

**FIDALGO FLY FISHERS  
BY-LAWS  
Passed at 18 Oct'18 Meeting**

**I. MEMBERSHIP**

1. Qualifications: Candidates for active membership must have an interest in fly-fishing and have attended two meetings, or a meeting and an outing sponsored by the Club prior to applying for membership. Candidates must also agree to serve on at least one (1) committee during their first year of membership.
2. Application; Each qualified candidate shall submit an application for membership on a form provided by the membership committee, together with the initiation fee and one year's dues. The application shall include a statement signed by the candidate, that the candidate will abide by the principles and rules of the Fidalgo Fly Fishers as contained in these By-Laws. The application form shall state the Aims and Purposes of the Fidalgo Fly Fishers. Each application shall be countersigned by two (2) active members of the Club as the candidate's sponsors.
3. Responsibilities for Sponsors; Sponsors of a new member accept responsibility for the following tasks;
  - a. The sponsors shall facilitate the membership application procedures for the prospective member and ensure the application is forwarded to the Membership Committee.
  - b. Upon acceptance by the Board of Directors, (henceforth referred to as the Board), the sponsors shall make a brief introduction of the new member to the membership at the new member's induction ceremony.
  - c. The sponsors shall plan or arrange at least one fishing trip between the new member and a sponsor and/or other club members and help the new member become integrated into the club.
  - d. Based on the new member's interests, the sponsors shall introduce him or her to one or more committee chairs. The sponsors shall assist the new member as necessary to sign up on a committee and become involved with club activities and thereby have further contact with other members.
4. Appraisal: The Membership Committee shall review each application and acquaint itself with each candidate for the purpose of making an appraisal of the candidate to the Board at the next regular Board meeting after the application is received by the committee.
5. Approval or rejection of application for membership for each candidate shall be determined by a majority vote of the Board after the Membership Committee Chair has presented a recommendation for each candidate to the Board.

6. Rejection: If a candidate is rejected for membership, the candidate's fees will be refunded.
7. Initiation: Newly accepted members shall be inducted into the Club by means of the following procedures;
  - a. The President shall call the newly accepted members and their sponsors to the rostrum, sponsors to the rear of the nominees.
  - b. The President shall read the following statement and the nominee must agree. "By accepting this pin you agree to abide by the By-Laws and to support the Aims and Purposes of the Fidalgo Fly Fishers to the best of your ability".
  - c. The President shall welcome and present the new member with the club pin, club nameplate, copy of the By-Laws, and an up to date copy of the club roster.
  - d. Names and contact information for each new member shall be published with the next newsletter following induction.
8. Expulsion: The membership shall have the authority to drop from the club, a member for unsporting conduct, or any action or deed detrimental or opposed to the Aims and Purposes of the Club. Procedures for exercising this authority shall be as follows;
  - a. Any member may initiate action to drop a member for just cause by transmitting their complaint to the membership committee with full particulars in writing. The membership committee shall conduct such preliminary investigation as deemed necessary and transmit their findings to the Board with their recommendations.
  - b. The Board shall then consider the merit of the complaint, following which the accused shall be requested to appear before the Board to state a case in rebuttal to the complainant. The Board shall provide the accused with the opportunity to face the complainant if so requested by the accused. After hearing all evidence, the Board shall vote by secret ballot in executive session to sustain or dismiss the complaint. A majority vote will govern.
  - c. If the Board votes to drop the accused member, that member shall be requested to submit a resignation forthwith in which case the Board shall accept the resignation and order that the accused be dropped from Club rolls with no publication being made to the Club membership. If the accused fails to accept the findings and recommendation to resign, the Board will transmit their findings and recommendation for dropping the accused from membership at the next regularly scheduled Club meeting, at which meeting the accused will be permitted to present extenuating and/or negating evidence. The complainant shall have no such privileges.

d. After hearing the Board's findings and recommendations and the accused's evidence, if any, the members present shall sustain or deny the Board's recommendation by secret ballot. A majority vote sustaining the Board's recommendation for expulsion is sufficient for Club approval.

e. If the Board does not sustain the charges against the accused, it shall inform both the complainant and the accused in writing and no further publication or information regarding this matter shall be made to the Club membership.

## II. DUES

1. Dues: The dues for 2019 and each year thereafter shall be forty dollars per year (\$40.00 per year), payable on January first for each calendar year. A member's Spouse or Life Partner or children less than eighteen years of age, who regularly attend scheduled meetings, and wish to become a member, will only be required to pay the initiation fee once. (see 6. below)
2. Proration: New members whose application for membership is approved on or after May 31st shall pay one half (1/2) of the annual dues for the first year, and new members whose application for membership is approved on or after September 30<sup>th</sup> shall pay one quarter (1/4) of the annual dues for the first year.
3. Delinquency: The initial statement of dues payable shall be made through the newsletter as soon as possible after January 1<sup>st</sup>. of each year. A notice will be sent to members with unpaid dues after February 1<sup>st</sup>. Members with unpaid dues after March 1<sup>st</sup> will be dropped from the rolls as a Member. As a gentle reminder, the Gillie shall collect the customary fine from any member attending a meeting who is in arrears with respect to dues after February 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. Reinstatement: An active member whose name has been dropped from the Club roster for delinquency in payment of dues will be reinstated upon payment of full annual dues and a five dollar (\$5.00) reinstatement fee.
5. Re-Application: An active member whose name has been dropped from the Club roster for delinquency in payment of annual dues and who has failed to be reinstated by the end of the calendar year shall be required to submit a new application for membership together with the appropriate dues and initiation fees.

6. Initiation Fees: Beginning March 15, 2018 the initiation fee shall be twenty-five (\$25.00). This fee covers costs for providing a new member with nameplate, club pin, and folder containing club By-Laws and Roster.

### **III SELECTION OF OFFICERS**

1. Elected Officers: The operational management for the Club affairs shall be undertaken by the Club's elected officers under the direction of the Board. These officers shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.
2. Nominating Committee: The immediate Past President of the Club shall convene a committee consisting of the immediate Past, as chairman, and the two most recent Past Presidents to prepare a slate of nominees for the next year's elected officers positions. This slate of nominees shall be presented to the Club membership at its regular scheduled meeting in October.
3. Nominations: Individual members may make additional nominations from the floor at the regularly scheduled meeting in October or at such time as the Nominating Committee presents its slate.
4. Elections: Officers for the next year shall be elected by a vote of the membership present at the regularly scheduled meeting in November. The elections shall be by secret ballot unless members present unanimously approve a properly presented motion to accept the entire slate of officers presented by the Nominating Committee.
5. Vacancies: Vacancies occurring during the year will be filled by the President and approved by the membership
6. Appointed Officers: The President shall appoint an Editor, to serve until relieved by the appointment of a successor, and at each meeting of the membership the President shall appoint a Gillie.

### **IV DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS**

1. Board of Directors: The Board shall consist of the following officers; President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the immediate Past President. They shall meet at least once monthly other than the regularly scheduled meetings of the Club membership, to transact the business of the Club.
2. President: The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and at the meetings of the Board. The President shall be in general control of the Club's routine business.

3. Vice President: The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in case of disability or absence of the President. The Vice President shall serve as the Chair of the Membership Committee, and shall arrange for programs of the regularly scheduled monthly meetings of the Club. The Vice President is in charge of the Club's equipment.
4. Secretary: The Secretary shall keep club records and minutes of the meetings, handle correspondence, and submit to the Editor any notices to the membership required by law, or Articles of Incorporation, or these By-Laws.
5. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall collect all dues and fees, make distributions required for Club activities, maintain the Club's financial records, keep an official list of paid-up members, ensure compliance with financial reporting or filing requirements, and prepare an annual budget for approval by the Board. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for maintaining the club roster and email list. The outgoing Treasurer is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and proposed budget. The financial report for the past year and the proposed budget for the ensuing next fiscal year will be presented during the January meeting. The Treasurer shall fill out and file the "end-of-year report" with the Secretary of State, State of Washington.
6. Editor: The Editor shall publish the monthly club newsletter, and shall mail the newsletter to the membership so as to give members at least ten (10) days notice of any regularly scheduled or special meeting.
7. Gillie: The Gillie shall act as Sergeant-at-Arms during club meeting, and shall collect any fines imposed on the members.
8. The Fidalgo Fly Fishers, a long time "affiliate club" of the Fly Fishers International (formerly known as the Federation of Fly Fishers and hereafter designated the "FFI"), recognizes that it may function independently of the FFI and is free to pursue its own specific goals within the general guidelines of the FFI By-Laws. The club officers of Fidalgo Fly Fishers will familiarize themselves with the FFI "By-Laws" and "Aims and Purposes" in order to utilize the benefits of an affiliate membership, to assist the FFI in meeting its aims and purposes and to promote participation with and individual membership in the FFI. The club's FFI contact person, appointed by the club president, shall actively promote these goals.

## **V. DELEGATIONS**

1. Official Delegations: The Board may designate an official delegation of active member(s) to attend conferences and other gatherings in order to further the Aims and Purposes of the Club.

2. Voting: Only those active members designated as Official Delegates by the Board shall be entitled to vote at such conferences on behalf of the Fidalgo Fly Fishers.
3. Expenses: The annual budget of the Club may provide for the expenditure of Club funds for such Official Delegations. Delegates shall pay any convention or conference expenses in excess of those, which have been approved by the Club.

## **VI. COMMITTEES**

Committee Chairs are appointed by the President, and shall serve until replaced by the appointment of a successor. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to provide direction for each Committee's work. Each Committee's Chair shall periodically report to the President and Board of Directors to provide an update on the work of the Committee. The Board of Directors must approve recommendations or proposals from the Committees before they are presented to the General Membership.

Unless specified below, each committee shall consist of a Chair and a number of Committee members as determined by the Committee Chair in concert with the President.

1. Membership: The Membership Committee shall consist of the Vice President, as Chair, and any other members chosen by him to assist. This Committee shall screen applications, keep records, and report to the Board in accordance with Section I Membership above.
2. Legislative: The Legislative Committee shall initiate action approved by the Board on matters of specific concern as related to the Aims and Purposes of the Club.
3. Grants: The Grants Committee is responsible for developing and/or implementing projects suggested by members for the improvement of lakes, streams, estuaries and their watershed. These projects may include, work on projects of resources and habitat management and conservation in accordance with the Aims and Purposes of the Club. It will work closely with governmental agencies and other outdoor clubs that share the Club's Aims and Purposes. The Grants Committee is responsible for administering the Fidalgo Fly Fishers Grants Program (see Appendix to By-Laws)
4. Education: The Education Committee is responsible for the Club's education services. These services may include fly tying, casting, rod building, and general knowledge about the sport of fly fishing.

5. Outings: The Outings Committee is responsible for planning and arranging club outings and special events.
  
6. Awards: The Awards Committee shall consist of a Chair appointed by the President and two or more members selected by the Chair. This committee shall be responsible for overseeing the awarding of the Fidalgo Fly Fishers Award, the Award of Excellence, and any other awards (see By-Laws Appendix, AWARDS Section) deemed appropriate by agreement of the Board and the Awards Committee Chair. Individual club members may submit nominations for ad hoc awards to the Awards Committee Chair at any time. Humor and spontaneity are to be encouraged while maintaining a sense of fair play.

## **VII. CLUB AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS BUSINESS MEETING**

1. Meetings: Club meetings shall be held on the third Thursday of every month, except the months of June, July, and August, at a time and place to be designated by the Board.
  
2. Quorum - General Membership Meeting: Any number of active members who attend a regularly scheduled general meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any Club business.
  
3. Quorum - Board of Directors: Any three (3) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of routine business meetings of the Board.
  
4. Procedure: Robert's Rules of Order (Revised) shall govern the conduct of all club meetings and the transaction of club business.
  
5. Extraordinary Expenditures Limited: The Board shall not authorize the payment of any obligation of the Club in excess of one hundred dollars (\$100.00), unless the payment is included in the approved budget. Any such extraordinary expenditure shall first be submitted for approval by a majority of the membership at any regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

## **VIII. FINES**

A fine of not more than twenty five (25) cents shall be assessed against any member who shall commit any of the following transgressions;

- a.i.1. Failure to wear their nameplate at club meeting.
- a.i.2. Failure to identify by name and club affiliation when first recognized to speak at a meeting.
- a.i.3. Failure to identify a fellow club member by name or office when speaking to or of such member at a club meeting.

- a.i.4. Failure to honestly specify the place, the waters, the time of day, and the date fished during the proceeding month while giving a fishing report.
- a.i.5. Late arrival for a club meeting.
- a.i.6. Attending a meeting while being in arrears for payment of dues after February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- a.i.7. Other such transgressions as to the Gillie seem detrimental to the preservation of order or the dignity of club members or officers.

## **IX AMENDMENT PROCEDURES**

These By-Laws can be changed by two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote at any regular meeting of the General Membership. Any proposed changes in the By-Laws shall be presented to the Board. The Board shall make a recommendation regarding the proposed changes and shall have the proposed changes published in the WAHOO (the club newsletter) prior to the vote by the General Membership.

## **X FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year shall run January first (1<sup>st</sup>) to December thirty first (31<sup>st</sup>).

## **XI BY-LAW REVISIONS**

These By-Laws were last revised by a two-thirds (2/3)-majority vote on March 15, 2018.

## **XII SUMMARY OF BY-LAW REVISIONS**

### Dates and Summary of Revisions:

- 1974 initial By-Laws drafted.
- July 5, 1979 Fidalgo Fly Fishers incorporated with the State of Washington, revised By-Laws submitted with Articles of Incorporation.
- 1979 to November 17, 1995 it is unknown if any revisions were made to By-Laws.
- November 17, 1995, –
  - Membership limitations on age were removed. Previously the By-Laws limited membership to men 21 years of age or older.
  - Membership was opened to women, and all gender specific language was removed from the By-Laws
  - Family membership was initiated.
- September 16, 1998 section II Dues was revised.
  - Dues were increased to twenty dollars (\$20.00).
  - The family membership was deleted, family member are included in the twenty-dollar membership fee. However, each family member who is active in the Club must pay the initiation fee.



- October 17, 2002 section I Membership was revised.
  - New members agree to serve on at least one committee during their first year of membership.
  - Specific responsibilities of New Members' Sponsors defined.
  - Membership Committee makes recommendation of new member to the Executive Board. A favorable vote by the majority of the Executive Board members present shall constitute acceptance of the new member.
- November 15, 2007 section II Dues was revised.
  - The initiation fee was raised five dollars (\$5.00) to fifteen dollars (\$15.00).
- February 18, 2010 section II Dues was revised.
  - Dues were increased by ten dollars (\$10) to thirty dollars per year.
  - The initiation fee of \$15 remains the same.
- October 18, 2012 The recommendation for changes to the By-Laws by the Review Committee and the Board of Directors was presented to and approved this date. The changes are as follows:
  - Section I Membership: Major changes were made to Section I Membership, Paragraph 3 Responsibilities of Sponsors, subsection a-f were replaced with new sections. Paragraph 6 Approval was replaced with a new section.
  - Section II Dues: Minor wording changes were made to clarify the peroration of dues, when dues are to be paid, and the imitation fees.
  - Section VI Committees: Major changes were made to Section VI Committees.
    - The responsibilities of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs were added.
    - The Conservation Committee duties were expanded to include administering the Fidalgo Fly Fishers Grants Program.
    - The Awards Committee responsibilities were defined.
  - Section IX Amendment Procedures: This section was changed to require that changes to By-Laws are to be presented to the Board of Directors, who will make a recommendation regarding the changes and shall published the proposed changes and their recommendation in the club newsletter prior to a vote of the General Membership.
  - Appendices: A new section Appendices to the Fidalgo Fly Fishers By-Laws was added. This section included the Aims & Purposes of the Fidalgo Fly Fishers, guidelines for the Fidalgo Fly Fishers Award, the Award of Excellence, and Ad Hoc Awards. The

guidelines for the administration of the Fidalgo Fly Fishers Grants Program were also added to the Appendices.

- March 5, 2015 Appendices for Conservation Grants Committee was revised.
  - Previous guidelines were outdated and restrictive. Revisions allowed for more flexibility in committee recommendations.
- January 12, 2017 Section IV Duties of Officers was revised.
  - Responsibility of maintaining the club roster and up to date mailing list were shifted from the Secretary to the Treasurer.
- March 15, 2018 Section II.
  - Paragraph 1: Dues were revised. The 2019 and beyond membership dues was changed from \$30.00 per year to \$40.00 per year.
  - Paragraph 6: Initiation fees were revised. Effective as approved on March 15, 2018, the fees for new members shall increase from \$15.00 to \$25.00.
- March 15, 2018 Section XI was changed to document the latest changes.
- October 23, 2018 Section VI
  - Paragraph 3: Removed 'conservation' from the name of the Grants Committee and all references within.
- October 23, 2018 Appendices to the Fidalgo Fly Fishers By-Laws was re-written to reflect the removal of 'conservation' from the Committee name and to further define the purpose and process associated with the Committee.

**APPENDICES  
TO  
FIDALGO FLY FISHERS  
BY-LAWS**

**AIMS & PURPOSES:**

Fidalgo Fly Fishers is organized as a non-profit corporation for the following purposes:

1. To promote the sport of fly-fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To promote and work for the betterment of all waters, all fish.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of all native fish in the waters of the State of Washington.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution of all waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist any person to become a fly fisher.
6. To cooperate with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and other organizations whose goals coincide with those of this Club in enhancing the quality of fisheries in the State of Washington.
7. To promote adherence to and education regarding fishing regulations on waters set aside for fly-fishing only.
8. To provide opportunities for members to enjoy the various aspects of fly fishing with others in our membership.

**Awards:**

Fidalgo Fly Fishers Award: The Fidalgo Fly Fishers Award is given each year by the Club. This award will be presented to the Club member deemed by peers to have made the greatest contribution, and provided exceptional leadership to the Club during the year for which the award is presented. Contributions may be in the field of conservation, leadership, education, fly tying, or any activity which furthers the aims of the Club and promotes the sport of fly fishing. All members are eligible. Voting will take place at the November club meeting in the form of a secret ballot; most votes wins. The award will be presented at the annual Christmas Dinner in December.

Award of Excellence: The Award of Excellence may be given to a club member who has been deemed to have made significant contributions to the Club and its members over an extended period of time (more than one year). Any club member may nominate any other club member by submitting a brief justification in writing to the Awards Committee Chair. It will be the responsibility of the Chair and the Board to decide the most appropriate selection process. This award will not necessarily be given every year, but it should be available as a means to recognize members who have worked and provided leadership over a period of years to make the Fidalgo Fly Fishers a better club.

Ad Hoc Awards: While it is not the purpose of the Club to focus on awards, members are encouraged to recognize other Club members with ad hoc awards, either of a serious or humorous nature, such as the Skunk Award or Half-Ass Award. Nominations may be made at any time to the Awards Committee Chair and the Awards Committee will be responsible for determining presentation.

Fidalgo Fly Fishers Grants Program: The Fidalgo Fly Fishers Grants Program is hereby established to provide grants which support the Aims and Purposes of Fidalgo Fly Fishers (the Club), as defined in the By-Laws. Grants may be given to groups which support conservation, education, or rehabilitation through programs and activities related to fly fishing. Grants are funded each year by one-half of the Club's annual Christmas party raffle and auction proceeds, not to exceed \$1,250. Though there are no restrictions as to the number of grants awarded, the monetary amount per grant, or the location of the grant recipient, it should be the goal of the Club to concentrate grants on activities within Washington State and Skagit and neighboring counties, which support the types of activities enjoyed by Club members; that is, fly fishing for trout, salmon, or steelhead in local rivers, streams, lakes and estuaries. The Committee will consist of a Chairperson appointed by the Board and at least two other Club members. A call for grants submissions will appear in the January Wahoo. Grant requests should be submitted to the Committee Chairperson via email with cc to all Board members no later than the Monday before the February Board meeting. The request should indicate the name and address of the proposed recipient and a brief statement explaining how the recipient supports the Aims and Purposes of the Club. The Committee Chairperson, after consulting with Committee members, will present the members' requests as well as other grant recommendations to the Board at the February Board meeting. The Board will present the results of their deliberations to the membership at the February general meeting for approval and for inclusion in the annual budget.