the meeting shall have contained such amendments in full, or by an unanimous vote of the clubs represented at such meeting where the notice of the meeting shall not have contained such amendments.

**Section II.** The By-Laws may be amended by the same process as amendments to the Constitution.

Approved and ratified on \_\_\_\_\_ by:

**TGCC 2001 Officers:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Larry LaBorde                      President

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Charles Kerr                      First Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Mike Knerr                      Second Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Sally Knerr                      Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Ja Van Pruett                      Secretary

**TGCC 2001 Full Member Representatives:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 John Taylor – Bay Area Divers

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 Walt Mihalik – Fanta Sea Divers

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Kristi Foster - HammerHeads

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 Michael Leiser – H. Disabled Scuba Divers Assn.

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 Glen Payne – Houston Underwater Club

Frank Burek – Hou. U/W Photographic Society

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Tom Burns – Lunarbins

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Lydia Locke – Nubian Dive Club

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Michael Szewczyk – Wet Set