



**Dedicated to Maine Athletes ... Past, Present & Future**

## **CONSTITUTION OF “M” CLUB**

*As Amended October 27, 2018*

### **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the University of Maine “M” Club, hereafter referred to as the M Club.

### **ARTICLE II—PURPOSE**

The purpose of the M Club is to support, engage, and celebrate University of Maine athletes past, present, and future. The M Club pursues that purpose by promoting strong relationships between and among those individuals who share the experience of having earned an “M” varsity letter through intercollegiate athletics. The M Club also fulfills its purpose by supporting and promoting the history, traditions, and reputation of Black Bear Athletics.

Though an independent entity, the M Club operates as an alumni interest group of the University of Maine Alumni Association and is entitled to the support and benefits that are generally available to all Alumni Association affiliated entities.

### **ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP**

All recipients of the University of Maine “M” shall be considered members of the M Club. In addition, individuals may be granted membership as Honorary “M” recipients through a process stipulated in the M Club’s bylaws. Voting privileges shall be limited to those members who have paid their annual dues at the time a vote of membership is conducted. The M Club’s Treasurer shall maintain a current record of annual dues payments.

### **ARTICLE IV—MEETINGS**

*Section 1*

The annual meeting of the Club shall be held at the University of Maine at such time as may be designated by the Board of Directors.

## *Section 2*

Other meetings of this Club shall be held at such time and place as the Board of Directors may determine.

# **ARTICLE V—BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

## *Section 1*

The M Club shall maintain a Board of Directors to manage the Club's affairs and to fulfill its purposes as described in its Constitution. The officers of the Club shall be President, Immediate Past President, First Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer; these officers shall be formally nominated and elected at the annual meeting through a process stipulated in the Club's bylaws. Except for the Immediate Past President, each officer shall serve a two-year term and shall be eligible for election to a second consecutive term. The Immediate Past President shall serve in that role for the duration of the President's tenure. The duties of these officers shall be those that are commonly assigned to these offices.

## *Section 2*

There shall be a Board of Directors consisting of no more than twenty (20) and no fewer than fifteen (15) members, including the President, Immediate Past President, First Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Except as stated in the by-laws, each Director shall serve for an initial three-year term, and is eligible for election to a second consecutive three-year term. A Director elected to a Board office prior to the completion of two consecutive three-year terms (six years) may serve beyond six years only for the purposes of fulfilling the Director's obligations as an officer.

Beginning with the first elections following the 2018 annual meeting, vacancies on the Board shall be filled by majority vote of the existing Board of Directors based on nomination(s) presented by the Board committee responsible for governance. The Board shall recruit and solicit potential Directors whose talents and perspectives will help advance the Club's mission and priorities. Recognizing the value of a Board that reflects the nature of the M Club's membership, the committee responsible for Board governance shall make all reasonable efforts to recruit letter-winners whose membership on the Board would enhance its diversity in terms of skills, age, gender, ethnicity, and sports represented.

Only individuals who meet the definition of member as described in Article III are eligible to serve on the Board.

### *Section 3*

The President shall fill all vacancies caused by death, resignation, or inability to perform, subject to the approval by majority vote of the remaining directors. After many consecutive years of meritorious service on the Board, Emeritus Status may be granted by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

### *Section 4*

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to transact the business of the Club between annual meetings. A minimum of eight Board members constitutes a quorum for the official conduct of business.

## **ARTICLE VI—COMMITTEES**

### *Section 1*

The Board shall maintain standing committees in support of the Board's mission and priorities. Except for the Executive Committee, membership on each committee is appointed by the Club's President. Non-Board members may serve on individual committees upon the request of the committee chair and with the consent of the Board President.

The President may also appoint ad hoc committees when and as needed, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

### *Section 2*

The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

## **ARTICLE VII—DUES**

The Club's annual dues for individual membership shall be determined by a vote of all members present and voting at the annual meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII—AMENDMENTS**

This constitution may be amended, either by a two-thirds vote at the annual meeting, providing the amendment has either been submitted at a previous meeting or published in the Club Newsletter and on its official web site not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting, or without previous notice by a unanimous vote at the annual meeting.

## **BY-LAWS OF “M” CLUB**

*(As Amended October 27, 2018)*

### **ARTICLE 1—PURPOSE OF BYLAWS**

The Bylaws shall serve as reference and guide for M Club activities and traditions. Where the M Club Constitution does not mandate otherwise, the Bylaws will serve as definition of traditions.

### **ARTICLE 2—BYLAW CHANGES**

The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Officers and Directors present at a regularly scheduled meeting, as long as the amendments are not repugnant to the Constitution of the Club.

### **ARTICLE 3—ANNUAL YEAR**

The M Club year shall be from July 1 to June 30.

### **ARTICLE 4—FUNDS REQUEST REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Funds Request Review Committee shall be made up of three (3) Board members. The committee shall have the responsibility of reviewing the circumstances around all requests for funding over five hundred dollars (\$500.00). It shall be the responsibility of this committee to make a recommendation to the Board of Directors before the Board votes on such funding requests.

### **ARTICLE 5—HONORARY MEMBERS**

#### *Section 1—Purpose*

The award is intended to recognize persons who have distinguished themselves by their devotion and service to the University of Maine athletics programs.

#### *Section 2—Qualifications*

The recipient of this award must have contributed distinguished service to the University of Maine athletics programs and need not be a graduate of the University.

#### *Section 3—Selection*

- A. Anyone can be nominated by a dues-paying member of the M Club.
- B. Nominations should be sent to the Honorary M Club Committee.
- C. The candidates nominated will be selected by a committee consisting of five (5) dues-paying members of the M Club, this committee to be appointed

annually by the President. Nominees must receive a majority vote of this committee hereafter referred to as the Honorary M Club Committee.

- D. The number to receive honorary membership in any one year shall not exceed six (6). Exceptions to this limit may be made by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Final nominees must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

#### *Section 4—Recognition*

- A. A certificate or plaque of honorary membership in the M Club will be presented to each recipient.
- B. The award will be made annually during an outstanding athletic event.

### **ARTICLE 6—SCHOLARSHIP/TEAM/ATHLETIC FUND SUPPORT**

On a continuing basis, gifts to established scholarship funds, team funds, or other athletic funds shall be considered. In the event the Club establishes its own, named athletic scholarship or program fund, consideration of gifts to the aforementioned funds is encouraged. Approval of all gifts must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and conveyed in accordance with standards of compliance to the rules for funding extra-budgetary contributions and expenditures as described by any national governing body that the University of Maine has subscribed to, either separately or in concert with any other non-profit or for-profit entity that the M-Club may join in partnership with on any project or fund.

### **ARTICLE 7—NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

A nominating committee consisting of all available Past Presidents of the Club will propose a slate of officers at the annual meeting. The committee will meet under the leadership of the Immediate Past President to select a slate to be proposed at the annual meeting.

### **ARTICLE 8—MEETINGS**

Excluding the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors shall meet at least four (4) times during the calendar year based on a schedule established by the President. The Annual Meeting of the membership will be held at the University of Maine, at such time as may be designated by the Board of Directors. The dues-paying membership shall be notified one month prior to the annual meeting. Board meetings may be conducted by conference call in part or in whole so long as a quorum exists.

The designated chair of each committee shall schedule committee meetings as frequently as necessary in order to fulfill its responsibilities. Committee meetings may be conducted by conference call in part or in whole.

*Revised and Adopted by vote of the membership October 27, 2018*

DRAFT FOR BOARD REVIEW