

Club Ownership/Management

The management of the gun club will be determined by the financial arrangement that established it. There are four primary options.

1. A single owner sets the management team and makes the decisions.
2. A multiple investment team becomes the board of directors with the initiator becoming the Chairman.
3. An initiator with memberships sold on a charter basis (to raise initial funds), or lifetime and yearly fee basis with the board of directors selected from this group.
4. An initiator affiliated with a public institution, city or county with funding and accountability vested with political affiliate along with setting rules and regulations for management.

In option 1, the single owner selects a management team to operate the facility. He must have definite goals in mind for the facility. Is it to be a profit making, professionally run operation or is it to be a caretaker, owner directed facility for his personal recreation.

If the facility is to be run for profit, the management team must have the authority to make decisions in the best interest of the business. If it is to be a non-profit, break even operation for personal recreation, he needs to establish a caretaker arrangement and retain the decisions for himself.

If using option 2, there are several outcomes that can be expected. It is imperative that a mutual agreement as to the goals of the club be established at investment time.

1. The facility may become a private club with revenue generation unimportant.
2. The facility may become a multi asset investment designed to generate revenue through affiliation with corporate and civic associates of the investors.
3. The facility may be open to the public to expand the visibility of the sport as well as make money.
4. In some cases, the investors may not share intent and thus create discord.

Option 3, that of subscription membership, will promote the idea of establishing a club among an interested group of people. The initial group will become the purchasers of the property and the primary board of directors. When the site has been selected and the plans drawn for fields and clubhouse, the membership solicitation can begin. When the minimum number has been reached, an election can be held for officers. Many gun clubs have functioned in this manner for many years. The multi level approach can be cumbersome, especially when members

volunteer time and energy and feel they have earned extra benefits. These “perks” can lead to unbalanced budgets and discord among the membership.

By using option 4, the public affiliated approach, the initiator does the preliminary work and planning and takes the proposal to the local authority for support and funding. The initiator may continue to have an affiliation with the facility, however, management, rules and regulations, and future expansion will be at the discretion of the local authority.

WHO MANAGES THE CLUB

Most successful clubs, regardless of size, have a single full or part-time manager. Usually part-time managers are voluntary and unpaid. A board of governors or directors representing the membership establishes policy and oversees general management. The daily operating details are the responsibility of the manager.

Various committees made up of club members are usually appointed to oversee such matters as building and grounds, membership, finances, competition, social events, and promotion.



Suggestions for Gun Club Constitutions and By-Laws

American sportsmen create gun clubs for the primary purpose of sport and recreation. A gun club constitution must help the members keep this primary thought in mind. Clear language must be used so that all members are aware of the structure and foundation of the club. The following is a brief outline of the basic concepts you should consider when writing your club's constitution and by-laws.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE _____ GUN CLUB
<i>Founded</i> _____
Article I Select the official name for your club
Article II Define the purpose of the club
Article III Membership <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Who can be a member2. How to become a member and what types of membership are available3. Expulsion or termination of membership
Article IV Meetings <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. When held2. Special3. Quorum4. Order of business (Roberts Rules of Order)
Article V Officers <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are the officers and directors and what is their duty2. Elections3. Vacancies4. Removal from office
Article VI Dues
Article VII Fees and Shooting Regulations
Article VIII Committees
Article IX <i>Miscellaneous and Amendments</i>

The constitution should be signed and notarized by the charter members.