



Amendments and revisions to Cromwell Outboard Association bylaws, published January 1996.

Change #	Article	Section(s)	Date Approved By Membership	Remarks
1	III	6A, 6C, 6D, 6E,9	May 13, 2008	Published in a separate pamphlet dated May 13, 2008
2	IV	7, 7A, 8	August 9, 2011	Published in 5 Sep, 2011 Update
3	III, IV, V, VII	6D, 5, 5a,	May 10, 2012	Published in May 30, 2012 Update. Changes all references to Assistant Secretary to Membership Secretary
4	III, V, VII	6-A, 5-A	October 9, 2012	Change 4 was rescinded
5	II, IV, V, VII	6D, 5, 5a,	October 9, 2012	Change 3 was rescinded
6	IV	7, 7A, 8	October 9, 2012	Change 2 was rescinded
7	I-XII	All	June 11, 2013	Bylaws were revised
8	All	All	October 14, 2014	Constitution and Bylaws were revised
9	XII	Rule 13	May 2020	Meeting and work party buyout options
10	XII	Rule 14	September 2020	Locking of ramp gate
11	V	Constitution	November 2022	Meeting Time Change from 7:30pm to 6:30pm
12	VII	Sec 3, Constitution	November 2023	Impeachment and Dismissal
13	VII	Sec 3, Bylaws	November 2023	Dues
14	VII	Sec 3 Constitution	January 9, 2024	Language Change: Impeachment and Dismissal
15	II	Sec 1, 7 Bylaws	August 13, 2024	Created Executive Officer Position
16	I, III, Rule 13	I: Section 8, Bylaws III: Section 1C, Constitution	January 13, 2026	Membership Requirements Membership Admin Fee, Rule 13 Buyout Fee



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CROMWELL OUTBOARD ASSOCIATION, INC.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of the organization shall be the **CROMWELL OUTBOARD ASSOCIATION, INC. ("COA")**.

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Cromwell Outboard Association Inc. shall be:

- (1) To promote and develop pleasure boating activities and the ecology of our waterways.
- (2) To promote and educate boaters in the safe use and high standard of skill in the handling of boats.
- (3) To render all possible assistance to any disabled boat or any boat in distress.
- (4) To maintain and utilize COA Inc. facilities

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

A member of the COA shall consist of an individual who:

- a. Is age 18 years or older.
- b. Has agreed to abide by these bylaws and any additional rules and regulations published from time to time.
- c. Has submitted a complete membership application, accompanied by a \$150 initiation fee and any required documentation.
- d. Has received approval by the COA Inc. Membership Committee.
- e. Upon recommendation of the Membership Committee, it has been voted into COA by a majority vote of those members present and eligible to vote at the next regular meeting following such recommendation; and
- f. Has timely paid all required dues.



Section 2

Only natural persons may be considered for Membership. Partnerships, limited liability companies, corporations, associations, or other entities, public or private, for-profit or nonprofit, shall not be eligible for Membership.

Section 3

At least 60% of the Membership must consist of local residents. Local being defined as Cromwell, and charter members. No town resident shall be denied upon recommendation of the Membership Committee and compliance with this Constitution and bylaws.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Club's daily business and management will be conducted by elected Officers, a board of directors, and an executive committee.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Meetings shall be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Club House on River Road or a specified location.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

The Constitution and bylaws of the Cromwell Outboard Association, Inc. may be amended or changed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of members present at a regularly scheduled club meeting. The general rules of the Club can be amended or changed by a majority vote of those present at a regularly scheduled meeting. [Members will be notified of the Constitution and bylaw changes through direct mailing, emails, club meetings, newsletters, and a member's only posting on the club website at least thirty (30) days before the meeting at which they will be voted on].

ARTICLE VII- IMPEACHMENT AND DISMISSAL

Section 1

Any officer elected by the Association may be impeached for the abuse of his/her authority or misconduct in his/her office and thereby removed from office by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present, provided that the charge against him/her be made in writing and presented at a meeting at least one month before any vote be made.

Section 2

Any member found in violation of the Constitution or bylaws of this organization shall be refused Membership for the ensuing year.



Section 3

Any member found detrimental to the organization, disruptive to the enjoyment and/or safety of other members' use of COA facilities shall be notified via email, United States Postal Service mail, and/or club meeting by the Board of Directors of the violation(s) and may be dismissed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at the next meeting. In compliance with the procedures in this paragraph, the Commodore reserves the right to terminate any member's Membership due to any violation of the bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII - DISSOLUTION

In the event of termination or dissolution of the Club, the executive committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Club, dispose of its remaining assets, if any, by a distribution method recommended by the voters and within the corresponding provision of United States Internal Revenue Code.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

An honorary member is one who receives all rights and privileges as a non-probationary member without having to pay dues. Honorary members are nominated by the Executive Committee and elected by two-thirds (2/3) Membership for a period of not more than one (1) year.

Section 2

New members must be approved by the membership committee and on its recommendation, voted into the organization by the Membership. The membership committee consists of officers and three (3) appointed members. The Membership Committee may withhold the recommendation of any applicant, if in its discretion it determines that the admission of such applicant would not be in the best interest of the COA for any reason, including but not necessarily limited to:

- a. Admitting additional members at the time of application may compromise the safety of other members or the public.
- b. The facilities (e.g., parking lot, docks, restrooms, etc.) cannot reasonably support additional members at the time of application or
- c. the applicant failed to adequately complete the membership application, provide necessary documentation and/or pay the required initiation fee.



Section 4

An applicant approved for Membership shall be admitted as a Probationary Member for a period of two (2) years.

Section 5

Any Cromwell Outboard Association, Inc. member in good standing who enters the U.S. Armed Forces will be given paid up Membership during his tour of duty. He/she may be required to provide verification of service.

Section 6

Any member in good standing that reaches the age of 60 and has been a member of the Club (COA) for 20 years or more is exempt from having to attend the mandatory 4 meetings a year. As with current bylaws the member would be required to notify the Club in writing when he or she meets the above requirements).

Section 7

Sons and Daughters of members in good standing of three (3) years or more may attain Membership upon reaching the age of eighteen years. The initiation fee will be waived.

Section 8

All Members, in order to retain Membership, shall attend, in person, four (4) monthly meetings and work on one (1) work party per annum. A work party shall consist of actively serving on a committee, serving as an officer or manual labor at our facilities. Persons 65 years and over are exempt from the work party requirement but must attend four (4) monthly meetings. Non-probationary members can request exemption from the above requirements but must meet approval from the membership committee. Any member in good standing for thirty (30) years or more is exempt from the one (1) work party requirement of this section but must still attend four (4) monthly meetings. Annum is herein defined as January 1 to December 31 of that year.

Members who do not elect to participate in the annual buyout and who fail to complete their required meetings and/or work party for the year shall be assessed a penalty equal to the current buyout amount plus \$25 for each missed meeting and \$100 for not completing the required work party. For illustrative purposes, if a member attends zero meetings, does not complete the required work party, and the buyout for that year is \$250, the total amount due would be calculated as: $\$250 + \$25 + \$25 + \$25 + \$25 + \$100 = \$450$.

All penalties must be paid in full by December 15 of each year, with no exceptions. Any member who is terminated for failing to fulfill their obligations and who does not pay the required penalty may reapply for membership at any time; however, upon reapplication, the member will be required to participate in the buyout program for a minimum of one (1) year.



ARTICLE II – OFFICERS

Section 1

The elected officers of the Cromwell Outboard Association Inc. shall be: Commodore, Vice Commodore, Executive Officer, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers shall be members in good standing. At least one of the Officers must be a Cromwell resident. The officers shall be elected by the members at each December meeting. The newly elected officers will take the office effective January 1 of the following year.

Section 2

The Commodore or Vice-Commodore shall preside at all meetings of the organization. The Commodore shall be a member of the ex-official of all committees and shall carry on those other responsibilities assigned to him by the bylaws and the executive committee.

Section 3

The Commodore, working with an executive committee majority approval, will be authorized to spend up to \$3,000.00 per year that is not otherwise covered in the annual budget to conduct club business, including repairing or maintaining the club house and/or grounds. Any amount in excess of a \$3,000.00 must be brought before the Membership for a vote.

Section 4

The Treasurer shall keep all accounts of the organization and shall have charge of its funds. He/she shall keep all funds in a bank approved by the Executive Committee and in the name of the organization, subject to withdrawal by checks signed by the Commodore or Vice-Commodore and the Treasurer. He/she shall disperse the funds with the approval of the organization. The Treasurer may transfer funds of the organization between checking, savings and CD accounts at his/her discretion. The treasurer is responsible for ensuring the filing of annual tax returns.

Section 5

The Membership Secretary shall oversee the collection of annual membership dues, and the financial secretary will be responsible for depositing and recording annual dues in the Club's financial register. The Membership Secretary is also responsible for the committee's complete membership roster and issues all keys, membership cards, and decals

Section 6

The Recording Secretary shall keep all minutes of all meetings and activities and issue meeting notices.

Section 7 The Executive Officer shall work with the Commodore to supervise the Club's operations and must have previously served as Commodore of the COA. The role of the Executive Officer is to facilitate seamless transitions between successive Commodores. If no past commodores express interest, the position may remain vacant. If multiple past commodores are interested, a vote will be held during the December meeting.



ARTICLE III-BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

The Board of Directors shall consist of the Commodore and four (4) elected members, excluding the Executive Committee.

Section 2

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to ensure that all bylaws, regulations, and functions of the organization are carried out in the best interest of the Club.

Section 3

The Board of Directors shall be elected by the members at each December meeting. The newly elected officers will take the office effective January 1 of the following year.

ARTICLE IV-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Board of Directors and Elected Officers. The executive committee will address and resolve any issues that arise which are not covered within the bylaws and Constitution.

Section 2

The executive committee will meet quarterly to conduct the business of the Club at a specified location and time. Meetings will be run by agenda and minutes formally taken to show a record of business conducted.

Section 3

During the November meeting the Executive Committee shall recommend to the voters an annual budget.

ARTICLE V-OTHER COMMITTEES

Section 1

The following are standing committees of the COA: Entertainment, Membership, Grounds and Building Maintenance, Docks and Buoys, and Website committees.

Section 2

The following are considered special committees established annually or as needed by the executive committee for a specific time and purpose: Auditing, Nominating, and Bylaw committees.

Section 3

Ad Hoc committees are established by the executive committee as required for specific needs of the Club not covered under previously established committees and are absolved once duties are completed.

Section 4

The annual auditing committee shall consist of two members in good standing and shall be appointed at the November meeting. The Treasurer shall make all records available to the committee as of January 1. All books shall be audited, signed and presented at the January meeting.



Section 5

A nominating committee shall be appointed by the Commodore at the October meeting. Nominations will be presented to the Club at the November meeting at which time the nominations from the floor will be accepted. Nominations will be closed after the November meeting.

Section 6

The Special constables, maximum of four (4) shall be appointed by the Commodore. The constables will be issued badges, being the property of the COA and if lost, stolen or destroyed, shall be replaced by the exact style badge at the expense of the constable(s) it was issued to.

Section 7

The Commodore shall appoint any special committee as needed.

ARTICLE VI– MEETINGS

Section 1

Meetings will be run by agenda and use Roberts Rules of Order as its guide.

Section 2

The monthly meetings of the Cromwell Outboard Association are for the purpose of conducting club business and therefore are only open to the Membership, their immediate families and by special invitation from the Executive Committee.

Section 3

Membership may be opened or closed upon recommendations of the Membership Committee with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Membership present.

ARTICLE VII – DUES

Section 1

The Board of Directors, Elected Officers and Committee Chairman are exempt from dues for the period of service elected or appointed.

Section 2

Dues and Assessments for the forthcoming year will be voted on at the December meeting just preceding that year. The dollar amount will be agreed upon by majority vote of the Membership present. These new dues will be entered into the minutes and will be due and payable by the end of the March monthly meeting. Any members not paid in full by the end of the March monthly meeting will have his/her Membership terminated.



Section 3

Any members after four (4) consecutive years and, upon reaching age 65 before December 31, 2008, shall receive free Membership. Any member reaching age 65, on or after January 1, 2009, and after four (4) consecutive years shall receive a 50% discount in their dues. Members must notify the **Treasurer** upon meeting the criteria of this section. As of January 1, 2024, any member after ten (10) consecutive years and upon reaching age 65, shall receive a 25% discount on their membership dues.

ARTICLE VIII – MAINTENANCE/REQUIREMENTS

Section 1

The Commodore, working with an executive committee majority approval, will be authorized to spend up to \$3,000.00 per year that is not otherwise covered in the annual budget for the purpose of conducting club business including repairing or maintaining the clubhouse and/or grounds. Any amount in excess of a \$3,000.00 must be brought before the Membership for a vote. (See Article II, Section 2).

Section 2

Insurance: There will be a standing bill for liability insurance to be paid every year upon due date of policy.

Section 3

Lease: Leasing fee to be paid annually before June.

Section 4

Bond: Bonding fees to be paid annually before May.

ARTICLE IX – USE OF FACILITIES

Facilities of the organization will be available to all members, guests and immediate families, providing one (1) boat or up to (4) personal watercraft on a single trailer. Personal watercraft is defined as any inboard powered vessel less than sixteen feet in length which has an internal combustion engine powering a water-jet pump as its primary source of motor propulsion and which is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel, rather than the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

ARTICLE X – QUORUM

A Quorum shall consist of ten active members.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

Recommendations for changes to the Constitution and bylaws will be submitted to the bylaw committee chairman or secretary in writing and endorsed by at least two other active voting members. Recommendations will be brought before the executive committee to be placed on the agenda of a regularly scheduled club meeting. Changes to the Constitution and bylaws will be put on the agenda annually each September, while rules may be addressed as they are brought before the executive committee and the Membership.



ARTICLE XII – RULES

Rule 1 The club decal must be affixed to the lower passenger side of the front windshield.

Rule 2 No boat or personal watercraft (Jetski, Waverunners, etc.) shall be tied permanently to a dock. All boats and personal watercraft shall observe the “No Wake Zone” in the Club and dock area. Only members and guests are allowed on the docks; rules will be enforced by the club constables.

Rule 3 All docks, floats and ramps shall be used for the minimum amount of time necessary. Boats over 40’ are prohibited from using any of the above-mentioned facilities. Any boat 30’ and over must use a tri-axle trailer.

Rule 4 Commercial use of COA facilities is prohibited.

Rule 5 There will be no fishing, jumping, swimming or skiing from docks.

Rule 6 There will be no powering on or powering off of vessels at the ramp.

Rule 7 Any association member’s car or trailer, or a guest or immediate family member’s car or trailer, shall only be used and parked in the designated area.

Rule 8 There shall be no camping or other overnight use of club facilities.

Rule 9 Members and guests shall not consume alcohol on club grounds.

Rule 10 Any child under age 13 must wear a US Coast Guard-approved wearable Personal Floatation Device (PFD) whenever on the Cromwell Outboard Association Docks.

Rule 11 Non-probationary members can receive one credited meeting by making one additional committee-approved work party.

Rule 12

All members in good standing will be issued, on or before the second Tuesday in April, a decal, membership card and key. The decal must be affixed to a window of the towing vehicle.

Rule 13

Members can buy out work parties and meet annual requirements without affecting membership status. The buyout option will be \$250.00 and does not include club dues. This option is payable yearly and only in conjunction with annual dues payments.

Rule 14

Members using the ramp should only unlock the gate when backed up to the launch, regardless of whether they are launching or recovering a watercraft. Additionally, please ensure that the gate is locked before pulling away from the launch, whether leaving or parking your vehicle. These actions will help prevent unauthorized users from gaining access to the Club’s launch.