BCCM 2026 PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

1. **Revise Article III, Section 6 to allow the Board of Trustees to assess $2000 per regular member over each five (5) year period as opposed to the current language which allows $500 over each five (5) year period.**

   Rationale: The current assessment amount in the Bylaws has not increased since 2012. In that time the Club's operating and capital expenses have increased significantly. The Board of Trustees recommends increasing the assessment amount to $2000 but keeping the frequency period at 5 years.

   Proposed Language:

   Section 6.

   The Board of Trustees shall annually, establish dues for each class of membership and initiation fees for new members for the ensuing year. Regular members shall also be subject to such periodic assessments as may be levied in the discretion of the Board of Trustees, except that such assessment(s) shall not be in excess of $2,000.00 per regular member over each five (5) year period, commencing with the period beginning January 1, 2029 unless the amount of any assessment(s) in excess of such amount over such five (5) year period is approved at an Annual or Special Meeting or by a majority of the regular members of the Club through a mailed ballot. …

2. **Revise Article III, Section 1 by deleting the second sentence in this section which requires that "not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) Trustees shall be elected each year by the members at the Annual Meeting."**

   Rationale: Eliminating the requirement of electing 3-5 trustees every year gives the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee more flexibility in terms of the number of candidates who need to be vetted each year as well as the size of the Board. The Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee believe that a smaller board is often more efficient and effective. The total number of Trustees remains at 9-15.

Proposed Language:

Section 1.

The Club shall be governed by a Board of Trustees, not exceeding fifteen (15) and not less than nine (9) in number. [Not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) Trustees shall be elected each year by the members at the Annual Meeting.] The number of Trustees to be elected in any year shall be determined by the Board of Trustees not later than July 15 of each year. Except as set forth to the contrary in Section 3 of this Article III, each Trustee shall be elected to a term of three (3) years. The Nominating Committee, as appointed by the Executive Committee, shall place in nomination the names of proposed Trustees and officers. Nominations may also be made by petition as set forth in Article VII, Section 2. Election of Trustees shall be as set forth in Article VI of these Bylaws. Trustees shall be elected by the members at the Annual Meeting.

3. **Revise Article III, Section 8 to add a new subsection (d).**

Rationale: The current Bylaws allow voting by mail or telephone but not by email. This change would allow the Board of Trustees to vote by email as well under the conditions set forth in the proposed language.

Proposed Language:

(d) Votes of the Board of Trustees may also be taken by a single email addressed to all Trustees provided that the matter being voted upon has been the subject of a prior virtual meeting at which a quorum was present throughout and in which participants were able to hear each other and be heard by all other participants.

4. **Revise Article V, Section 1(a) to increase the number of regular members from two hundred and ninety (290) to four hundred and fifty (450).**

Rationale: The membership cap has not increased since 2012 and the Club now has 426 regular members. Increasing to 450 reflects the current

membership total as well as allows for some additional growth in membership.

Proposed Language:

(a) The membership of the Club shall consist of not more than four hundred and fifty (450) regular members (except as set forth in Article Section 2(b), unless an increase is approved by two-thirds (2/3) vote by all members of the Board of Trustees, and such number of associate members and such other class or classes of members as the Board of Trustees may from time to time authorize.

5. Revise Article V, Section1(a) by deleting (ii)(B). This would remove the "residing in" clause from the definition of an associate member.

Rationale: The Board of Trustees in conjunction with the Membership committee believes that the current language is outdated and is subject to potential abuse. The Board further believes that the current guest policy as set forth in the House Rules should accommodate most situations and that the Board can always consider special requests such as a caregiver on a year-by-year basis.

Proposed Language:

Article V, Section 1(a)

For purposes of these Bylaws, a regular member shall be a member in good standing, holding whether in person or on the books of the Club, a Certificate of Membership and (ii) an associate member shall be a person under the age of thirty (30) (or such other age as may be determined by the Board of Trustees) and [(A)] who is a lineal descendant (and spouse of such lineal descendant) of a regular member [or (B) a person (other than a paid employee) residing in the Cape May area residence of a regular member.]

6. Revise Article V, Section 2 (a). by deleting the words "of a period who" in the third sentence (9th line) of this section and replacing them with the word "which".

Rationale: There is a missing word in the current language which needs to be inserted for this section to function properly.

Proposed Language:

(a) Every candidate for membership in the Club must be initially proposed in writing to the Chair of the Membership Committee by one proposer and one seconder, who shall complete such forms, or cause the proposed member to complete such forms, as the Membership Committee may require. Such initial proposals shall be made to the Membership Committee which shall keep a confidential record of the receipt and disposition by it of all such proposals received. Upon notice from the Chair of the Membership Committee to the proposer of the candidate that the Membership Committee is preparing to consider the applicant, the names of such candidates and the proposer and seconder shall be posted on the bulletin board of the Club House for a period which encompasses two consecutive Saturdays and Sundays, during which time regular members may forward any written and signed comments to the Membership Committee.

7. Revise Article V, Section 2(a) by adding the words "Unless extended by the Membership Committee following approval by the Board of Trustees." at the beginning of the sentence which starts "A Candidate whose application has been pending…"

Rationale: The added language is necessary to keep pending candidates on the waiting list for more than two (2) years.

Proposed Language:

Section 2. New Membership Procedures:

(a)…Unless extended by the Membership Committee following approval by the Board of Trustees, a candidate whose application has been pending for more than two (2) years will be dropped automatically from the waiting list, and the proposer shall be so informed in writing by the Chair of the Membership Committee.

8. **Revise Article V, Section 2(b) by (i) requiring Board of Trustee approval as well as Membership Committee approval, (ii) changing the amount a former member must pay when reapplying for membership if they wish to be placed at the top of the waiting list and (iii) limiting the use of this provision to one time.**

Rationale: The revised language allows a former member to reapply for membership and go to the top of the waiting list but only if approved by the Membership Committee and Board of Trustees and only if the returning member pays all outstanding dues and assessments from the time they left in addition to the current initiation. The current bylaws gave the returning member the option of paying the lesser of the current initiation or outstanding dues and assessments. The proposed change also provides that a former member can only take advantage of this provision one time after which they would apply on the same basis as any other new member.

Proposed Language:

(b) If the membership is filled, candidates will be placed on the waiting list until such time as there is a vacancy. At the discretion of the Membership Committee, and following Board of Trustee approval, past regular members who have resigned in good standing and who have not previously reapplied for membership may be placed at the head of the waiting list in order of date of their application. Such reapplying members shall follow all regular membership procedures, except that the reapplying member shall pay all dues and assessments which would have been payable from the date of resignation to the date of re-admission as well as the then applicable initiation fee.

9. **Article VI, Section 2(a), Section 3 and Article VII, Section 2. Change the quorum number in these sections from fifty (50) to seventy-five (75).**

Rationale: The Bylaws were last revised on August 25, 2021. At that time the Club had 290 regular members. The Club now has over 400 regular members. The increase in the quorum number for the referenced sections from 50 to 75 reflects the greater number of regular members that the Club now has.

Proposed Language:

Article VI MEMEBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 2. Special Meetings

(a) Special Meetings of the Club may be called by the Board of Trustees. Also, upon the written request of seventy-five (75) members to the Secretary stating the purpose [therefore] thereof, a Special Meeting shall then be called by the Secretary within thirty (30) days.

Section 3. Quorum

Seventy-five (75) regular members shall constitute a quorum at any Annual or Special Meeting….

Article VII NOMINATIONS

Section 2. Nominations for Trustees and/or Officers may be made by petition signed by not less than seventy-five (75) regular members of the Club and submitted to the Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on the tenth day after the last Saturday of the month of July in each year.