

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE  
Little Finger Thermaleers

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be the Little Finger Thermaleers (LIFT).

ARTICLE II

Purpose

The purpose of LIFT shall be:

1. To facilitate growth in the art of design, construction and flying of radio controlled soaring planes.
2. To serve fairly and in proper balance those people with interest in radio controlled soaring, whether their interest are thermal soaring, slope soaring, competition or sports flying for personal achievement.
3. To gather and disseminate information on glider design, construction and soaring techniques, kit evaluation, and launching techniques.
4. To promote safety in radio controlled soaring.
5. To promote an annual soaring contest open to all members of the soaring community, and club meets in a manner that will consider the needs and desires of all the members.
6. To provide assistance to individuals interested in learning soaring.
7. To provide information on meets and notification of all members of soaring schedules.
8. To promote the advancement of member soaring skills through the attainment of League of Silent Flight (LSF) skill levels.

ARTICLE III

Meeting

Section 1      The Board of Directors of LIFT shall meet a least once each year as provided in the By-Laws.

Section 2      A bi-annual election of members to the Board of Directors of LIFT shall be held not later than the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February in each even numbered year as provided in the By-Laws of LIFT.

ARTICLE IV  
Membership

- Section 1      There will be two types of Membership, namely: Regular Individual Membership and Associate Individual Membership. The Regular Membership can be split into three categories for dues purposes: Regular, Junior, and Family.
- Section 2      Regular Members – are all members not included in another category.
- Section 3      Junior Members – are Regular members which have not reached 18 years of age as of July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.
- Section 4      Family Members – are members which are related to and part of a Regular Member’s household.
- Section 5      Associate Members – are members which are regular members of another AMA sanctioned R/C Soaring Club, and reside more than 100 miles from LIFT’s flying field near Lake Ann, Michigan. Associate Members have all the rights, privileges, and duties of a regular member except they may not participate in any contest restricted to club members.
- Section 6      All members must submit a completed membership application and thereby agree to support and adhere to the Constitution and By-Laws of LIFT.

ARTICLE V  
Officers and Directors

- Section 1      The governing body of LIFT shall be a Board of Directors constituted as the Constitution and By-Laws may provide. The Board of Directors shall be the officers of LIFT.
- Section 2      The officers shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Safety Officer. All Officers shall be elected from among the members of LIFT.
- Section 2      The officers shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Safety Officer. All Officers shall be elected from among the members of LIFT.
- Section 3      Each Director shall take office at the first Board meeting following his/her election. They shall hold office for a period of two years except as provided in the By-Laws. Each Director shall accept responsibility for one or more specific LIFT activities, as may be agreed among the Directors.

Section 4 Vacancies on the Board of Directors occurring before the expiration of a normal term of office shall be filled with a LIFT members appointed by the Board of Directors for the remainder of the term.

Section 5 The Boards of Directors shall conduct all business of LIFT, control all offices, and committees, and discharge all responsibilities of LIFT. Decision of the board shall be recorded in writing and, as provided in the By-Laws, reported to LIFT membership.

#### ARTICLE VI

##### Dues

Every member in LIFT shall pay dues in such sums as may be prescribed in the By-Laws of LIFT.

#### ARTICLE VII

##### Duration of Membership

Section 1 Period: Membership shall continue during the existence of LIFT unless terminated as provided herein.

Section 2 Termination: Non-payment of dues: Any member failing to pay his/her dues prior to the end of the period for which dues are paid shall become delinquent and his/her membership suspended.

#### ARTICLE VIII

##### Acceptance of Purpose and Compliance with Constitution and By-Laws

A member by applying for membership thereby accepts the principles of the LIFT as expressed in its purpose and submits thereself to and agrees to comply with and be bound by the Constitution and By-Laws of LIFT and on these conditions alone is entitled to the privileges of LIFT. No members shall be absolved from the observance of the Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE IX  
By-Laws

LIFT shall adopt By-Laws not inconsistent with the Constitution embodying additional provisions for the government of LIFT. Such By-Laws may be amended as therein provided.

ARTICLE X  
Amendments

- Section 1      This Constitution, and any supplements and attachments, may be altered, amended, deleted, or replaced by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the board of Directors and subsequently by a simple majority of the votes cast by the members.
- Section 2      Proposed amendments submitted to the members must allow a minimum of thirty (30) days from the date of mailing for response and such deadline for legal consideration must be so stated on the ballot.
- Section 3      Proposed amendments may be submitted to the members no more than one time in a calendar quarter and no more than two (2) times in any calendar year.

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I

#### Election of Board of Directors

- Section 1 At the annual meeting, on even numbered years, the officers shall be elected from candidates nominated from the floor.
- Section 2 A vacancy on the Board of Directors, except that caused by termination of term of office, shall be filled as stated in Article V Section 4 of the Constitution.

### ARTICLE II

#### Board of Directors

- Section 1 The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers.
- Section 2 A Director may resign office upon submission of a written resignation to the Board of Directors. A Director may be suspended from office by a two-thirds vote of the Directors, or upon submission of a written petition to the Board signed by a simple majority of LIFT's membership.
- Section 3 The Board of Directors shall report items of interest and any decision of the board that involve one or more of the following elements.
- (a) A commitment of LIFT, or any of its Directors, to any special or continuing relationship active in LIFT's field of interest.
  - (b) Any participation of LIFT or its Directors, in their official capacities in activities sponsored by other organizations in LIFT's field of interest.
  - (c) All organized LIFT activities planned for participation by any part of LIFT membership.

### ARTICLE III

#### Duties of Office

- Section 1 President
- The President shall preside at all LIFT meetings, **and** shall have oversight of all funds and assets, and perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to his/her office.
- Section 2 Vice-President
- The Vice-President shall assume the duties and powers of the President in the absence of the President and perform such other duties as customarily pertain to his/her office.

Section 3 Secretary

The Secretary shall keep accurate records of the proceedings at all meetings of the Board of Directors regular members meetings and shall promptly publish minutes on LIFT website. He/she shall maintain an accurate record of the Constitution and By-Laws in effect and see to its posting on LIFT's website. He/she shall be responsible for the provision of adequate notice for the holding of regular and special meetings of the members or the Board of Directors.

Section 4 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall have custody of all funds, perform duties as ordinarily pertain to his/her office. The Treasurer shall provide a detailed accounting of dues and funds collected and expenditures of funds to the President. The books and accounts shall be available for inspection by any member upon written request. Upon his/her retirement from office, removal from office, or resignation from office, he/she shall turn over to his/her successor all records, books of accounts, and any other property of this organization which have come into his/her possession or custody during his/her term of office.

Section 5 Safety Officer

The Safety Officer shall have the responsibility of ensuring that everyone using the field following Field Use Rules and the AMA Safety Code. He/she shall maintain a list of general membership frequency use.

ARTICLE IV  
Assets

Section 1 Funds

Funds of LIFT shall be maintained in a checking account which bears interest and/or savings account. These accounts shall have the President and Treasurer as authorized signatories.

Section 2 Equipment

Assets of LIFT shall be under the care of the Board of Directors. They may store or authorize the use of these assets as determined to best serve the intent of LIFT. Any member who is given the use of a LIFT asset must endeavor to protect and maintain the asset.

Section 3 Maintenance of Assets

A member who has been given a LIFT asset may not expend funds for the protection and/or maintenance of the asset in excess of \$10.00, without the approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 4 Field Use

The field rules must be followed.

Section 5 Frequency Use

Members may only use frequencies authorized within AMA guidelines.

ARTICLE V  
Field Use Rules

Section 1 Fliers must be AMA members. Prospective LIFT members may fly three times under the supervision of a member of LIFT, then must become a member of both AMA and LIFT.

Section 2 Flight Rules

- a. All flying must be conducted in a safe manner consistent with AMA Rules.
- b. Full Scale aircraft shall be avoided at all times.
- c. High speed passes
  - Pilots who intend to make a high speed pass over the field are to make certain the area of the field is clear
  - High speed passes or maneuvers will be made no closer than 150 feet from the launching area.
  - High speed passes are not permitted over the launch, pit, or parking lot areas.
- d. Low speed landing approaches over the launching or pit areas are to be discouraged, but if necessary the pilot is to warn persons in the area and give way to any pilot and plane in the launch process.
- e. Winch operators shall make certain that persons are clear of the line and turnaround before the winch is operated.
- f. Frequency pins shall be used if more than two pilots are flying.

Section 3 No alcoholic beverages may be consumed by pilots. No intoxicated individual is allowed on the field.

Section 4 No littering!! Members shall pick up extraneous litter.

Section 5 The last member out of the field should lock the gate.

ARTICLE VI  
Meetings

Section 1      Annual Meeting

An Annual Meeting of the membership and Board of Directors shall be held between January 1 and February 28 of each year. The Annual Meeting occurring on even numbered years shall be the meeting at which the election of Officers shall take place.

Section 2      Regular Meetings

Regular meeting of LIFT membership may be held monthly except for the months of June, July, and August. These meetings shall be for purposes consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of this organization.

Section 3      Special Meetings

Special meeting of the Board of Directors may be called, upon adequate notice provided to the Secretary by the President, or by any three Directors. Such request for notice of a Special meeting made upon the Secretary shall state a purpose for such meeting that shall not be inconsistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of this organization. These meetings may be held in conjunction with a regular membership meeting at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Section 4      Quorum

A majority of Directors then in office shall constitute a quorum.

Section 5      Time and Place of Directors Meetings

Regular or special meetings of the Board of Directors shall be scheduled, as to place and date, so as to ensure the maximum participation by Directors, particularly noting the consideration of geography.

Section 6      Directors' Alternates

For all purposes, except the establishment of a quorum at a Regular or Special meeting of the Board of Directors, any Director residing more than 100 miles from the designated place of the meeting of Directors, may designate an alternate to function in his/her stead. Such designation must be made in writing and received by the President, or Secretary/Treasurer, at least 1 day prior to the scheduled date of such meeting. A designated alternate may not be an incumbent director, but he must be a general member. The designated alternate will have full voting rights.

ARTICLE VII



## Dues and Fees

Section 1 Membership dues shall be in accordance with the following schedule:

Class	2014	2015 and subsequent years
Individual	\$40.00	\$60.00
Associate	\$30.00	\$30.00
Junior	\$15.00	\$15.00
Family*	\$10.00	\$10.00
* See ARTICLE IV Membership		

Dues are payable prior to February 28 of each year for that year. In the event a member joins in October, November, and December of a year, they shall also be members for the ensuing year.

Section 2 No Special assessments shall be levied upon LIFT Membership at any time except by notification of the members as a whole and by consent of a majority vote of the membership present. Notice of such proposed special assessment shall be given in writing at least sixty days in advance of voting date to be held at a regular or special meeting.

## ARTICLE VIII Special Funds

The President may be authorized by the Board of Directors to receive contributions or specially obtained funds from any individual or institution. Such funds when received shall be added to the general funds of this organization.

## ARTICLE IX Committees

Section 1 Continuing Committees

The Board of Directors may authorize, from time to time, certain continuing Committees to perform various functions. Such functions may include but are not limited to Competition, Publication, and Public Relations. In general, an Officer from the board of Directors shall chair such committees.

Section 2 Special Committees

The President may from time to time authorize Special Committees to perform functions consistent with the functioning of Continuing Committees. Such Committees may be composed entirely or in part of general members. Upon authorization and formation of such Committees, the President shall promptly inform each Director of such action, providing, as requisite, a description of its function, composition, and contemplated term of functioning of such Special Committee.

## ARTICLE X Membership

- Section 1 Persons wishing to join LIFT will make an application in writing on such forms as may be specified by the Board of Directors from time to time. Dues in full shall accompany the application as outlined in Article VII of these By-Laws. Upon acceptance of the application and dues, the applicant will become a member of LIFT, entitled to Lift's privileges.
- Section 2 An individual may make full use of the privileges, vote in LIFT election, and take part in sponsored activities with the exception of certain aspects of flying radio controlled aircraft.
- Section 3 To fly radio controlled model aircraft, a members must be an AMA members, follow all AMA Safety Rules, and when needed have in full effect an appropriate licensed issued by the F.C.C.
- Section 4 Each club members may have one vote in LIFT's bi-annual election and may take part in sponsored activities.
- Section 5 A member may resign from LIFT by giving a dated written notice of resignation to a members of the Board of Directors.
- Section 6 Any member of LIFT whose activities are deemed inimical to the best interest of the club is subject to suspension, expulsion, or removal from office. Authority for such suspension, expulsion, or removal required a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors. Such action shall be immediately communicated to the affected individual and report to the general membership at the next regular meeting.
- Section 7 A written appeal to a suspension, expulsion, or removal may be made by the affected individual by directing that appeal to the Board of Directors within thirty (30) days of notification of the action. Such appeal shall be placed before the active membership of LIFT. Upholding the suspension, expulsion, or removal requires a two thirds (2/3) affirmative majority of all the votes received by the Boards of Directors from the general membership.

## ARTICLE XI

## Contest

### Section 1 Annual Contest

LIFT will make an application of an annual contest as provided by the AMA Sanctioning rules. This contest shall be known as the LIFT Dual Soaring and held as near as possible to the 1<sup>st</sup> of August as allowed by coordinating it with Michigan Soaring League (MSL) contest, and the AMA/LSF National Contest (NATS).

### Section 2 Other Contest

Other Sanction contest may be authorized by the Board of Directors to be held at LIFT's field, which promotes the purpose of LIFT.

### Section 3 Club Contest

Other non-sanctioned contest may be authorized by the Board of Directors to be held at LIFT's field, which promotes the purpose of LIFT.