

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The Great Pumpkin Commonwealth's (GPC) mission cultivates the hobby of growing giant pumpkins throughout the world by establishing standards and regulations that ensure quality of fruit, fairness of competition, recognition of achievement, fellowship and education for all participating growers and weigh-off sites.

## **Great Pumpkin Commonwealth Bylaws**

### **ARTICLE I Name**

The name of this organization shall be The Great Pumpkin Commonwealth.

### **ARTICLE II Purpose**

The purpose of this organization will be:

1. To establish and maintain a recognized and respected international organization that supports giant pumpkin growers throughout the world.
2. To set standards for and hold an annual pumpkin weigh-off so that the health and weights of pumpkins throughout the world can be certified and accepted as being "official" by the pumpkin growing community at large.
3. To attract new pumpkin growers and to further introduce giant pumpkin growing as a sport/hobby throughout the world.
4. To provide information and education to pumpkin growers regarding successful growing techniques and new products available.
5. To work in a cooperative manner with all other pumpkin related organizations who share our purposes, goals and values.
6. To have fun growing pumpkins and to compete with one another in a friendly manner.
7. And finally, to support, in all ways, all things pumpkin.

### **ARTICLE III Membership**

1. Any individual who enters a pumpkin or squash in a weigh-off at a GPC sanctioned site automatically becomes a member of the GPC provided that the individual complies with the weigh-off site rules and regulations.

### **Article IV Officers**

1. The officers of this organization shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer and one director-at-large officer. The officers shall perform the duties as prescribed by these bylaws adopted by the organization. These officers will be members of the Executive Committee.
2. The officers shall be elected for a term of four years. No member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms. No more than three officers will be elected in any given calendar year.
3. The five officers shall be comprised of at least one representative from each of the USA, Canada and Europe whenever possible.
4. The duties of the officers will be as follow:
  - a. The President shall preside over all meetings of both the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors. The President shall be the

spokesperson for all public appearances sanctioned by the Executive Committee.

- b. The Vice-President shall assume all duties of the President in their absence.
- c. The Secretary shall keep all meeting minutes and will supervise all communications between committees and public media, site and club representatives
- d. The Treasurer shall collect site fees; keep accurate financial records, payout award checks, and bills as instructed by President. This person shall also provide an annual financial report and reserves the right to dispute any questionable payment.
- e. The Officer-at-Large shall assist on special projects, work with other Executive Committee members, and shall provide leadership and guidance.

#### **Article V Board of Directors**

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of ten (11) directors and shall be a good representation of all geographical regions of the GPC.
2. The Executive Committee along with five (5) elected Site Representatives, Site Coordinator Representatives, and Club/group Representatives shall serve as members of the board of directors and shall have the power to act for the organization between meetings of the membership.
3. The Board of Directors will be the direct line of communication between the members and their weigh-off sites and all communication should come through this venue.
4. The Board of Directors shall have sole empowerment to make and implement any rules, bylaws, or direction they feel necessary to uphold the ideals of the GPC.
5. Candidates for election as the Board of Directors will be selected by region and voted upon by the representatives of that region as set forth by the Executive Committee. There will be nine geographical regions which will be defined by the Executive Committee and at least one officer will be elected from each region to represent that region as a member of the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE VI – Election of Board of Directors**

1. The representatives that are eligible for the process of running, nominating and voting for directors will include all recognized club/group representatives, site representatives and site coordinators for the GPC in the specified region. These representatives will be hereafter referred to as Club/group Representative, Site Representative and Site Coordinator Representative. If an individual has more than one of the preceding appointments, that individual will be allotted no more than one vote.
2. The Club/group Representatives, the Site Representatives, and the Site Coordinator Representatives from each region will nominate at least 2 and no more than 4 candidates to run for office. These candidates must be approved by the Executive Committee.
3. If an individual who would ordinarily be a voting representative is a candidate for the position being voted upon, that individual will be excused from this

- voting process and a new voting representative will be selected by the Club/group, site, or group of growers that the person represents.
4. Once the candidates running for office are determined, all voting representatives will send their ballots to the Executive Committee for tabulation. The person receiving the most votes cast will be elected. If there is a tie, the voting representatives will vote again but only for the two candidates that are tied. If a tie still exists following the second vote, the representatives will conference until they can decide upon a winner. This process will be completed in the time frame outlined below.
  5. This election process will begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November and will be completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December. The new director will take office on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January.
  6. If an officer decides to run for a second term the voting representatives from the region he represents will first cast a vote of approval or disapproval. If the officer in question receives a majority of approval votes he will retain his position for a second term. If the majority votes are for disapproval then the representatives for the region shall pick no less than 1 and no more than 3 individuals to run against the incumbent. The same process as described above shall be followed including the tie breaker process.
  7. An officer may serve only 2 consecutive four year terms but may run again for additional terms after a 4 year absence as an officer.
  8. After any election of a new director the Executive Committee will have an organizational meeting at which they will decide, amongst themselves, which directors will hold the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Director-at-Large.
  9. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Board by the death of or resignation of any officer or director, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall have power to appoint any eligible representative to fill such vacancy.
  10. The Board of Directors may remove a member by a quorum majority vote for conduct deemed as unbecoming.
  11. The Board of Directors may remove a member by a quorum majority vote any felony conviction.

## **Article VII Meetings**

1. The Board of Directors shall meet annually in person. All GPC executive officers must attend this annual meeting which will be held at a time and place to be agreed upon by all of the officers.
2. Additional meetings may be called at any time by any executive officer. The agenda for such a meeting must be approved by a majority of the executive officers.

## **Article VIII Committees**

1. The only standing committee will be the Executive Committee which will be made up of the officers of the organization. This committee will meet when deemed necessary by its members and special meetings may be called at the request of any member of the Executive Committee. The agenda for any special meeting must be approved by a majority of the members of the Executive Committee.

- Meetings may be held either in person, online or by a telephone conference call. All members of the executive committee must be notified of the meeting at least two weeks prior to the meeting. A majority of the members of this committee must be present to constitute a quorum and decisions will be made by simple majority.
2. Additional committees may be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee. The President will be an ex officio member of all committees.

#### **Article IX Amendments to bylaws**

1. These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Executive Committee of the organization by a majority vote of those present and eligible to vote or by proxy, provided the amendments have been submitted in writing to the members of the organization prior to the meeting.