

By Laws of the South Dakota Taxidermist Association

Article I – Name

The name of the association, founded in 2002, shall be the South Dakota Taxidermist Association, herein referred to as SDTA, a non-profit organization.

Article II – Purpose

- A. To promote high standards in the art and science of taxidermy and encourage members to produce a quality product.
- B. To aid the taxidermy profession as a whole by lobbying for fair legislation on the state and federal levels and to develop rapport with those agencies.
- C. To encourage the exchange of ideas and methods among members in an attempt to better individuals and the industry as a whole.
- D. To foster understanding in the general public about the field of taxidermy.
- E. To work for the preservation of the right to hunt, fish and trap.
- F. To engage in other civic, charitable, educational and business activities as deemed appropriate by the SDTA.
- G. To establish a code of ethics and operate under same.
- H. To unite all interested taxidermists into one organization.

Article III – Membership and Dues

- A. Membership shall be open to all interested parties, including, but not limited to, taxidermists, whether professional or novice, suppliers, tanners, guides, sportsmen and conservationist.
- B. The Board of Directors shall set the amount of annual dues.
- C. All dues are payable in advance and effected for one calendar year from member's anniversary date.
- D. Dues collected shall be used for the benefit of the membership.
- E. Membership in the SDTA is individual, not transferable or assignable except that any firm or organization desiring a membership shall designate a representative and only that designated representative shall be entitled to vote and run for elective office.
- F. Individuals or the designated representative of a member firm shall constitute one membership and be entitled to one vote. Family memberships shall be limited to two (2) voting members.
- G. Any SDTA member in good standing shall be eligible to vote, run for and hold office in the SDTA.
- H. Any individual member or member firm may be expelled for conduct detrimental to the SDTA by affirmative majority vote of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall take no action to expel a member until said member has been given an opportunity for a hearing before the Board.
- I. Any individual member or member firm expelled by action of the action of the Board of Directors may be prohibited by affirmative majority vote of the Board of Directors from contracting commercial space to sell or advertise their services or projects at any official function of the SDTA and may be prohibited by affirmative majority vote of the Board of Directors from advertising in any official publication of the SDTA.
- J. Active members in good standing on the date ballots are mailed shall be entitled to vote upon any matter before the general membership.

Article IV – Officers and Board of Directors

- A. Elective offices of the SDTA shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer. The Board of Directors shall consist of the immediate past president, the current officers and four (4) board members elected by the general membership.
 - 1. No member shall hold two (2) elective offices simultaneously unless there are no other members willing to hold either office.

2. If there is only one nominee for an office, he or she may run unopposed.
 3. Nominees for all offices must be members in good standing for the period of one year before nomination.
- B. Term of office will begin immediately following elections and continue for one year in the case of officers and two years for Board Members.
- C. In the event that a vacancy should occur in any office, other than the office of President, the Board shall appoint a candidate to fill the office until the next regularly scheduled election. If the office of the President should become vacant, the Vice President shall fill the remainder of the term.
- D. Duties:
1. The President shall preside as a non-voting member at all meetings of the Board of Directors and general meetings of members of the association.
 2. The Vice President shall be a voting member of the Board and shall in the absence of the President, or at his or her request, perform the duties of the President.
 3. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be a voting member of the Board and shall attend all meetings of the Board and of the members of the SDTA and record their meetings, shall receive all monies, pay all bills incurred by the authority of the Board, and preserve the records thereof. The Secretary/Treasurer shall issue notices of meetings, present a statement showing the financial condition of the SDTA at each meeting of the Board, and perform such duties as are usually performed by such officers or as may be directed by the Board of Directors.
 4. The Board of Directors shall be the managing Board of the SDTA, control all expenditures and property of the SDTA, and act for the interests of the SDTA in any way not inconsistent with these bylaws. While ultimate authority rests in the membership, the Board shall define policies and shall have full administrative direction of the SDTA. The Board will appoint committee chairpersons and other positions as it deems necessary.

Article V – Elections

- A. Elections for officers shall be held once a year, at the time of the annual convention. Elections for Board members shall rotate, with elections for two Board members one year and the other two Board members the following year.
- B. Nominations for office must be received by the Secretary/Treasurer no less than two months prior to the elections to allow time for all candidates to be notified and to accept or decline the nomination as they choose.
- C. The Secretary/Treasurer will mail ballots to all members no later than three (3) weeks prior to the election.
- D. SDTA members in good standing at the time of the elections may vote by mail if they will not be attending the convention. Such ballots must be received by the Secretary/Treasurer no later than three days prior to the convention.

Article VI – Meetings

- A. Officers and Board Members are expected to attend all official board meetings. Any officer or board member who misses two consecutive board meetings, without a valid reason acceptable by the Board of Directors, will be asked to voluntarily resign. If such voluntary resignation does not occur, than mandatory, forced resignation must be carried out by the Board.
- B. The Board of Directors shall hold semi-annual meetings, one of which will be held at the time of the annual convention. Semi-annual meetings in which no major purpose needs to be discussed may be postponed or canceled as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors and/or Officers.
- C. Special meetings may be called at any time for any purpose by the President or the majority of the Board of Directors. At least two weeks written notice must be given to all members prior to such a special meeting.

Article VII – Amendments

- A. These bylaws may be amended only by an affirmative majority vote of the general membership at a regular or special meeting. All proposed changes must be approved by the Board of Directors and presented to the general membership one month prior to the voting.
- B. At any time, ten percent (10%) of the valid membership may petition the Board to change any action of the Board. Said action will then be placed on a ballot to the membership and by majority of those voting, said action of the Board may be overturned.
- C. If a Court of competent jurisdiction shall hold a portion of these bylaws to be invalid, the remainder of the bylaws not so held to be invalid shall be considered in full force and effect.

Article VIII – Rules of Order

“Robert’s Rules of Order” shall govern in all cases not provided for in these bylaws.

Article IX – Liability

- A. For any reason what so ever, legal action cannot be taken against this organization.
- B. If a dispute arises, the two parties responsible shall be required to settle their matters on their own expense and time.

Mission Statement

The SDTA is an organization dedicated to the enhancing and promotion of better taxidermy while uniting taxidermists in fellowship, learning and staying abreast of latest innovations, techniques and laws governing our industry.

