



ERIE COUNTY CONSERVATION LEAGUE

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*Erie County
Conservation League
Inc.*

Milan, Ohio

**By-Laws
Amended April 2018
Pages 1 -13**



Erie County Conservation League, Inc.

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Article I Purpose

Section 1.

The legal and known name of the Organization shall be "*The Erie County Conservation League, Inc.*"

Section 2.

The purpose of the Erie County Conservation League, Inc., shall be the conservation of soil, water, air, and wildlife; improvement of hunting, fishing and outdoor activities; support of firearms ownership and teaching safe, responsible use of firearms; to encourage an active interest in legislation which affects the hunter, the fisherman and the lover of the outdoors.

It shall also be the purpose to acquire by purchase, lease, or otherwise, real estate or property for a clubhouse and use the same for the accommodation, convenience, education and entertainment of its members; and doing any and all things necessary or incidental thereto.

Article II Meetings

Section 1.

Regular Meetings - The regular meeting of the members of the Erie County Conservation League, Inc., Milan, Ohio, shall be held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. If the first Thursday is a legal holiday, the meeting shall be held on the second Thursday.

Section 2.

Special Meetings - Special meetings of the membership may be held at any time upon call of the President, or by a majority of the Board of Trustees.

Section 3.

Board of Trustees Meetings - The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be held during the week of the monthly membership meeting and prior thereto. The Board at its discretion shall choose the specific day and time in advance.

Section 4.

Notice of Meetings - There shall be no notice given for a regular meeting of the organization except that any expenditure over \$10,000 or proposed changes of dues or initiation fees require a majority of the votes cast at a regular meeting, and notice must be given by mail at least one week and no sooner than three weeks before the meeting at which the expenditure or change will be discussed.

- A. In the case of special meetings of the membership, the members shall be notified by mail (at least one week and no sooner than three weeks before the meeting) of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.
- B. Notification by newsletter within the required time constraints shall fulfill all "written" notification requirements.
- C. In the case of special meetings of the Board of Trustees, notification must be given at least four days but no more than two weeks prior to the meeting. Notification need not be in writing.

Section 5.

A Quorum - A quorum for any regular or special meeting of the membership shall consist of those members present. A quorum for the Board of Trustees meetings, both regular and special meetings shall be six members of the Board of Trustees.

Article III Officers

Section 1.

The officers of the Organization shall be President (who shall serve for no more than three consecutive terms), Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Sergeant-at-Arms. Further, there will be six trustees, three elected annually to two-year terms.

Section 2.

The responsibilities of the individual officers shall include (but not be limited to) the following:

- A. President** - The President shall preside at all meetings of the members and of the Board of Trustees; sign all necessary legal papers and vouchers for the Board of Trustees and for the Organization where authorized to do so; perform all duties as may be required from time to time by the Board of Trustees; and perform other duties usually incidental to such office.

- B. Vice-President** - The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence or at his request. If both the President and the Vice President are absent or unable to perform the duties of the President, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a President Pro Tempore.

- C. Secretary** - The Recording Secretary shall keep a proper record of all meetings of the general membership and of the Board of Trustees. The Secretary shall also be responsible for any required notices to the Board of Trustees. The Secretary shall send and receive all membership applications, be responsible for the distribution of membership cards for all approved applications and keep an accurate record of the same. The Secretary shall be responsible for publishing and distributing any required By-Laws changes or notices to the General Membership. At the expiration of his or her term in office, shall deliver all records, books, papers and property of the Organization to the new Secretary.

- D. Treasurer** - The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for appointing a qualified person to serve as the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be a non-voting member of the Board of Trustees; this may be a paid position. Shall receive and safely keep all monies and rights belonging to the Organization and the same shall be disbursed under the direction of and to the satisfaction of the Board of Trustees. Paper vouchers shall be taken, recorded and filed for all disbursements. Shall have the duty of keeping an accurate account of the finances. Shall have the duty of keeping an accurate account of the finances of the Organization and all books shall be open for inspection by the Board of Trustees or a Committee appointed by them, for that purpose. Shall also perform all further duties that are deemed necessary and proper by the Board of Trustees. An out-going Treasurer shall deliver all monies and properties of the Organization to the new Treasurer. Shall post a bond in an amount to be set by the Board of Trustees, the expenses of said bond to be paid by the Organization. The individual holding the office of Treasurer shall be compensated for expenses incurred at a rate to be established by those present at a regular or special meeting of the General membership, upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees.

Article III Officers continued

- E. Sergeant-At-Arms** - The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be responsible for checking membership cards at those meetings at which it is necessary or requested. Shall also have the responsibility of making certain that all equipment is available for meetings, such as film projectors, flags, tables, chairs, and any other equipment as may be necessary or requested. In addition, shall be charged with maintaining order during Membership and Trustee meetings, and such other duties as are assigned by the President.

Section 3.

Trustees shall be six (6) members elected at large to serve for two-year terms with three (3) being elected annually.

Section 4.

Board of Trustees - The Board of Trustees shall consist of all the elected and appointed officers and trustees of the Organization. It shall have the control and management of the funds and property of the Organization. It shall publish, make known and enforce rules governing the privileges and use of the property by members and guests. It shall fill vacancies in all offices and positions by appointment. It shall have the authority to authorize all buying of the organization's needs to ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) from the general fund. Shall also be charged with formulating club policies and overseeing all ECCL programs.

Article IV Nominations

Section 1.

At the January Trustee meeting, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three members in good standing and this committee will present their nominations at the February meeting of the General Membership.

Section 2.

At the regular meeting in February, the membership shall nominate the candidates for the following offices; President, Vice-President, Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and three (3) Trustees. No member shall be nominated for nor hold more than one office. No two members of the same immediate family shall hold elected office within the Board of Trustees at the same time (immediate family to be defined as spouse, parent, offspring or sibling).

Article V Elections

Section 1.

The election of officers and trustees will be held at the regular March meeting by ballot vote. A majority of votes cast shall elect.

"Write-in" candidates shall be permitted. Absentee ballots shall not be permitted.

It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to see that ballots are printed prior to the March meeting. The ballots should allow for random listings of the candidates within each electoral position and shall provide areas for "write-in" votes.

Tie votes shall be decided by a toss of a coin under the direction and control of the Nominating Committee.

Article VI Memberships

Section 1.

There shall be six (6) classes of memberships; Life, Senior, Associate, Junior, Honorary and Probationary. Life, Senior, and Associate members only, shall be eligible to hold office. Life, Senior, Associate and Probationary members shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Organization. All members in good standing are entitled to the use of club facilities under the rules of membership.

- A. Senior Member** - A Senior member shall be any adult age 19 or older whose initial application has been endorsed by another Life, Senior or Associate Member in good standing, whose application has been approved by the Board of Trustees and whose dues are current and who has been a member for at least one year.
- B. Associate Member** - An Associate Member shall be any adult, age 19 or older, whose spouse is a current Life or Senior member in good standing and whose application has been endorsed by that member, been approved by the Board of Trustees and whose dues are current and who has been a member for at least one year.
- C. Life Members** - A Life Member shall be any person who has maintained Senior membership for twenty (20) consecutive years and has attained the age of 65, or who has maintained Senior membership for thirty (30) consecutive years, whichever comes first.
- D. Junior Member** - A Junior Member shall be any person under 19 years of age whose application has been endorsed by a Life, Senior or Associate Member in good standing, whose application has been approved by the Board of Trustees and whose dues are current and who has been a member for at least one year.
- E. Honorary Member** – Honorary Members shall be those who are on active duty in the Armed Forces, provided they were members immediately prior to or during their service and such other persons as the Board of Trustees shall determine. Honorary Members may not vote or hold elected office but may be appointed to non-elected positions with the ECCL.
- F. Probationary Member** - A Senior, Associate or Junior Member, who has been accepted into the membership, shall be a Probationary Member for the first year with the organization. The Probationary Member shall be subject to dismissal if found to have committed any violation of our safety rules. The Probationary Member shall be ineligible to sponsor new members until the probationary period has been completed.

Section 2.

A member shall be in good standing as long as he or she holds a valid, current paid membership card and is in compliance with the provisions of the By-Laws.

Section 3.

The total number of memberships may be limited upon a 2/3 vote of the General membership present at a Regular or Special meeting; notification of the intention to vote on this subject must be given, in writing, no more than three weeks and no less than one week prior to the meeting. The limit may be changed using the same procedure. The limit may be changed no more often than three years of the last successful vote to limit.

Article VI Membership continued

Section 4.

Additional conditions of membership may be enacted by a vote of the General Membership, following discussion of the proposed conditions at three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the General Membership and notification by mail, of when the vote will be taken; a 2/3 vote of the members present shall be required.

Article VII Dues

Section 1.

The Board of Trustees, subject to the approval of the membership, shall set annual dues and application fees for Senior, Associate and Junior Members. These dues shall be for the calendar year January 1 through December 31 and payable by December 31, for the coming year.

Section 2. There shall be an application fee for new Senior, Associate and Junior Members. Former members who have allowed their membership to lapse past January 31st shall also pay this application fee.

Section 3.

A lapse in membership shall occur if the member has not paid his or her dues by December 31. A lapsed member can renew membership, if paid in full by January 31, with a late penalty determined by the board and approved by the general membership. After January 31 the membership is terminated with loss of seniority and must renew their membership at full value.

Section 3a. New Senior members joining in or after July of the year, they are entitled to 50% dues reduction. The \$100 application fee will still apply, however the dues would be reduced by 50% of current membership fees. The dues reduction is only reduced by 50% - no additional pro-rating of dues is allowed if they join after July. Payment of the next years membership dues will be payable by December 31st of the same calendar year for the coming year.

Section 4. The application fee shall not be required of Honorary Members having been on active duty in the Armed Forces and transferring to Senior Membership status, provided the transfer is applied for and effective within one year from the date of return to civilian status.

Section 5. Membership shall be free for Life Members.

Section 6. Effective in dues year 2000, members, attaining the age of 65 and furnishing proof thereof, who have been in good standing for the previous ten (10) consecutive years, shall be granted a 50% dues reduction upon request.

Section 7. Membership dues paid by check returned insufficient funds available shall be charged a surcharge to be determined by the Board of Trustees.

Section 8. Any member that requires a replacement of lost membership badge or guest badge shall be charged a fee commensurate with the club's cost of replacement, to be determined by the Board of Trustees.

Article VIII Disciplinary Procedures

Section 1.

Suspension constitutes the temporary revocation of club privileges, also requiring the surrendering of the member's club badge and exclusion from all club activities until the suspension is served or rescinded. Expulsion is the removal from the membership rolls and permanent loss of all club privileges.

Section 2.

Officers - Any officer may be removed from office (for cause) by a two-thirds vote cast by General members present at any regular or special meeting designated for this purpose. No vote on suspension or removal may be taken unless at least fifteen (15) days' notice is given in writing to the officer with the reasons for removal and of the time and place of the meeting of the Board of Trustees at which the charges shall be considered. The officer shall be given a full hearing and an opportunity to defend or dispute the charges.

Any officer or trustee who is absent for three consecutive regular- officers, Board or Membership meetings without being excused by the President or Vice-President shall be considered automatically removed from office.

Section 3.

Members - Any member may be suspended or expelled from the organization (for cause) by a two-thirds vote cast by Board members present at any regular or special meeting designated for this purpose. No vote on suspension or expulsion may be taken unless at least fifteen (15) days' notice is given in writing to the member with the reasons for the removal and the time and place of the meeting of the Board of Trustees at which the charges shall be considered. At this meeting the member charged shall be given a full hearing and an opportunity to defend or dispute the charges.

Section 4.

Charges - Any member in good standing may prefer charges against any officer or member. They shall be in writing, clearly stating the facts or charges and must be accompanied by the affidavits, testimony and/or exhibits, which are to be used in their support. Such charges shall be filed with the Secretary, who shall notify the President within one week of receipt of the notice. The President shall call a meeting of the Board of Trustees to hear the charges within 30 days of the receipt of notification. The Board of Trustees may, at any time during this interim period (between charges and hearing) choose to require the surrender of the membership badge from the accused member and enforce a temporary expulsion from club property and activities. The Secretary shall give at least fifteen (15) days' notice, in writing, to each member of the Board of Trustees and to the accused and the accuser, notifying them of the time and place of the meeting at which the charges will be taken up. The notification will include a description of the charges and of the supporting affidavits and/or testimony and/or exhibits.

Article VIII Disciplinary Procedures (continued)

Section 5.

Reinstatement - Any member suspended or expelled by the Board of Trustees may appeal to the full membership of the Organization. Such appeal must be made in writing to the Secretary, who shall inform the President. A special meeting of the organization shall be called for the purpose of acting on the appeal. All voting members in good standing shall be notified. At the special meeting, the Secretary shall read the original charges, the supporting affidavits and/or testimony, and will read or display the accompanying exhibits. Shall also read the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees at which the charges were heard and the action taken. A written vote will be taken on the question of reinstatement and a 2/3 vote of the members (in good standing) present shall be required to reverse the action taken by the Board of Trustees.

Article IX Order of Business

Section 1. Unless otherwise ordered by a majority of the members present, the order of business at all Membership meetings shall be as follows:

1. Roll call of Officers and Trustees
2. Reading of previous minutes
3. Election of officers and trustees, when needed
4. Financial Report
5. Communications
6. Reports of officers and committees
7. Unfinished business
8. New business
9. Good of the Organization
10. New members

Section 2. Roberts Rules of Order will govern the conduct of all Formal meetings, except where these By-laws specifically state otherwise.

Article X Status

Section 1.

The Erie County Conservation League, Inc. shall be nonpolitical, and no political advertising will be allowed to be placed on or in League property, except that advertising on issues and legislation relative to the organization's purpose and interests shall be allowed.

Section 2. The Erie County Conservation League, Inc. shall be against any legislation that would oppose or infringe upon the individual right to keep and bear arms.

Article XI Grounds Policies

Section 1. There shall be no hunting on League property, except at the discretion of the Board of Trustees by written permission.

Section 2. No Junior Member shall use any rifle, pistol, trap, skeet or archery range unless accompanied and supervised by a Life, Senior, Associate, Probationary Senior or Probationary Associate Member.

Section 3. No minor shall be permitted on ECCL property unless accompanied by and under the direct supervision of a Life, Senior, Associate, Probationary Senior or Probationary Associate Member.

Section 4. All members and their guests must adhere to the posted ECCL Range Rules.

Article XII Amendments

Section 1.

The process to Amend to these By-Laws shall take place over three (3) consecutive meetings of the General Membership. The proposed changes shall be published and made available to the membership in attendance at each meeting. The first reading shall be for the purpose of familiarizing the membership with the proposed changes; the second reading shall provide the opportunity for extended discussion on the proposed changes. The third reading shall be for final discussion and the vote on the final form. 2/3 majority of the votes cast shall constitute passage of the amendments.

Section 2.

At least one week and no more than three weeks prior to the second reading, members shall be given written notification of proposed changes to the By-Laws.

Section 3.

Policy changes shall become effective immediately. Changes in personnel shall be accomplished by attrition or at the next appropriate election (elected officials shall be allowed to serve their full term).

Section 4.

Corrections due to production mistakes or minor corrections to language, which do not alter the original intention, may be made at any time with a 2/3 vote of the Board of Trustees and 2/3 majority of the votes cast by members present at a regular meeting of the General Membership. No previous notification of the membership shall be required.

Section 5.

Changes to the By-Laws must be published and sent via email within six (6) months of the final vote to amend them.

Not responsible for printing or production errors.

Erie County Conservation League Inc.
Gun Range, Gun Safety, Archery Range, Trap & Skeet and Club Rules
Amended 2017

Gun Range Rules

Vehicles are not permitted on the ranges. Park in designated parking area only. Member's vehicles are not permitted anywhere down range, except with specific permission. Only the ECCL cart is permitted on the ranges.

All instructions from a Range Safety Officer (RSO) must be obeyed.

Report any unsafe behavior to a Range Safety Officer.

Pattern testing a shotgun is permitted on the 25-yard range, far right of the 25-yard snow fence/backstop, i.e. two stand-alone posts. Portable target stands may not be used for shotguns.

Drawing from a holster is permitted if the holster is mounted at the waist on the shooting hand side of the body. There is no drawing permitted from a cross draw or shoulder holster. There will be no *cowboy"/combat fast draw* practice from a holster on any range. There will be no shooting from the hip with any rifle, shotgun or pistol on any range, except for club events.

If during a scheduled match or organized practice, there is a conflict between these rules and the rules of the governing body or said match or practice the Board of Trustees may issue an exception.

Do not put live, damaged or dud ammunition into the spent cartridge buckets nor discard or leave on the range. There are yellow and red tube/receptacles between the 25 & 50 yard ranges and between the 50 and 100 yard ranges which are provided for this purpose.

The portable stands must remain on the 25-yard range except when used for a club sanctioned event. .

All shooting on the outdoor ranges will be directed so as to impact the backstop downrange behind the orange snow fences. **NO SHOTS ARE TO BE FIRED OUTSIDE THSES LIMITS OR INTO THE TARGET STANDS, POLES/ WOOD, AT RANGE DISTANCE SIGNS, ETC.**

Eye and ear protection must be worn on the ranges inside the posted areas. All shooters and other persons in the immediate vicinity of the range should wear eye & ear protection when that range is in use. (ANSI Z87+ specification recommended)

Gun Range Rules continued

Anyone may call a cease-fire anytime the range is unsafe. Regardless of when or by whom the **CEASE FIRE** command is given, all firearms will be **immediately** made safe and tabled or holstered.

On the 25-yard range you may shoot from a distance closer to the targets if there are no other shooters firing from the benches/countertops on the concrete pads. If other shooters arrive and wish to shoot from the covered concrete pad, you must surrender the range, use the portable target stands and return to the concrete pad. This does not apply to any club sanctioned events. (action shooting, women's basis, 22- bench rest, etc.)

Only paper or cardboard targets are permitted. Steel, bottles, cans, clay birds, pots, pans, plastic, etc. are prohibited except during club authorized events. The exception is the steel target that is provided on the 200-yard range. All targets must be mounted on the orange snow fence; not to, or in line with, the wooden posts or cross-members that support the snow fences. **Use claps, clips or tape. Make sure that all rounds fired at and impacting your target, do not hit any wood. DO NOT MOUNT TARGETS ON WOODEN POSTS.**

Spent cartridge casings, ammo boxes, targets and other trash must be picked up and disposed of properly before the member leaves the range. If you don't want your empty cartridges, put them in the buckets provided.

Shooting benches and stools are to remain behind the firing line at all times – except during club events.

Gun Range Safety

Treat all guns as if they are always loaded!

Never point firearms at anyone.

Keep muzzle pointed down range (at the backstop) at all times.

Do not load firearm until you are ready to shoot.

Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

Know your target and what is beyond at all times.

Any firearm that is deemed a safety hazard must be unloaded and removed from the firing line. Any firearm that discharges without the trigger being activated, must be removed from the range until it is repaired.

Gun Range Safety continued

There is no specified time you must wait between shots but all firing must be **CONTROLLED, AIMED and DELIBERATE**. No trigger activating devices are permitted at any time on any firearm. (BMF ACTIVATOR, TRI-FIRE, SLIDE FIRE OR BUMP STOCKS, ETC.)

If you arrive at the range while someone is down range, do not handle your gun until they have returned to the firing line.

No one may go forward of the firing line to change or retrieve targets, pick up brass, or any other purpose, unless all firing points are clear and all firearms unloaded, benched, have their actions opened, and empty chamber indicators (ECI) inserted properly according to type of firearm. No one is to handle or touch any firearm while anyone is down range. No one goes down range without ensuring that all shooters have been notified of a **cease-fire** and firearms are cleared. Ammunition may be loaded into removable magazines and speed loader.

When transferring a gun from a vehicle, the gun must be cased or any empty chamber indicator (ECI) inserted in the chamber.

Archery Range Rules

Archers may NOT USE BROAD HEADS. Field points only are permitted.

Absolutely no sky-drawing. Bows are only to be drawn at the shooting line and in the direction of the targets.

Archers are not to proceed down range to retrieve arrows until they are acknowledged by the other archers and cease fire has been declared.

Do not nock any arrow while individuals are down range.

Be aware of your surroundings and the other archers on the ranges at all times.

Stay on the path and do not cut through the woods.

No rifles, shotguns, or handguns are permitted on the archery ranges except for CCW. There will be no discharge of firearms on the archery ranges.

No smoking on the archery ranges. This is a fire hazard. Smoking is only permitted in the parking area. Please do not leave litter.

Privately owned targets are permitted. Can, clay birds, bottles, metal, glass, plastic jugs, etc. are prohibited. Keep the ranges clean and litter-free.

Vehicles/ATVs/carts are not permitted on the range. Park in designated parking area only.

Trap & Skeet Range Rules

Always keep your barrel(s) under control and pointed in a safe direction

No firearm shall be loaded until the shooter is standing on the shooting station AND it is the shooter's turn to shoot.

No more than two (2) shells may be loaded at one time.

Eye and ear protection must be worn before shooting.

Always keep your finger away from the trigger(s) until you are ready to call for a target.

Shot size larger than #6, shotgun slugs, and non-lead shot are prohibited.

Handguns and rifles are not permitted on the shotgun ranges at any time.

Spectators must remain behind station #4 on the skeet range and behind the 27-yard line on the trap field.

Squad size shall not exceed five (5) shooters.

All guns inside the clubhouse must be unloaded and stored in the supplied racks or in a closed case. All pump and semi-auto actions, without exception, must be locked open. Breech lock guns must be fully open at all times, unless being racked.

A pattern board has been placed between the first skeet field and the first trap field for your use to pattern your shotguns. The pattern board is closed for use during trap and skeet hours. Please limit your shot size to #6 shot and smaller. A roller and grease is in a container hanging on the back of the pattern board for your use. SHOTGUN SLUGS ARE PROHIBITED ON THE PATTERN BOARD AT ALL TIMES.

Club Rules

Shooting hours are from 8am until sunset, Monday through Saturday and 10am until sunset on Sundays. Sunset is determined by internet or weather channel and not by the amount of light available. The exception is club sanctioned trap and skeet activities.

Shooting at any wildlife on or from club property is strictly prohibited.

You are required to have your badge with you on club property and it must be worn where it can be seen by other members while on the ranges. If asked for your badge, must produce it.

Senior members are permitted one guest who must wear the guest badge while on club property. THE MEMBER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE GUEST AND MUST BE WITH THE GUEST AT ALL TIMES AND MONITOR THEIR SHOOTING. Associate members and junior members do not receive a guest badge.

Your badge allows you and your guest entrance to the ranges. Do not give out your badge.