

BY-LAWS OF THE BBQ KINGS

Article 1 - NAME / LOCATION

Section 1 - **Name:** The name of the organization shall be *THE BBQ KINGS*.

Section 2 - **Organization Location:** The organization location or locations will be determined by the President and may be changed by the President from time to time in the future.

Article II - MISSION

Section 1 - **Mission Statement:** To promote the fellowship of all barbeque pit masters, encourage sportsmanship at barbeque contests and/or festivals and/or events, and support charitable activities.

Article III - MEMBERS / DUES

Section I - **Qualifications:** Membership shall be available to any person that is honored at the [Visa Hall of Barbeque pit masters Exhibit located within the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio](#) and those persons selected through process, by 80% positive vote of the new membership committee (05) (1 chairman and 4 members), and THE BBQ KINGS board officers (04), as determined in accordance with reasonable and uniform requirements for membership established by the members.

(The current vote of the members states the following are categories of membership:

***DRAFT PROSPECT** – Each of THE BBQ KINGS members will be given a number of “THE BBQ KINGS Draft Cards” to hand out to potential barbeque pit masters. (These cards will be 'trading cards' made for the special purpose of attracting potential draftees.) While attending home or away games, THE BBQ KINGS members will be encouraged to give cards to barbeque pit masters that display our group's core values—no matter which contest/event/festival they root for. These cards will direct the fan to our website and will ask them to fill out some information.*

"Hand selected barbeque pit masters" will be asked to fill out their information on our website and pay a one-time \$32 membership/processing due. They will be asked to maintain contact with our organization and provide updated information throughout the current year. Draft Prospects are NOT invited to our annual reunion, and may be cut at anytime for cause. From this pool of Draft Prospects, the Membership Committee will select “Potential Veterans.” Draft Prospects are considered to be “Associate Members.” If a Draft Prospect is not selected as a Potential Veteran, he/she will remain eligible for 3 cycles of THE BBQ KINGS Draft. Additional dues will not be required to remain eligible.

***POTENTIAL VETERAN** – Draft Prospects that show genuine interest in our organization and display our core values may be selected as Potential Veterans (PV's) and invited to attend our annual reunion. The Membership Committee will select up to TWO (02) barbeque pit masters from each contest/event/festival and will invite those barbeque pit masters to the upcoming THE BBQ KINGS Reunion. (NOTE: Though it states up to two, a contest/event/festival may only have ONE or MAY NOT be represented at all in THE BBQ KINGS Draft if qualified applications are not received.) PV's will not be authorized to attend the Annual Business Meeting and may be release after first reunion. As the last order of business for weekend, the Membership Committee and Officers will vote on PV's and decide on whether they will be elevated to Veteran status.*

VETERAN – This status means an active, dues paying member of THE BBQ KINGS and can serve on committees. Veterans will remain in this status until proven to be 'Pro Bowler.' This status means "in good standing" as it applies to the membership.

PRO BOWLERS– This status is reserved for members that come SPECIFICALLY through THE BBQ KINGS Draft and display the highest traits and qualities of our organization. To be selected as a Pro Bowler, a member must attend at least one reunion and must go through a nomination and voting process. This is the highest level a "non-Visa member" can achieve at this time.

HALL OF FAMERS – This status is any active member that was also honored by the "Visa Hall of Barbeque Pit Masters."

INACTIVE ROSTER – If any member stops paying dues, that member will be placed on the Inactive Roster. Being on the inactive roster does NOT jeopardize the membership status of member. Instead, it will be a holding place. Each year, the membership committee will contact inactive members to ask them if they would like to become active members again. Inactive members will need to pay current year dues before attending annual THE BBQ KINGS reunion.

RETIRED LIST – Any member that chooses to leave THE BBQ KINGS permanently and communicates his/her intention to the President will be placed on the retired list. If an Inactive Member does not pay dues for a three straight years, that member will be placed on the Retired List. Visa honorees that have chosen to not participate in THE BBQ KINGS will be placed on the retired list. The membership committee will contact those on the Retired List once every three years to see if they are interested in becoming active members.

Section 2 - **Dues:** Annual membership dues shall be fixed and payable annually in such amount and within such period of time as established by a majority vote of the members. Any person that wants to become a member after the time established by the members for that year can become a member for that year, but will not receive their membership gift for that year. Any person that pays their dues at the annual reunion will not have access to ticketed events. Honorary and Lifetime members can be established by a 2/3 vote of the members.

(The current vote of members states that annual dues will be paid and will be in effect from January 1 to December 31 of each year. An annual due is set at \$120 for one year period. Dues may be paid up to the beginning of the annual reunion. The membership is encouraged to pay their dues before May 1 of each year [which will be used in planning and paying for the annual reunion]. Dues may be paid after the beginning of the annual reunion on a case-by-case basis as approved by the President.)

Section 3 - **Termination of Membership:** Any member shall have the right to resign at any time by written notice to that effect, delivered to the President or Secretary. The membership of any member failing to pay his or her dues within the time period established by the members shall automatically terminate upon the expiration of said time period.

Section 4 - **Membership Committee:** The President shall annually appoint a Membership Committee of not less than three (3) or more than five (5) persons, to serve for a one (1) year term.

Section 5 - **Attendance at Organization Functions:** Only members in good standing and their bona fide guests shall be entitled to attend or participate in any of the official meetings or functions of THE BBQ KINGS. Any past member that is not in good standing is prohibited to attend or participate in any official meeting or functions of THE BBQ KINGS (*see Inactive Roster or Retired List*). Only members in good standing can vote and shall be entitled to one vote at the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 6 - **Conduct and Loss of Privileges:** Being a member is a privilege, not a right, and thus carries with it certain responsibilities. Any member is subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of membership if they:

- (A) Fail to pay dues;
- (B) Exhibit any behavior contrary to the mission of THE BBQ KINGS as set forth in the By-laws;
- (C) Communicate by any means, including email, telegraphic, written or oral, in a negative manner against THE BBQ KINGS or its members.

It shall be the sole discretion of the President to study and review all incidents brought to its attention and to rule on such acts that are sufficiently serious in nature to warrant disciplinary action including termination of membership.

Article IV - OFFICERS

Section 1 - **Nominating Committee:** The President shall appoint three (3) members as a Nominating Committee a minimum of fifteen (15) days in advance of the annual meeting of THE BBQ KINGS. The Nominating Committee will submit a slate of proposed nominees to the members at the annual meeting and members can add nominees to the slate at the annual meeting if qualified. Candidates for Officers shall agree in advance to serve, if elected. *(The current vote of the members has replaced the Nomination Committee with a 'general nomination process' at the Annual Business meeting.)*

Section 2 - **Qualifications:** Any person who is an active committee person or Officer of THE BBQ KINGS shall be eligible for election for Officer, if they have served as a committee person or Officer for a minimum of one (1) year or any person that has been a member of THE BBQ KINGS for two (2) consecutive years.

Section 3 - **Election of Officers:** At the designated Annual Business meeting of THE BBQ KINGS, all officer positions expiring shall be filled by a majority vote of a legal quorum of the attending members. Each active member may cast one (1) vote for the Officer position to be filled. The nominees receiving the highest numbers of votes shall be elected to fulfill the vacancies that are up for election at the meeting. In the possible case of there being a tie vote between candidates, the Officer shall be decided by appointment of one of the tied nominees by the President. They shall begin their term of office one day following the annual meeting.

Section 4 - **Officers:** The officers of THE BBQ KINGS shall consist of a President, one or more Vice Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, and such other officers as shall from time to time be elected. Only one office may be held by the same person.

Section 5 - **President:** The President shall preside at all meetings of the officers and shall have general supervision of the affairs of THE BBQ KINGS and see that all orders and resolutions of the membership and carried into effect. The President shall appoint a chairperson for all appropriate committees.

Section 6 - **Vice President:** In the absence, disability, resignation or under direction of the President, the Vice President, or in his or her, absence or disability, shall be vested with all the powers and perform such additional duties as may be ordered by the President and shall have such additional powers and perform such additional duties as may be ordered by the President, including maintenance of the by-laws. Should the office of the President become vacant due to death, resignation or removal, the Vice President shall become the President for the remainder of his or her term of office.

Section 7 - **Secretary/Historian:** It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to give or cause to be given all required notices of meetings of the members. The Secretary shall record all

proceedings of the meetings of the members and shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the President.

Section 8 - Treasurer: The Treasurer shall have the responsibility for administration and control of all money, securities, valuable papers and documents of THE BBQ KINGS including disbursement of funds of THE BBQ KINGS as directed by the President, maintenance of books setting forth a true record of receipts, expenditures and assets of THE BBQ KINGS and when required by the President, shall render a statement of the financial condition of THE BBQ KINGS.

Section 9 - Vacancy of an Officer: A vacancy in any office created by death, resignation or removal shall be filled by the following procedures.

Any Officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the President or Secretary. Any such resignation shall take effect at the time specified, and the acceptance of a resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

Should a vacancy occur due to the above stated reasons, the position shall be filled immediately by appointment from the President, for the unexpired portion of the term of office, and the Officer appointment to fill any such vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the term of the person he or she succeeds.

Article V - PRESIDENT

Section 1 - Responsibility: The administrative powers of THE BBQ KINGS shall be controlled and managed by the President.

Section 2 - Qualifications: Any person who is an active committee person or officer of THE BBQ KINGS shall be eligible for election for the President, if they have served as a committee person or officer for a minimum of one (1) year or any person that has been a member of THE BBQ KINGS for two (2) consecutive years.

Section 3 - Term of Office: President shall serve for one (1) year term.

Section 4 - Vacancy of the President: Vacancy of the President created by death, resignation, or removal of the President shall be filled by the Vice President.

Section 5 - Termination of the President: Any President that is not in good standing as provided for in these by-laws shall be automatically terminated. A vote to remove a President of over fifty percent of the dues paying members will remove the President.

Section 6 - Nominating Committee: The President shall appoint three (3) members as a Nominating Committee a minimum of fifteen (15) days in advance of the annual meeting of the Organization. The Nominating Committee will submit a slate of proposed nominees to the members at the annual meeting and members can add nominees to the slate at the annual meeting if qualified. Candidates for President shall agree in advance to serve, if elected. *(The current vote of the members has replaced the Nomination Committee with a 'general nomination process' at the Annual Business meeting.)*

Section 7 - Rules and Procedures of Election: The President shall develop a set of rules and procedures of election for the members.

Section 8 - Annual Meeting: The Annual Business meeting of THE BBQ KINGS members shall be held during the Pro Football Hall of Fame weekend in Canton, OH, on such date set by the President, at a place designated by the President, beginning at such hour between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm as shall have been determined by the President and stated in the notice of the meeting,

at which meeting the election of such Officers as was necessary to fill the vacancies of the Officers and shall transact such other business as may come before the meeting. An Annual Business meeting will be duly convened in which a quorum is present.

Section 9 - **Quorum:** Twenty percent (20%) of the dues paying members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of THE BBQ KINGS; but if less than twenty percent (20%) of the members are present at any meeting, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting with out notice, to a specified date not longer than one (1) year after such adjournment.

Section 10 - **Compensation:** Officers shall not receive compensation for their services as such.

Section 11 - **Powers:** The President may delegate to committees or to officers of THE BBQ KINGS such powers as the President may see fit.

ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

Section 1 - **Powers and Duties:** The President shall authorize and define the powers, duties of all standing and special committees as determined by the membership. The President shall appoint a Chairperson for all the appropriate committees. The Chairperson shall appoint the members of the committee.

Section 2 - **Meetings:** Meetings of committees may be called at any time by the President or by the chairperson of such committee.

ARTICLE VII - FISCAL YEAR

Section 1 - **Date:** The fiscal year of THE BBQ KINGS shall commence on January 1 and end December 31.

(The current vote of members states that annual dues will be paid and will be in effect from January 1 to December 31 of each year. An annual due is set at \$120 for one year period. Dues may be paid up to the beginning of the annual reunion. The membership is encouraged to pay their dues before May 1 of each year [which will be used in planning and paying for the annual reunion]. Dues may be paid after the beginning of the annual reunion on a case-by-case basis as approved by the President.)

Section 2 - **Budget:** As soon as possible after the election of officers, the President shall appoint a Finance Committee who shall compile a budget of estimated administrative expenses which may include a stated amount for each committee and submit it to the President by the end of September. As passed by the President, with or without modifications, this budget shall be the appropriation measure of THE BBQ KINGS.

ARTICLE VIII - INDEMNIFICATION

Each person who is or was a Officer of THE BBQ KINGS, including their heirs, executors, administrators or estate of such person, shall be indemnified by THE BBQ KINGS to the full extent permitted by law, as now in effect and as hereafter amended, against any liability, judgment, fine, amount paid in statement, cost and expenses including attorney's fees, incurred as a result of any claim arising in connection with such persons' conduct in his or her capacity of THE BBQ KINGS.

ARTICLE IX - CHECKS/NOTES/CONTRACTS/ETC

Section 1 - **Contracts:** The President may authorize any officer or officers, or agents of THE BBQ KINGS to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on the behalf of THE BBQ KINGS, and such authority may be general or may be confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind THE BBQ KINGS by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable for any purpose or in any amount unless in the ordinary course of business.

Section 2 - **Checks, Drafts or Orders:** All checks or orders for payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of THE BBQ KINGS, shall be signed by such officers or agents of THE BBQ KINGS, and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by the President. In the absence of such determination by the President, such instruments shall be signed by the Treasurer, and countersigned by the President or Vice President of THE BBQ KINGS.

Section 3 - **Deposits:** All funds of THE BBQ KINGS shall be deposited, from time to time, to the credit of THE BBQ KINGS in such bank, trust companies or other depositories as the President may elect. Endorsements for deposit to the credit of THE BBQ KINGS in any of its duly authorized depositories may be made without countersignature, by the President, Vice President or Treasurer, or by any other officer or agent of THE BBQ KINGS to whom the President shall have delegated such power.

Section 4 - **Gifts:** The president may accept, on behalf of THE BBQ KINGS, any contribution, gift, bequest or devise for the purpose of THE BBQ KINGS.

ARTICLE X - BOOKS AND RECORDS

Section 1 - **Minutes:** THE BBQ KINGS shall keep current and complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its membership meetings.

Section 2 - **Treasurer Statement:** It shall be required of the Treasurer to furnish an income and expense statement to the members at the designated annual meeting.

Section 3 - **Parliamentary Procedure:** All questions of parliamentary procedure shall be settled according to Robert's Rules of Order (<http://www.robertsrules.com>) except as otherwise provide in these By-Laws.

ARTICLE XI - ADMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS

These By-Laws may be altered, amended or repealed by the affirmative vote of the majority of a legal quorum of the attending members present at the designated annual meeting. Notice of the intention to alter, amend or repeal any By-Law must be mailed to each member not less than ten (10) days before the designated annual meeting. The notice shall contain a copy or summary of the amendment or state the general nature of the amendment.