

STANDING RULES
OF
FLOTILLA _____

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

ARTICLE 1 NAME

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be Flotilla _____, Division _____, _____ District/Region, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary herein referred to as the "Flotilla".

ARTICLE II LIMITATIONS OF STANDING RULES

- 2.1 Any provision in these Standing Rules which is in conflict with the current edition of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Manual, COMDTINST M16790.1 (series), and all amendments and additions thereto, hereinafter referred to as the "Manual", Commandant or District Instructions and Notices, the District Standing Rules, and the Division Standing Rules shall be null and void.
- 2.2 These Standing Rules are supplementary to the policies and procedures established for the formation, operation, membership, election or appointment of officers and disestablishment of the Flotilla by the Manual or other appropriate Auxiliary requirements.
- 2.3 Nothing in these rules shall authorize the Flotilla to take any action inconsistent with, or not authorized by, the Manual or other policies of the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard.

ARTICLE III ORGANIZATION

- 3.1 The composition and purpose of the Flotilla shall be as set forth in the Manual.
- 3.2 The duties of the elected officers and appointed staff officers shall be as designated in the Manual and in any District Instruction insofar as said instruction is consistent with the Manual.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

- 4.1 The frequency, day, time and location of the regular Flotilla meetings shall be established in the Appendix to these Rules and shall remain fixed in ensuing years unless duly changed.

- 4.2 Special meetings may be called by the Flotilla Commander by notifying all members at least seven (7) days in advance of such meeting, specifying the date, time, location and purpose of the meeting.
- 4.3 Unless otherwise provided in the Manual, all business shall be conducted at meetings in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, as last revised.

ARTICLE V VOTING

- 5.1 _____per cent (_____ %) of the eligible voting members of the Flotilla shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the Flotilla. One of the voting members must be the Flotilla Commander, Vice Flotilla Commander, or Immediate Past Flotilla Commander. If none of these individuals is present, Flotilla business cannot be conducted.
- 5.2 Unless a greater number than a majority for specific action is required by these Standing Rules or by the Manual, a majority of the votes actually cast by members present and voting can carry a motion, provided a quorum is present. Blank votes and abstentions do not count in the total for determining the number of votes cast.
- 5.3 Each eligible member of the Flotilla, if present, shall have one vote.
- 5.4 Proxy voting is not authorized. Absentee voting, as specified by the Manual may be allowed.
- 5.5 Voting on routine matters shall normally be by voice vote unless a written ballot is requested by a member or as provided in these Standing Rules or by the Manual.
- 5.6 A written ballot may be requested by any voting member of the Flotilla and the request shall be honored without discussion.

ARTICLE VI ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- 6.1 The Flotilla shall hold an annual election of Flotilla Officers for the ensuing year, usually at the November meeting, but prior to 15 December and after the Division Elections.
- 6.2 The Flotilla Commander shall appoint a screening committee comprised of at least three members of the Flotilla not less than ninety (90) days before the date of any Flotilla regular election. Each member selected to serve on this committee shall agree that the member relinquishes any right to be nominated and shall not run for election to any Flotilla office at such regular election. Not less than sixty (60) days before the date of any regular Flotilla election, each individual seeking election to a Flotilla

elected office shall submit a letter of their intent to be a candidate to the Flotilla Commander. The Flotilla Commander shall immediately refer the names of all such members to the Flotilla Screening Committee. Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the election, the Screening Committee shall report to the Flotilla the names of the eligible members who have submitted letters of intent and shall state specifically, with reference to the relevant provisions of the Manual, the reason(s) why any member submitting a letter of intent has been deemed ineligible for the intended office. On the day of the election the Screening Committee shall again verify the eligibility for the desired office of all members submitted to them for screening. At the election meeting, the Presiding Officer shall nominate all candidates determined to be eligible by the screening committee and such a candidate need not be present to be elected.

- 6.3 The Presiding Officer of all Flotilla elections shall be the Flotilla Commander unless the Flotilla Commander is running for office or is unable to so act, in which case the Immediate Past Flotilla Commander will be the Presiding Officer.
- 6.4 Prior to opening the balloting for election of each Flotilla officer the Presiding Officer shall invite nominations by any voting member from the floor. No second shall be required for a nomination from the floor. The nominator, prior to making the nomination from the floor, is responsible for ascertaining the eligibility and willingness of the nominee to accept the office and fulfill its duties if ultimately elected. Self nomination is not allowed from the floor. Candidates so nominated from the floor must be present for the election and must affirmatively state that they accept the nomination and will serve if elected. The Presiding Officer shall accept all eligible nominations from the floor and the name of each such nominee from the floor shall be added to the balloting for such elected office. For purposes of all election provisions in these Rules, the term "floor" shall include only voting members of the Flotilla.
- 6.5 Election of Flotilla officers shall be by secret written ballot, even if there is only one candidate for a particular Flotilla office.
- 6.6 If there is more than one nominee for any Flotilla office(s), the Presiding Officer shall appoint a teller committee of three persons, naming one of them the head teller of such committee. None of the committee persons may be members running as a candidate for the particular Flotilla office(s) for which the election is being held. Written secret ballots shall be collected and counted by the teller committee after each ballot. After counting by the committee, the ballots shall be presented to the Presiding Officer in a sealed envelope. The head teller shall certify in writing the result of the balloting to the Presiding Officer by writing the order of finish in the balloting on the outside of the envelope. If a candidate received a majority of the vote for the Flotilla office, the Presiding Officer will then

announce the result of that ballot.

- 6.7 If a majority of eligible Flotilla members vote for a candidate, that majority vote is sufficient to elect the candidate to the office. If more than two candidates are nominated for any one Flotilla office, and no candidate receives a majority of votes on the first ballot:
- 6.7.1 The candidate receiving the least number of votes on the first ballot will be dropped out of the voting on the second ballot. Elimination of the "low vote" candidate will continue on the next and subsequent ballots until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.
- 6.7.2 If there is a tie for low votes received on any ballot, the next ballot for that office will be a runoff between the candidates tied for low vote on the preceding ballot. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes on the runoff between the two tied for the low vote will be included in the next succeeding ballot along with all other candidates who received a higher number of votes on the ballot preceding the tie for low ballot.
- 6.7.3 In the event of three successive tie votes for any Flotilla office, the Presiding Officer shall, in open session, place all of the ballots cast on such third tie vote into a container and blindly select one ballot from the container. The teller committee then shall tally the remaining ballots, present the ballots to the Presiding Officer in a sealed envelope, and certify the result of the balloting to the Presiding Officer by writing the ballot results on the outside of the envelope. The Presiding Officer shall announce the result of that ballot and, if it is the last ballot between two candidates for any office, the final election result.
- 6.8 There will be no announcement of the number of votes received by any candidate on any ballot. At the conclusion of an election for an office, all of the ballots shall be resealed and shall be held by the head teller for a period of twenty-four (24) hours after the election is over. Any unsuccessful candidate for an office who wishes to examine the ballots for that office shall so notify the Presiding Officer in writing within such twenty-four (24) hours and such candidate shall then be afforded an opportunity, within a reasonable period of time thereafter, to examine the ballots for that office in a meeting with the head teller and the Presiding Officer of the election. If no request for examination is made within such 24 hour period, the head teller shall immediately destroy the ballots and all envelopes in which any ballots were sealed. If a request for examination is made in a timely manner, the head teller shall deliver the ballots and envelopes to the Director immediately after the unsuccessful candidate has examined the ballots and the Director shall examine the ballots, certify the results of the election and destroy the ballots and envelopes.
- 6.9 In the event any question or controversy concerning any substantive or

procedural matter(s) is raised by a flotilla voting member during the course of any election, and such question or controversy is not clearly resolved under provisions of the Manual, these Rules, and Robert's Rules of Order, the Presiding Officer, after consultation with the Division Commander, and, if necessary, the District Staff Officer-Legal, shall decide and announce the resolution to the question or controversy. Such decision, so long as it is not in conflict with the Manual or these Rules, shall be final and binding and the election(s) then shall continue to a conclusion.

- 6.10 Before assuming office, the election of any Flotilla officer must be approved and confirmed by the Director.
- 6.11 If a vacancy occurs in any Flotilla elective office, an interim election shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Manual, subject to the applicable election procedures of these Rules.
- 6.12 The results of all Flotilla elections will be provided to the Division Commander within five (5) days after the election.

ARTICLE VII REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- 7.1 Any elected flotilla officer may be recommended for removal from the office to which elected in accordance with the Manual.
- 7.2 Recommendations for removal may only be based on incapacity or for cause which brings discredit upon the Coast Guard or the Coast Guard Auxiliary and is addressed to the District Commander through the Division Commander, District Commodore and Director of Auxiliary.

ARTICLE VIII FINANCE

- 8.1 The annual Flotilla dues shall be such sum of money as may be fixed by a majority vote at a regular or special meeting of the Flotilla, for which seven (7) days prior written notice of the meeting and intent were given, and shall remain fixed at such sum in ensuing years until otherwise duly changed by the Flotilla.
- 8.2 The annual dues, including Flotilla, Division, District, and National, shall be levied on each member on a calendar-year basis and shall be payable during the month of _____ for the following calendar year. First year dues for new members shall be prorated as determined by District policy and shall be submitted with the enrollment application.
- 8.3 No member who is separated from the Auxiliary by reason of resignation, or otherwise, shall be entitled to refund of dues paid.

- 8.4 The Flotilla Finance Officer shall be the custodian of all Flotilla funds. With the consent of the Flotilla Commander, the Finance Officer shall establish an account with a federally insured banking institution or federal credit union in a location convenient to the Finance Officer.
- 8.5 All flotilla funds, other than small cash sums in the process of collection, shall be deposited in this account which shall be known as "U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla _____." All withdrawals from the account shall be by check only.
- 8.6 The Flotilla Commander, or the Vice Flotilla Commander when acting in absence of the Flotilla Commander, is authorized to approve payment of all routine obligations as set forth in a flotilla budget approved by the Flotilla.
- 8.7 Routine obligations include those incurred by the Flotilla in connection with carrying out officially adopted policy of the Flotilla and payments within the limits of the budget. This includes, but is not limited to the following:
- Purchases and engraving of authorized awards
 - Publishing costs of a newsletter and/or notices
 - Purchasing of public education and training materials
 - Purchases of flags, pennants and Auxiliary uniform accessories
 - Bills for all Flotilla functions and Division, District and national dues
- 8.8 The Flotilla Commander, or if the Flotilla Commander is unavailable, the Vice Flotilla Commander, may authorize emergency expenditures not exceeding a total of \$ _____ in any one calendar month and direct the Finance Officer to pay for such. A full report of such emergency expenditures shall be made to the Flotilla at its next regular or special meeting.
- 8.9 The Flotilla may, upon motion duly made and carried, set aside separate funds from the general funds to enable committee chairpersons of Flotilla functions to carry out the committee's responsibilities. The Flotilla Commander may authorize payment of bills from these funds. When the fund is depleted, no further bill may be authorized for payment without prior approval from the Flotilla.
- 8.10 All other obligations, regardless of amount, will be considered as special obligations. Authorization to incur special obligations and requests for the appropriation of Flotilla funds must be submitted to the Flotilla for approval by duly filed and considered motions, except as otherwise provided in this Article.

- 8.11 All disbursements of Flotilla funds shall be by check, signed by the Finance Officer, Flotilla Commander or Vice Flotilla Commander. Only one signature is required unless an additional signature is required as set forth in the Appendix to these Rules.
- 8.12 The Finance Officer shall render a financial report at each regular meeting of the Flotilla, which shall include all receipts and expenditures since the last rendering of a financial report and the balance in funds remaining as of the day preceding the day of the meeting. Any emergency expenditure authorized by the Flotilla Commander included in the reported expenditures shall be so designated in the report.
- 8.13 The chairperson of any duly appointed committee where Flotilla funds are involved will furnish the Flotilla Finance Officer with a monthly statement of the financial transactions of the committee. The chairperson will transfer to the Flotilla Finance Officer within thirty (30) days after completion of the committee activities, the balance of all monies received with a completed financial statement.
- 8.14 The Flotilla may require by a duly enacted motion that the Finance Officer post a bond in an amount as the Flotilla may determine. All costs for such bond shall be paid by the Flotilla.
- 8.15 Upon the appointment of a succeeding Finance Officer, the retiring Finance Officer shall promptly deliver all Flotilla funds, books and records to the succeeding Finance Officer. Whenever a new Flotilla Commander or Vice Flotilla Commander is elected, or a new Finance Officer is appointed, a new signature card reflecting the change will immediately be delivered to the banking institution or federal credit union.
- 8.16 The funds, books and records of the Flotilla shall be examined by the Audit Committee yearly and upon the appointment of a new Finance Officer. For each expenditure, the Audit Committee will ensure that it was authorized and that there is a receipt signed by a person other than the Finance Officer or the person who authorized the expenditure.
- 8.17 Flotilla general funds may be used only for the duly authorized purposes of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. They are permanently dedicated to the purpose of the Auxiliary and they may not inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, individual members of the Auxiliary.
- 8.18 Upon disestablishment of a Flotilla, all general funds, financial records and property of the Flotilla must be turned over promptly to the division having jurisdiction over the disestablished Flotilla.

- 8.19 An annual financial report for the preceding year must be prepared no later than 31 January, and one must also be prepared upon the election of a new Flotilla Commander or appointment of a new Finance Officer. The Finance Officer must submit the financial report on Form ANSC #7025, "Financial Report of an Auxiliary Unit", to the Director of Auxiliary with copy to the District Commodore and Division Commander.

ARTICLE IX CONTRACTS

- 9.1 All licenses and agreements for the use of real property as well as contracts for the expenditure of Flotilla funds as may be authorized by a vote of the Flotilla, shall be first approved by the District Staff Office-Legal and then shall be signed by the Flotilla Commander. Copies of all signed contracts shall be retained by the District Staff Officer-Legal.

ARTICLE X COMMITTEES

- 10.1 Standing committees and special committees consisting of any number of members may be appointed by the Flotilla Commander. The Flotilla Commander shall designate the chairperson of each such committee appointed and outline the objectives to be accomplished unless otherwise prescribed. Individuals may be appointed as a one-person committee if desired.
- 10.2 The Flotilla Commander shall appoint an Audit Committee at or before the regular meeting of the Flotilla in the month of _____ each year. The committee shall examine and audit the financial books and records of the Flotilla Finance Officer and the Materials Officer for the preceding year and shall report their findings at the next regular meeting of the Flotilla.
- 10.3 The Flotilla Commander shall appoint a Budget Committee at or before the regular meeting of the Flotilla in the month of January of each year. This committee shall prepare a budget with the assistance of the Flotilla Finance Officer and the Flotilla Materials Officer and submit said budget to the Flotilla for approval within 3 months.
- 10.4 The Flotilla Commander is empowered to appoint an Awards Committee to review and make recommendations to the Flotilla for the recognition of individuals and groups for special recognition by the Flotilla, Division, District or the United States Coast Guard.
- 10.5 The Flotilla Commander is empowered to appoint a Past Commanders Committee composed of all past Flotilla Commanders and past Vice Flotilla Commanders who are active. The chairperson shall be the Immediate Past Flotilla Commander if active and available. If unavailable or unwilling to serve, the Flotilla Commander shall appoint any other past

Flotilla Commander as chairperson. The primary duty of this committee shall be to consider all auxiliary matters that are referred to it by the Flotilla Commander and all matters that are of interest to the Flotilla. The committee shall make written recommendations concerning such matters directly to the Flotilla Commander.

10.6 The Flotilla Commander shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

ARTICLE XI PROCEDURE FOR RELIEF OF OFFICERS

11.1 It will be the duty of each elected and appointed officer, at the end of the term of office, to deliver to the successor, all current materials, supplies and records pertaining to the office. The officer being relieved shall assist in ensuring an orderly transfer of the administrative function of the office, including but not limited to the briefing of the successor on the procedures to be followed and the forms to be completed and submitted.

ARTICLE XII AWARDS

12.1 It is the policy of the Flotilla to give or pursue recognition of members who through contributions of valuable time and special effort further the purpose and spirit of Auxiliary missions and programs. Recommendations for awards for these special efforts can be made by any member to the Flotilla Commander or such higher level at any time as prescribed by the Manual.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS

13.1 These Standing Rules may not be amended except to conform verbatim to changes directed by the Commandant of the United States Coast Guard or the National Board, provided however, optional and elective provisions may be amended in conformity with the Manual.

ARTICLE XIV APPENDICES

14.1 Appendices to these Standing Rules may be adopted by a 2/3 majority vote of the Flotilla and are effective upon signature of the Flotilla Commander. The appendices should include matters local in nature including, but not limited to dates, times and location of meetings, amounts and due dates for collection of membership dues, information regarding local awards, number, title and composition of committees not otherwise designated and similar events.

ARTICLE XV APPROVAL

These Standing Rules were adopted on the _____ day of _____, 20____ by two-thirds (2/3) of all Flotilla members and become effective upon approval by the Director of Auxiliary.

Signed: _____ Date _____
Flotilla Commander

Approved: _____ Date _____
Division Commander

Approved: _____ Date _____
District Staff Officer-Legal

Approved: _____ Date _____
District Commodore

Approved: _____ Date _____
Director of Auxiliary

EXHIBIT II

Flotilla Telephonic/Electronic Meetings Plan Template

Pursuant to COMDTINST M16790.1 (series), (the Auxiliary Manual), U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla _____ adopts the following Telephonic/Electronic Meeting Plan as an Appendix to its Standing Rules.

Article I. Definitions

A. Telephonic Means: Participation by meeting attendees by telephone of any type (e.g., cell, landline) as to allow live full-time, full communication in a manner that does not interfere with the conduct of the meeting. It shall allow full participation in the meeting by all members, physically and electronically present, and shall meet all applicable requirements (with the exception of provision of all documents and materials referenced during the course of the meeting). If an attendee calls into a physical meeting, then an appropriate number of telephones with speaker capabilities shall be set in the meeting to allow all attendees at the meeting to hear anything the attendee calling in may say and for the attendee calling in to hear anything that those physically present may say.

B. Electronic Means: Participation by telecommuting via electronic audio or video or both using a system of a sophisticated nature to allow live full-time, full communication in a manner that does not interfere with the conduct of the meeting. It shall allow full participation in the meeting by all members, physically and electronically present, and shall meet all applicable requirements including secret votes on matters that may come before the Flotilla if such secret ballot is requested in accordance with the Auxiliary Manual or Flotilla Standing Rules.

C. Participation: The ability of an attendee appearing by telephonic/electronic means to communicate clearly on a live full-time basis with all of the other meeting members and to have provided before the meeting, or electronically during the meeting, all documents and materials referenced during the course of the meeting and to participate in real time in any secret votes on matters that may come before the Flotilla if such secret ballot is requested in accordance with the Auxiliary Manual or Flotilla Standing Rules.

D. Flotilla: Includes any Flotilla, Flotilla Detachment, or associated committee appointed by the Flotilla or Flotilla Detachment.

Article II. Telephonic/Electronic Meetings

A. The Flotilla when **special circumstances warrant** may conduct its meetings and associated business, including votes, using telephonic/electronic means. The conduct of meetings using telephonic/electronic means shall only occur in conjunction with considerable planning and careful implementation.

B. The Flotilla Commander, after consultation with the District Commodore, shall determine whether such special circumstances exist so as to warrant authorization of the Flotilla meeting to be held by telephonic/electronic means.

C. The means for holding telephonic/electronic meetings that will ensure meeting all provisions of the Auxiliary Manual and the Flotilla Standing Rules for meetings, including the holding of a secret ballot, if called for by a voting member of the Flotilla shall be the means selected by District Board for holding its telephonic/electronic meetings.

D. A regular or special election meeting shall not be held by mail, telephone, or electronic means unless such meeting is impractical due to special circumstances and the Director specifically authorizes such means for the election.

E. The Flotilla's annual budget for electronic/telephonic meetings shall not exceed \$_____.

Article III. Attendance of Individual Auxiliarists at Telephonic/Electronic Meetings

A. The Flotilla Commander, after consultation with the District Commodore, may authorize individual Board Members to attend and participate in meetings using telephonic/electronic means. Such authorization shall be given to members who live too far away to reasonably travel to the meeting or in cases in which the cost of travel is prohibitive. Such authorization shall also be given if the Flotilla Commander, after consultation with the District Commodore, is reasonably satisfied that there is other compelling reasons to authorize such attendance and participation by telephonic/electronic means. A member who is denied such authorization may appeal the determination in writing (email is acceptable) in accordance with Article V. paragraph H of this Appendix.

B. Pursuant to Auxiliary Manual Chapter 4 subdivision E.1., Flotilla meetings are normally open and all Auxiliarists are welcome and invited to attend. In rare situations, a closed meeting may be needed, but this action may be taken only when authorized by the Director. All reasonable efforts shall be made by the Flotilla Commander to accommodate the attendance at telephonic/electronic meetings of members who give adequate written notice (email is acceptable) in advance of the meeting of their desire to attend. If the request is denied, the Flotilla Commander shall include the reason for denial. If approved, the Flotilla Commander shall ensure that the telephonic/electronic system is functional during the meeting in order to accommodate the member's attendance. The member shall initiate contact with the telephonic/electronic system. Failure to initiate such contact in a timely manner shall not be grounds for preventing the meeting from occurring as scheduled. If denied, the member may challenge the determination in accordance with Article V paragraph H of this Appendix.

Article IV. Meeting Equipment and Capability

A. If all Flotilla members attend a Flotilla meeting by telephonic/electronic means then the Flotilla shall use the means selected by the District Board for holding telephonic/electronic meetings.

B. The Flotilla shall be responsible for acquiring all software, hardware, and other system requirements to facilitate participation in the meeting, unless the District Board has chosen to fund the purchase or licensing of any software or equipment necessary for the Flotilla to hold electronic/telephonic meetings or elections.

C. Members who attend a Flotilla meeting using telephonic/electronic means shall be responsible for acquiring, at their own expense, all telephonic/electronic system components (e.g., computer, speaker, headphones, etc.) needed to facilitate their participation in the meeting.

D. The Flotilla Commander shall ensure that the telephonic/electronic system used will allow members to vote on any matter in full conformity with voting requirements including requests for secret written ballots, as permitted by the Auxiliary Manual or the Flotilla's Standing Rules.

Article V. Meeting Guidelines

A. All meeting notice requirements shall be applicable to all Flotilla members who attend a meeting using telephonic/electronic means.

B. The minutes of the Flotilla meeting shall record the time of attendance of any Flotilla Member who attends using telephonic/electronic means.

C. A Flotilla meeting using telephonic/electronic means may not be utilized for the purpose of interfering with a member's ability to participate in the meeting or to prevent a vote on any matter.

D. No member may purposely interfere with the telephonic/electronic system established to allow members to participate using telephonic/electronic means.

E. Any Flotilla member authorized to attend a meeting using telephonic/electronic means shall be considered "present" for the meeting while in attendance. When a Flotilla meeting is held with some members physically present and other members present using telephonic/electronic means, then the Flotilla Commander, Vice Flotilla Commander, or Immediate Past Flotilla Commander must be physically present at the meeting in order for the Flotilla's business to be conducted.

F. If the telephonic/electronic system becomes inoperative during the meeting then the meeting Chair shall be responsible for re-establishing contact with all Flotilla members participating using telephonic/electronic means. If good-faith attempts do not re-establish contact with such members within 10 minutes, then the meeting may continue without their telephonic/electronic participation. Quorum requirements shall be adhered to at all times dependent upon changes brought on by such inoperability.

G. If the telephonic/electronic means used by a Flotilla member participating in the meeting becomes inoperative during the meeting, then the member shall be responsible for re-establishing

contact. The meeting may continue without the member's participation. Quorum requirements shall be adhered to at all times dependent upon changes brought on by such inoperability.

H. In the event of any challenge or protest regarding any matter pertaining to participating in a Flotilla meeting, including voting, using telephonic/electronic means, the Auxiliarist making the challenge or protest shall use the appropriate chain of leadership to refer the challenge or protest to the District Commodore. The District Commodore shall consult with the DSO-LP and the Director and then render a final decision.

Passed by a 2/3 (two thirds) majority vote of the voting members present on the _____day of _____, 201____.

Approved:

Flotilla Commander

Date