

**Charter For the
Tampa Bay Sea Kayakers, Inc**
Revised December 2011

Purpose

The purpose of this Club is to be actively engaged in the sport of sea kayaking, doing so in the spirit of fellowship, and passing on to others the skills and knowledge gained in the process. It shall be a nonpartisan Club; membership is open to all regardless of sex, race, age, religion, national origin or political persuasion. Membership may be obtained by paying the required annual dues. This club is incorporated as non-profit organization, owning no real property, having no paid positions and acknowledging no liabilities.

I. Club Organization

The Club will be organized as follows:

Board of Directors – The governing Board of club officers, the Board will determine the direction of the club in monthly meetings, with each position having a single vote in making decisions. In the event of a tie, the President will cast an additional deciding vote.

Trip Leaders - Will lead TBSK trips and will be considered non-voting officers of the club.

General Membership – The remainder of the club membership.

II. Board of Directors and Officers

The Board of Directors will be comprised of the following club officers:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary/ Treasurer
4. Newsletter Editor
5. Membership Coordinator
6. Activities Coordinator (may be two Officers as Co-Coordinators)
7. Training/ Safety Coordinator (may be two Officers as Co-Coordinators)
8. Webmaster
9. Trip Coordinator

1. President

Position Requirements:

- Expected Minimum Time: 5 hrs/ wk
- May not serve more than three consecutive terms, but will be eligible for re-election after a period of not less than one year out of office.
- Have a general knowledge of kayaking, kayaking shops and the inner workings of TBSK
- Have the maturity to lead the Club and it's Board of Directors.
- Have the ability to deal with kayak shop management.
- Able to attend the monthly Board of Directors meeting.

Personal qualifications of a President:

Leadership – To have a vision of where the club should go and to help set club goals.

Management/ Organizational Skills - To ensure that the club and it's events are organized and run effectively.

Passion For Kayaking – Have the personal time and commitment to run the club effectively.

Responsibilities:

Presides and officiates at all TBSK functions & meetings, including Board of Directors meetings and any called special meetings.

Develops and oversees the overall direction the club will follow.

Responsible for the development of Club policies to be approved by the Board of Directors.

On important Board of Directors' topics, develops position papers and budgets necessary to guide the action to a logical conclusion.

Each January, works with the Board of Directors to establish a statement of Goals and Objectives for the new year as well as a Club Budget; both of which must be approved by a majority vote of the Board.

Presents important information from the Board of Directors to the membership both at the general membership meetings and in the newsletter.

Works with all local kayak shops and other paddling organizations to foster strong and cooperative relationships.

For election of Club officers, works with the Board of Directors to ensure that sufficient qualified members are available to fill all Club officers' positions.

Submits Board of Directors Meeting agenda to Board of Directors members one week before the meeting and ensures that any Board member may add an item to the agenda.

The President can vote at Board of Directors Meetings and only vote in cases of a tie vote at General Membership Meetings.

2. Vice-President

Position Requirements:

- Expected Minimum Time: 2 hrs/ wk
- Able to attend the monthly Board of Directors meeting.

Responsibilities:

Assists the President with the duties of that office and presides over any function at which the President cannot be present.

Oversees program for making TBSK logo apparel and/or equipment available to members
Assists any Club officer who needs help in achieving their goals.

Obtains speakers/ presenters for the monthly General Membership Meetings for the Club.

3. Secretary/ Treasurer

Position Requirements:

- Expected Minimum Time: 3 hrs/ wk
- Knowledge and ability to balance bank account and complete simple Club Income Statement.
- Ability to use Excel or other accepted financial computer software for TBSK accounting.
- Able to attend the monthly Board of Directors meeting.

Responsibilities:

Will set up and maintain the club's checking account within one week of being elected. Club fiscal year starts on December 1 of each year.

Keep a record of the Club's income and expenses in an Excel format.

Send a copy of the Monthly Income/ Expense Report to all Board of Directors members by the 15th of each month.

Within one week of the request, writes and sends necessary checks to reimburse legitimate Club expenses.

Submit a monthly treasurer's report for the newsletter by the 15th of each month.

Submit an Annual Financial Report of the previous year to the Board of Directors at the January committee meeting.

Invoice & collect the fees for Newsletter advertisement.

Selling and collecting funds for all TBSK products which are sold to profit the Club.

Review all expenditures made during the previous month. Those which are over \$50 will be reviewed by the Treasurer at the next Board of Directors meeting.

Ensure that the Club's liability protection is maintained, reviewed annually, and approved by the Board.

4. Newsletter Editor

Position Requirements:

- Expected Minimum Time: 5 hrs/ wk
- Computer skills sufficient to be able to format & write the TBSK Newsletter, import pictures into the Newsletter and write and edit stories/ articles.
Ideally, will have high speed DSL internet connection to transmit pictures and articles.
- Able to attend the monthly Board of Directors meetings.

Responsibilities:

Responsible for collecting the information necessary to develop an informed and interesting Newsletter.

Direct all efforts to have the newsletter typed, set-up and printed.

Ensure that the Newsletter is labeled and mailed through the U.S. Mail (by the 25th of each month) for those members selecting that membership option.

Obtains membership roster and mailing labels from the Membership Coordinator or via Website.

In conjunction with the Webmaster, provides a PDF copy of the Newsletter via email by the 24th of each month.

Ensures that information on Club elections is published in the October and November Newsletters.

5. Membership Coordinator

Position Requirements:

- Expected. Time: 5 hrs/ wk
- Able to attend weekend Kayak Demo Days at Kayak Shops, Kayak Race events & other events to solicit new members.
- Able to attend the monthly Board of Directors meeting.
- Ability to use Microsoft Excel and Word software.

Responsibilities:

Take pro-active actions to build the Club membership. (i.e. Holding membership drives at Kayak Demo Days at Kayak Shops),

Help develop a more "customer service" approach which looks to defining and filling Club members' needs. This includes conducting an annual survey of Club members.

Maintain the Club P.O. Box. and in conjunction with the Treasurer receives all new and reviewing member applications, dues, and Annual Liability Waivers (when required under the then current Liability insurance policy).

In conjunction with the Treasurer, deposits the dues in the Club bank account.

Records receipt of Electronic Waiver or, in the case of paper Waiver forms, record receipt and files copy of the Waiver form.

Maintain and update the membership roster (list) to include:

- Members name, address, phone number, email address.

- Indication if a member wants the Newsletter via U.S Mail or email.

- Indication if an individual or family membership.

- Records whether paper Waiver is on file or if electronic Waiver was used.

The Roster will be maintained electronically on the Club's website. The Membership Coordinator, in conjunction with the Webmaster will ensure that access to Roster information is properly controlled to allow reasonable access to Members while protecting the integrity of the Roster Data-base.

By the 28th of each month, send new members a Welcome Aboard package to include a Welcome letter (including instructions on how to access the club website and Roster), and club decals (when available). Renewing members are sent a letter and are directed how to access the web-based Roster.

By the 15th of each month, send the Newsletter Editor a list of new and renewing members names for the newsletter or ensures that Web based information is available.

By the 19th of each month, deliver to the Newsletter Editor the mailing labels for members requesting US Mail delivery of the Newsletter, or ensure that Web based data is available.

Assigns "Paddle Buddy" (experienced TBSK member volunteer mentor) to each new Member when directed by the Board.

In conjunction with the President, ensure that all Club members and local kayak shops have TBSK brochures to help build membership.

Orders & maintains the necessary inventory of recruiting materials: TBSK decals, brochures, business cards, and other Club paraphernalia

6. Activities Coordinator

Position Requirements:

- Expected Minimum Time: 3 hrs/ wk
- Able to plan, organize and conduct events.
- Attend and supervise the conduct of club-wide social events across the Bay Area.
- Able to attend the monthly Board of Directors meeting.

Responsibilities:

Develop, schedule, and coordinate all social (non-paddling) & other Club sponsored events.

Maintain a regular schedule of Club-wide picnics or other group activities, reserve facilities, notify members of the event dates and locations, set-up and prepare food -recruiting other members to assist (under supervision) when needed.

Purchase or arrange for appropriate food, drink, and supplies for club-wide events

Plan and supervise the annual club dinner

7. Training/ Safety Coordinator

Position Requirements:

- Expected Minimum. Time: 2 hrs/ wk
- Must have very good kayaking skills/ knowledge equivalent to at least a BCU 3 Star level.
- Must be able to effectively teach these skills to Club members.
- Able to attend the monthly Board of Directors meeting.

Responsibilities:

Training Club of members in kayaking skills and safety.

Develop and schedule training, safety and TBSK Trip Leader classes for the Club.

Conduct classes in training/ safety and basic strokes at least six times a year.

Ensure appropriate training of Trip Leaders and maintain a roster of approved Trip Leaders who have completed training and/or demonstrated competence in required skills for that position.

Encourage all Club members to receive safety and minimal skills training.

Maintain record of all classes to include instructors, students and any fees paid.

Get information on classes to the Newsletter Editor by the 15th of each month.

8. Webmaster

Position Requirements:

- Expected Minimum Time: 2 hrs/ wk
- Must have above average computer and internet skills.
- Able to attend the monthly Board of Directors meeting.

Responsibilities:

Maintain the TBSK website content, to include keeping the Club website current concerning both future and past Club events, and (in conjunction with the Membership Coordinator) ensuring appropriate access is maintained for the on-line Membership Roster.

Back-up a “safety copy” of the Club (Electronic) Roster every other month & retain for 1 year.

Instruct other members of the Board in Website capabilities and functions.

Facilitate distribution of the Electronic copies of the monthly Newsletter via the Website or such other electronic distribution means as may be developed and approved by the Board.

Answer email inquiries sent to the Club website.

Propose to the Board of Directors any significant structural improvements/ changes to the website and upon approval, implement the approved changes.

9. Trip Coordinator

Position Requirements:

- Expected Minimum Time: 2 hrs/ wk
- Must have persuasion skills to convince TBSK members to lead trips.
- Be able to develop creative ways of increasing the number of TBSK led trips.
- When practical, send out emails to members about forthcoming TBSK paddles and picnics
- Able to attend the monthly Board of Directors meeting.

Responsibilities:

Recruit, assist, and support Trip Leaders.

Organize Trip Leader training for those interested in leading TBSK trips.

Provides both Trip Leader Guidelines and Liability Release information to trip leaders before they lead a trip.

Email potential Trip Leaders by the first of every month to determine who is leading trips for the next month.

Email information on these trips to the Newsletter Editor by the 15th of each month.

Keep track of all club sponsored trips and their Trip Leaders.

Work with the Membership Coordinator to determine the type of trips Club members want.

Receive the signed Liability Release Form for each trip from the Trip Leaders (this information to go to club Secretary/ Treasurer for insurance coverage). If no Liability Release Form is received for a trip, contacts the Trip Leader to request that proper documentation be submitted for each trip.

Review the TBSK membership list to identify potential Trip Leaders.

Maintain the Club's Trip Leader Manual & Skills Self-Assessment Guide.

Help locate and promote new and different types of trips to new areas.

Trip Leaders

Trip Leaders will lead TBSK "official trips" which are published in the TBSK newsletter and are covered by the Club's liability insurance. Trip Leaders are non-voting officers of the Club. They must successfully complete Trip Leader Training before leading TBSK trips, be familiar with the content of the Club's Trip Leader Manual, and maintain a satisfactory level of paddling proficiency as determined by the Training & Safety Coordinator(s).

III. Amendments to Club Charter

The responsibilities of Club officers may be changed by a majority vote of the Board of Directors only. All other charter changes require:

1. Any club member can propose an amendment to the club charter by putting it in writing and giving it to a board member.
2. Charter amendments must go thru the following process:
 - i. Be approved by a majority vote of the board
 - ii. Notice of the proposed change be placed in the newsletter at least one month prior to the date of the vote at a general meeting.
 - iii. Time allowed at the general meeting for discussion of changes.
 - iv. A majority vote of those present at a regularly scheduled general membership meeting.

IV. Finances

The fiscal period will begin on the first day of December and end the last day of November each year.

Income: Sources of club income shall include such things as: annual dues, Newsletter advertising and any other activity authorized by the Board of Directors.

Expenditures: Any Board of Directors member is authorized to spend up to \$100 without prior Board of Directors approval. All other expenses must be approved by the Board of Directors.

Review: All expenditures made during the previous month that exceed \$50 will be reviewed at the next Board of Directors meeting.

Surplus: The Club shall not accumulate surplus funds (funds to be carried over from year to year) in excess of the greater of \$15,000 or \$75 for each paid member as of December each year, unless approved by majority vote of the general membership. In the event a vote is to be taken, the reason for the vote, the amount of surplus to be carried over, and the date and place of the vote is to be advertised in not less than two monthly newsletters prior to the vote.

V. General Membership Meetings

A General Membership Meeting will be regularly scheduled each month. The day of the month for these meetings will be determined by the Board of Directors. At any meeting, whenever a vote is called for, each paid member shall be accorded one vote. In the case of a family membership there will be two votes allowed for each family membership. A simple majority vote will decide all issues. Should there be a tie vote; the Club President will cast the deciding vote

VI. Elections

The election of all club officials will take place at the December General Membership Meeting. Officials will be elected by a majority of those members present.

Selection of Club Officer Nominees: Starting no later than September 1st of each year, the President will lead the Board of Directors in finding suitable Club members to agree to run for office for the next year. This means making a list of possible candidates, contacting these people, reviewing the responsibilities and time required and getting agreement from individuals that if elected, they will serve. There must be at least one nominee for each Club office position.

Notification: The first notice of Club elections will be posted in the September issue of the Club newsletter soliciting members who might be interested in holding a Club office. Any member who wishes to have their name included on the nominating committee's list, should notify the President prior to the newsletter's publication deadline of the 15th of October and November.

The Election:

- 1) Nominations will still be taken from the floor the night of the election. However, before they are included as a nominee, the proposed nominee must agree to serve if elected, that they are aware of the responsibilities of the office and that they have to time to accomplish the responsibilities.

- 2) The President will close the nominations and proceed with the election of officials in the order the offices are listed in this Charter.
- 3) If there is more than one nominee for an office, each nominee shall have three minutes to tell Club members why they want the office and what they hope to accomplish.
- 4) Voting:
 - Voting will consist of an open vote indicated by a show of hands. Each paid member shall be accorded one vote. In the case of family membership, there will be two votes allowed for each family membership.
 - Proxy voting: To accommodate members unable to attend the Election in person, Proxy forms will be made available. A notice in the November Newsletter will inform members of their right to obtain a Proxy form from any Board Member or by emailing the club email address. Signed Proxies, in a form approved by the Board of Directors, must be returned to the club Vice President or his/her designee, not later than December 1st. Members voting by Proxy may not vote in person at the Election Meeting.
 - A simple majority vote (including Proxy votes) will decide the election, should there be a tie vote, the Club President will cast the deciding vote.
- 5) Results: Notification of the election results are to appear in the January issue of the Club newsletter.
- 6) Installation of Officers: Newly elected officials shall be installed at the Election Meeting/ Christmas Party Banquet, which will take the place of the December General Membership Meeting.
- 7) Term of Office: The new officials shall take office on the date of the December General Membership Meeting and their office shall run until the date of the next election.
- 8) Transition of Responsibilities: To ensure smooth transition of responsibilities & accountabilities, each previously serving officer and newly elected officer shall meet as necessary to ensure that the transition goes smoothly. This includes such important things as financial records, membership roster and other important Club information.

VII. Board of Directors Operations

Meetings: The Board of Directors shall be convened each month to conduct the business of this club, the day of the month to be decided by the Board. If neither the President nor Vice President can attend a scheduled meeting, the meeting will be rescheduled. The President shall preside over meetings of the Board. A simple majority vote will decide all issues. No proxy votes will be allowed. To conduct business for the club a quorum must be present. A quorum shall consist of three (3) voting members and the President or Vice-President. The Board will observe the meeting protocols prescribed in the current edition of "Robert's Rules of Order." All issues placed on the agenda by a board member will be addressed during the meeting and voted on as appropriate. In order to be approved, motions require a majority vote of those present with each officer having one vote. In the event of a tie vote the President will decide whether the motion is to be approved or disapproved.

Office Holding: Any individual may hold more than one office, but will be accorded only one vote.

Replacement: If a seat is vacated by a board member on the Board of Directors, the President may appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term, subject to approval by the Board.

Removal From Office:

- With the approval of a majority of the other Directors, the President can remove a Club Officer from office if the Officer is not performing his/her duties adequately.
- Any Club Officer can be removed from office by a 2/3 majority vote of all board members.

Committees: Each member of the Board of Directors is considered to be the chairperson for their area of responsibility and as such, can form a sub-committee to assist them in carrying out their duties.

- o Recruits sub-committee members
- o Schedules sub-committee meetings
- o Makes a record of sub-committee decisions, actions and results and present reports of such to the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled meeting.

New Programs: Any program/project being presented to the Board under sponsorship of a Board member should contain the following information:

- o Goal
- o Benefit to club
- o Anticipated costs
- o Anticipated income
- o Proposed start and completion dates

- o Number of members required
- o Outside organizations or persons required

President's Emergency Committee: This committee may be assembled at any time at the discretion of the President to deal with emergencies when there is not time to call together the full Board of Directors. This committee is limited not to exceed expenditures of \$250 nor commitments longer than two (2) months. This committee shall consist of a quorum (three members of the Board of Directors, plus the President or Vice President).

VIII. Chapters

In recognition of the fact that driving distances to regular TBSK functions may be burdensome for members residing more than fifty (50) miles from Tampa, the Club may from time to time establish Chapters. Creation or dissolution of a Chapter must be approved by at least a 2/3 majority vote of the entire Board of Directors, such vote to be taken no sooner than the first meeting following the initial proposal to the Board. TBSK Members electing to participate in a Chapter will continue to enjoy all privileges and obligations of TBSK but may also participate in activities of the Chapter.

1. Any approved Local Chapter with ten or more active TBSK Members may elect a Chapter President and Vice President each year. The Chapter will have one voting position on the TBSK Board of Directors for the President – or the Vice President in the event of the President's absence.
2. TBSK will provide funding for up to four activities (e.g. picnic, lunch, or membership meetings) of any Chapter each calendar year, to be scheduled and conducted under the direction of the President; such funding to be in an amount not to exceed the cost of similar meetings conducted in the Tampa Bay Area for TBSK members.
3. The Chapter President will work with TBSK Officers in scheduling paddle trips and
Activities for Chapter members in accordance with TBSK policies and procedures.
4. Club Paddles for Chapter members will be led by qualified TBSK Trip Leaders with signed TBSK Waivers obtained prior to the paddle and submitted to the TBSK Trip Coordinator.
5. The chapter will follow the TBSK Bi-Laws, will make no chapter amendments, and will not impose any additional membership fees or any other fees for it members.

6. Minutes of each Chapter meeting will be forwarded to the TBSK Secretary.
7. Enrollment materials, both written and electronic, shall be amended to provide for TBSK Members to indicate if they choose to be included in an approved Chapter.

(Amendment #1 - Adopted Dec. 12, 2011)
