

# **RIO COMMUNITIES OPTIMIST CLUB BYLAWS**

**CLUB # ~~19268~~ 19628**

Effective March 4, 2020

## **ARTICLE 1 NAME**

This Club shall be known as Rio Communities Optimist Club, an affiliate of Optimist International.

## **ARTICLE 11 – MISSION**

By providing hope and positive vision, the members of this Club will bring out the best in youth, our communities and ourselves. This Optimist Club shall make it its goal to achieve, at the minimum, Honor Club status for Club performance and operations.

## **ARTICLE 111 – PURPOSES**

The purposes of this Club shall be to develop Optimism as a philosophy of life, to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs, to inspire respect for law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that giving of one's self in service to others will advance the wellbeing of humankind, community life and the world.

## **ARTICLE 1V – MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1: Membership in this Optimist Club shall represent adults, who are persons of good character, from the business, social, and cultural life of the community. All memberships shall be held by individuals and shall not be transferable.
- Section 2: Individuals having executive or supervisory control or authority such as coaches, assistant coaches, referees, and other participants managing Club projects are required to be members of the Club to receive benefits of the Club, including liability insurance protection. Any contracted or paid person(s) or entity(s) are not subject to this requirement.

## **ARTICLE V – ADMISSION TO MEMBERSHIP**

Members shall be admitted to the Club according to such procedures as established by the Board of Directors.

- Section 1: Proposals for membership, together with initiation and balance of quarterly dues, shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing in the form and manner prescribed by the Board of Directors and shall bear the endorsement of one or more members in good standing.
- Section 2: The Secretary shall immediately refer all such proposals to the Board of Directors for investigation and recommendation.
- Section 3: Should the Board of Directors thereon approve such proposals and recommendations, the Secretary shall notify the membership of the identity of the proposed member and date his proposal will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

- Section 4: After all members have had the opportunity to express objections, if any, the Board of Directors shall approve or reject the proposal for membership without explanation of its actions. A majority vote of those present shall be necessary to give approval as established by these bylaws.
- Section 5: Upon favorable action by the Board of Directors, the sponsor and/or the Secretary shall communicate approval to the proposed member, and the Secretary shall immediately forward the new member's name, address and processing fee to Optimist International in the prescribed form and manner.
- Section 6: Any former member of another Optimist Club, who was in good standing when his/her membership was terminated, may be admitted to membership in the manner prescribed by this Article, and by complying with such requirements as may be established by the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE VI – TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1: Any member may resign from the Club provided that all dues and fees have been paid. Such resignation shall be in writing to the Secretary.
- Section 2: Any member who is two (2) or more months in arrears in the payment of dues or fees to the Club may be suspended from membership. He or she will be provided written notice by the Secretary. Upon payment of arrears within 30 days of said notice, the member's suspension shall end automatically. If such member has not paid within said 30 days, his membership shall automatically be terminated and the Secretary shall so notify him of that termination.
- Section 3: Any member charged with conduct unbecoming an Optimist or with any act prejudicial to the best interest of the Club or Optimist International, and against whom such charges are sustained after opportunity to appear before the Board of Directors in his or her own defense, may be expelled from membership, at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Upon such action by the Board of Directors, the Secretary shall immediately notify the member in writing, of said action.
- Section 4: In case of the resignation or expulsion of any member, the Secretary shall immediately notify Optimist International and all members of the Club of such action.
- Section 5: Any member whose membership in the Club has been terminated for any reason shall forfeit all interest in any funds or property of the Club and all rights to the use of the Optimist name, emblem, or other insignia.
- Section 6: It shall be the prerogative of the Board of Directors to confirm any termination of membership on behalf of the Club.
- Section 7: No individual shall be allowed membership or maintain membership if convicted of any serious crime against a child, person, or entity. Upon failure of the Club Board of Directors to take action, any individual charged with conduct unbecoming an Optimist member, may be subject to suspension and/or termination after an investigation and/or adjudication by the Optimist International Board of Directors and after an opportunity to be heard. Said member shall receive a final notice of determination from the

Optimist International Board of Directors. Such notice by the Board of Directors shall be given by certified mail and any other delivery method available.

#### **ARTICLE VII – DIRECTORS**

- Section 1: The Board of Directors shall have such minimum number of members as may be required from time to time by an applicable federal, state or provincial legislation governing not for profit corporations or organizations. Six elected Directors shall serve for a period of two (2) years or until their successors are duly qualified and elected and shall be elected accordingly. In the event of a directorship becoming vacant for any reason, such vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Directors, and the appointee shall serve for the duration of the term of the individual being replaced.
- Section 2: The Board of Directors shall have control and management of the Club's activities, determine all policies, elect, dismiss and discipline members and generally supervise the affairs of the Club.
- Section 3: The Board of Directors shall meet on a regular basis as they shall determine; or at the call of the President. Any three members of the Board of Directors may call a meeting providing a three-day notice is given to all members. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and a majority vote of those present shall be necessary to give effect to any action of the Board.
- Section 4: Any member of the Board of Directors who is absent from three consecutive board meetings may be removed from office by the Board of Directors. Notice of said action shall be mailed to all members by the Secretary.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – OFFICERS**

- Section 1: The officers of this Club shall be determined by the Club as per State/Provincial/National law. The officers of the Club shall be the following:
- The President shall serve as the executive officer of the Club, preside at all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors, be an ex-officio member of all committees, exercise general supervision over club affairs and perform such other duties as are ordinarily incumbent upon a President; and shall represent the Club in all relations with Optimist International and the District and perform a like function in their behalf in relation to the Club. The President shall attend all duly called District meetings or, in the case of the absence for good reason, provide for the Club's representation by an accredited representative.
  - The Vice Presidents (or such title as established by the Club's Board of Directors) shall perform such duties as are ordinarily incumbent upon Vice Presidents and such other duties as may be assigned to them by the President or Board of Directors.

- The Secretary shall keep and maintain the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, business meetings and all records of membership, attendance and service of the Club, in the form and manner prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall also prepare and file all reports required by Optimist International, District administration and generally perform such duties as are ordinarily incumbent upon a Secretary.
- The Treasurer shall keep and maintain all records of fees, dues and monies collected and disbursed. Submit regular financial statements in the form, manner and frequency prescribed by the Board of Directors, prepare an annual statement for the annual meeting of the Club and generally perform such duties as are ordinarily incumbent upon a Treasurer. The Club Board of Directors can amend or expand these duties as needed, as long as they are within the guidelines of Optimist International and standard Club bylaws.

Section 2: All officers shall hold office for one year or until their successors are duly elected or appointed as provided in these bylaws. In the event that any office becomes vacant for any reason, the Board of Directors may fill the vacancy. The Club Board of Directors can amend or expand these duties as needed, as long as they are within the guidelines of Optimist International and standard Club bylaws.

## **ARTICLE IX – ELECTION PROCEDURES**

**The election of Club officer(s) and Directors should be completed not later than April 30.**

- Section 1: No later than April 1, the President shall, with the approval of the Board of directors, announce the appointment of a Nominating Committee of not fewer than three (3) members. The Nominating Committee shall select at least one nominee for each expiring office and directorship. Such nominees shall be delivered to the Secretary within fifteen (15) days.
- Section 2: Upon receipt of the report of the Nominating Committee, the Secretary shall, within seven (7) days, announce to the membership the nominations in alphabetical order and stating the date of the meeting at which the election shall be conducted. Notice shall be published for two (2) consecutive weeks prior to the election date.
- Section 3: Separate balloting shall be conducted for each office. Where there is only one nominee for an office, the President shall request a unanimous ballot for

the nominee. A majority of the votes cast shall be required to elect. In the case of Directors, if the number of nominees exceeds the number of vacancies, the

required number receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected.

- Section 4: Nothing in this article shall be construed as precluding nominations from the floor.
- Section 5: Only members in good standing shall be eligible to hold office or vote.
- Section 6: Voting shall be by individuals and no person may cast more than one vote. Proxies will not be recognized.
- Section 7: All officers and directors shall assume the responsibilities of their respective offices on October 1 following their election.
- Section 8: The Secretary shall report the results of all elections and appointments of Club officers to Optimist International and the District immediately.
- Section 9: The Installation of Officers banquet shall be held in the month of September in conjunction with the annual Awards Banquet. The information shall be published prior to the banquet date.
- Section 10: Friends of Optimist are ineligible to cast votes or serve as an officer of the Club and/or on the Club Board of Directors (OI Bylaws Article 111, Section 2.)

#### **ARTICLE X – MEETINGS**

- Section 1: Regular meetings of the Club shall be held at such time and place as may be determined by the Board of Directors.
- Section 2: Special meetings may be called by the President, or by the Secretary upon receipt of a written request signed by at least five (5) voting members in good standing. Every member shall be notified in writing at least three (3) days in advance of the special meeting and advised what business will be considered. No other business may be conducted at the meetings.
- Section 3: One-third (1/3) of the voting members in good standing shall constitute a quorum at any regular, special or annual meeting of the Club.
- Section 4: The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all deliberations of this organization and its Board of Directors except as otherwise provided in these bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE XI – REVENUE**

- Section 1: Each new member of the Club shall pay a membership fee of \$35.00, payment of said fee to be a prerequisite for admission to membership, payable on demand of the Treasurer.
- Section 2: Annual dues shall be \$80.00 per member, payable in full, semiannually, or quarterly, payable in advance except that each fully paid life member shall be privileged to deduct from payment of dues the amount equal to the dues payable by the Club to Optimist International for each member. A member shall be regarded in good standing if he/she is not more than thirty (30) days in arrears in payment of any indebtedness, dues, or other wise, to the Club. (Note: Membership dues may be voluntary as administrative costs may be offset by fundraisers, grants or business sponsorships.)

- Section 3: The Board of Directors may plan or recommend the raising or accumulations of revenue from sources other than those stated in this article.
- Section 4: All funds, to which the public or members have contributed for the specific purpose of financing charitable, educational or civic activities of the Club, shall be used solely for those purposes and separate records of such funds shall be maintained.
- Section 5: The fiscal year of the Club shall be from October 1 of each year until September 30 next following.
- Section 6: The Board of Directors shall arrange for, at a minimum, an annual audit by an audit committee consisting of three (3) members in good standing and appointed by the Board of Directors. This audit committee shall consist of members not also members of the Board of Directors.
- Section 7: The Board of Directors may provide for the bonding of the Treasurer in amounts it prescribes.

#### **ARTICLE X11 – COMMITTEES**

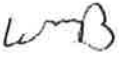
- Section 1: The Board of Directors shall determine the number and purpose of all special and standing committees required to achieve the purposes of the Club.
- Section 2: The President shall appoint the chair and members of all committees and announce such appointments not later than October 1 following his or her election.

#### **ARTICLE X111 – MISCELLANEOUS**

- Section 1: A member or individual may act as an agent of an Optimist Club only upon prior written approval granting such agency by the Club's Board of Directors.
- Section 2: In recognition of the benefits and services available to this Club and its members through its affiliation with Optimist International, this Club shall exercise its rights and privileges of participation in the government and activities of Optimist International. This club shall provide for its proper representation at all meetings and conventions of Optimist International and the District. It shall provide such representation when preparing the annual budget.
- Section 3: While attending any project, meeting, social event, or other gathering that is conducted for the benefit of the youth in attendance, adults are expected to refrain from consumption of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, e-cigarettes, and marijuana products during any portion of the event.
- Section 4: Any person elected to membership in this Club shall be deemed to have accepted these bylaws and the Bylaws of Optimist International, and shall be bound by them in all respects as if he or she had been a member at the time of their adoption.
- Section 5: The Board of Directors shall provide for the prompt payment of all dues and other obligations to Optimist International and the District, and shall require

- the prompt completion and submission of all reports required by Optimist International and the District.
- Section 6: If the Club carries any form of club liability insurance, it must add Optimist International as an additional insured to the policy. Should the Club not name Optimist International as an additional insured, the Club shall hold Optimist International harmless from any liability and the Club shall reimburse Optimist International for any and all reasonable attorney fees, court costs, and losses sustained by Optimist International.
- Section 7: Any member may attend a Board of Directors meeting and voice his/her opinion, with a time limit of two (2) minutes unless the presiding officer extends the time.
- Section 8: No appointments, approvals, or granting permission shall be valid if not entered as such in the Club minutes of record.
- Section 9: These bylaws shall be reviewed annually.

#### **ARTICLE XIV – NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**


  
(initial)

This Club is organized and shall operate as a not-for-profit organization and shall be incorporated within the state/provincial/national statutes as such. The club is organized to operate exclusively for charitable and educational purposes set forth in Section 501(c) (4) of the Internal Revenue code of 1986, as now in effect on or as may be amended (the "Code"), including, but not limited to, developing Optimism as a philosophy of life, utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the wellbeing of humankind, community life and the world.

#### **ARTICLE XV – AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1: Any amendment to these bylaws must be in conformity with the Bylaws of Optimist International, shall be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at any meeting, provided that written notice of the proposed amendments and date of such meeting shall have been given the members at least two (2) weeks prior thereto.
- Section 2: All amendments to these bylaws must be submitted to Optimist International for approval.

#### **ARTICLE XVI – DISSOLUTION**


  
(initial)

After delinquent dues are paid to Optimist International, Clubs with any remaining assets are encouraged to contribute them to Optimist Foundation, another Optimist Club, or another not-for-profit organization. If no disposition of the club assets is completed within 120 days after the effective date of dissolution, the assets of the Club shall be

distributed to Optimist International or the Optimist International Foundation.

Please sign below and fax to Optimist International (314) 371-6006 or scan an email to:  
[membership@optimist.org](mailto:membership@optimist.org).

Name of Club    Rio Communities Optimist Club

    Approved   
(President)    (for Optimist International)

    Date Approved 8-31-2020  
(Secretary)    (by Optimist International)

Date Adopted 8/27/20