

Athens Township

Athens County, Ohio

RULES AND REGULATIONS POLICY FOR WOLF'S PLAINS (AKA HOCKING) AND UNION CEMETERIES *Ohio Revised Code §517.06*

Section 1. Purpose

These rules and regulations are designed for the protection of owners of interment and/or inurnment rights as a group. They are intended, not as restraining, but rather as preventing the inconsiderate from taking unfair advantage of others. Their enforcement will help protect the cemetery and create and preserve its beauty. These rules and regulations are hereby adopted as the rules and regulations of the Wolf's Plains Cemetery, 236 Johnson Road, The Plains, Ohio, 45780 and Union Cemetery, 6936 SR 56, Athens, Ohio 45701, both located in Athens Township, Athens County, Ohio. All owners of interment or inurnment rights, visitors, and contractors performing work within the cemeteries shall be subject to these rules and regulations and amendments or alterations thereto adopted from time to time by the Athens Township Board of Trustees. This document shall supersede any and all previously adopted policies, procedures, rules, or regulations.

Section 2. Definitions

"*Cemetery*" shall mean not only the land and the improvements thereon the Wolf's Plains or Union Cemeteries, but also the Athens Township Board of Trustees (herein after "the Board"), its employees and duly authorized representatives.

"*Owner*" shall mean the owner of rights of interment or inurnment.

"*Interment*" shall mean burial of the remains of a deceased human being.

"*Inurnment*" shall mean the burial of cremated human remains.

"*Memorial or Monument*" shall mean any marker placed upon any lot for the purpose of identification or in memory of the interred.

"*Burial Vault*" shall mean an outside burial container as specified by the cemetery to incase human remains.

"*Contractor*" shall mean any person, firm or corporation or anyone other than an employee of the Cemetery engaged in placing erecting or repairing any memorial or monument and performing any work on the Cemetery grounds.

Section 3. Cemetery Hours

The Cemetery is open daily from sunrise until sunset.

Section 4. Ownership

Interment or inurnment rights shall be used for no other purpose than the disposition of the human remains. Upon refusal of the Board to permit interment or inurnment because of its requirements, the Board may, at its discretion, refuse to let anything be done in violation of said requirements.

Section 5. Supervision of Cemetery

The Board reserves the right to compel all persons coming into the Cemetery to obey all rules and regulations adopted by the Athens Township Board of Trustees. These rules and regulations may be changed by the Board without notice to any owner. The Cemetery shall take responsible precaution to protect owners and the property rights of owners within the Cemetery from loss or damage, but it distinctly disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond its reasonable control. The Cemetery is not and shall not be liable for damage caused by elements, acts of God, common enemy, thieves, vandals, strikers, malicious mischief makers, explosions, unavoidable accidents, invasion, insurrections, riots, or orders of any Military or civil authority, whether the damage be direct or collateral. The Cemetery reserves the right to correct any errors that may be made by it either in making interments, dis-interments, inurnments, dis-inurnments or removals, or in the inscriptions, transfer, or conveyance and substituting and conveying in lieu thereof other interment or inurnment rights of equal value and similar location as far as possible, or as may be selected by the Cemetery or, in the sole discretion of the Cemetery, by refunding the amount of money paid on account of said purchase. In the event such error shall involve the interment or inurnment of the remains of any person in such property, the Cemetery reserves and shall have the right to remove and transfer such remains so interred to such other property of equal value and similar location as may be substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof. The Cemetery shall also have the right to correct any errors made by allowing the placement of an improper inscription, including an incorrect name or date on the memorial or monument. Upon correction no further liability shall exist against the Cemetery. The rights to enlarge, reduce, replant or change the boundaries or grading of the Cemetery on a lot or grave, from time to time, including the right to modify or change the locations of or any part thereof or remove or re-grade walks or paths, is hereby expressly reserved by the Cemetery. The right to lay, maintain and operate, or alter or change pipe lines or gutters for sprinkling systems, drainage, lakes etc., not sold to individual owners, for Cemetery purposes, including the interring and preparing for interment of dead human bodies, or for anything necessary, incidental or convenient thereto. The Cemetery reserves to itself and to those lawfully entitled thereto and those permitted by the Cemetery to do so, a perpetual right of ingress and egress over lots for the purpose of passage to and from other lots.

Section 6. Sale and Purchase of Interment/Inurnment Rights

All interment and inurnment rights are sold subject to payment of the amount posted in the Cemetery or Township office for the area of the lot. All interment and inurnment rights shall be

fully paid prior to their use. The sale or transfer of any interment or inurnment right by any owner shall not be binding upon the Cemetery unless same shall first be duly approved in writing by the Cemetery. The Cemetery shall issue a "Warranty Deed" or "Certificate of Ownership" per *Ohio Revised Code §517.07* to the new owner subject to the provisions of said deed or certificate. The same rule shall apply in all cases of assignment for interment or inurnment rights. Any and all transfers of any interment or inurnment right, whether same be by conveyance or assignment are subject to all rules and regulations of the Cemetery, which are now in full force and effect or which may be hereafter adopted. The subdivision of interment or inurnment right is not allowed without the consent of the Cemetery and no one shall be buried in any lot or not having an interest therein, except by written consent of the Cemetery. All work on lots or graves will be done by the employees of the Cemetery under the direction of the Cemetery, except when permission is otherwise granted. All grading, landscaping work, and improvements of any kind, and all care of lots or crypts and all plantings, trimmings, removals of trees, shrubs, and herbage of any kind and all openings of lots, all interments, inurnments, disinterment's and removals shall be made under the direction of the Cemetery. No enclosure of any kind, such as a fence, coping, hedge or ditch, shall be permitted around any grave or lot. Grave mounds shall not be allowed and no lot shall be raised above the established grade. No interment or inurnment right can be sold, assigned, transferred, pledged or hypothecated without the written approval of the Cemetery. The Cemetery may exchange interment or inurnment rights, when desired by owners. When such an exchange is made, the original conveyance must be surrendered by proper assignment, or by re-conveyance, if considered necessary by the Cemetery before any change is affected. Each owner is vested with the ownership of his or her interment or inurnment right for the sole purpose of interment or inurnment of human dead bodies. Under the rules and regulations of the Cemetery, the interment and inurnment rights cannot be conveyed without the consent of the Cemetery, nor any use, division or improvements of them be made which the Cemetery prohibits, or may deem improper. The owner of interment or inurnment rights may dispose of same by will, subject to the foregoing conditions; If an owner dies in estate, the interment or inurnment rights will descend to his or her heirs according to law. The Cemetery cannot be responsible for the carrying out of the intent of the grantor. The general care of the entire Cemetery grounds and lots is assumed by the Cemetery. The Cemetery shall direct all improvements within the grounds and upon all lots and graves before, as well as, after interments have been made therein. They shall have charge of the planting, sodding, surveying and general improvements. No person other than the proper employees of the Cemetery shall be allowed to perform any work within the Cemetery without a written permit from the authorized representative of the Cemetery. If any inscription or object is placed on any memorial, monument or other structure, and it is determined by the Cemetery to be offensive, the Cemetery shall have the right to enter upon such lot to remove, change or correct the offensive inscription or object at the expense of the owner. If any tree, shrub or plant standing upon any lot, by means of its roots, branches, or otherwise, becomes detrimental to adjacent lots avenues, or if for any other reason its removal is deemed necessary, the Cemetery shall have the right to remove such tree, shrub or plant, or any part thereof, or otherwise correct the condition existing as in their judgment seems best. No person shall pluck or remove any plant or flower, either wild or cultivated from any part of the Cemetery.

Section 7. Burial Regulations

No interment or inurnment shall be made unless the opening and closing fee for such grave has

been paid in advance. The cemetery reserves the right to compel all persons authorized to order the opening and closing of a grave, crypt or niche to appear at the cemetery more than twenty-four (24) hours in advance of such interment or inurnment to select the desired grave or niche to be opened. In addition the completion and execution of the cemeteries Interment/Inurnment Authorization form may be required. No interment or entombment may take place at the Cemetery unless a burial permit for the deceased has first been presented to the Cemetery. The Cemetery will comply with the provisions of *Ohio Revised Code §3705.17*. Funeral processions, upon entering the grounds of the Cemetery shall be subject to the direction of the Cemetery or authorized employees of the Cemetery. The Cemetery must be notified of an impending interment or inurnment service no later than 12:00 noon of the prior business day. Notification of a Monday service must be received no later than 3:00 PM on the previous Friday. The Cemetery reserves the right to schedule interment or inurnment services according to the Cemetery's availability of service times and needs. The Cemetery shall have the right to have the interment or inurnment service at the grave according to the Cemetery's schedule and current weather conditions. When a removal is to be made from a single grave to another grave, the formerly occupied single grave space and all rights therein revert to the owner thereof. If no steel or concrete vault has been used for this original interment one must be furnished by the person requesting the removal. If there is a steel or concrete vault and same is in a removable condition, charge for removal of vault must be paid in advance. Application for disinterment or disinurnment must comply with the provisions of *Ohio Revised Code §517.23*. Any person desiring to remove a body from the grave space of another must present a written permit signed by the owner, the next of kin and also themselves to have such removal made. These permissions shall remain on file in the office of the Cemetery. No such removal shall be made without the written consent of the Cemetery, and then only on such conditions as the Cemetery shall prescribe. All human remains not cremated must be contained in a burial vault specified by the Cemetery prior to burial. No grave space may contain more than two urns of cremated remains or one urn of cremated remains and one body. The remains of any person who died of a contagious disease will not be permitted in or on the Cemetery grounds, except when placed in a hermetically sealed casket. In case of doubt on the part of the Cemetery as to the nature of the disease, satisfactory evidence from the attending physician or otherwise will be required.

Section 8. General Regulations

No children under the age of sixteen (16) are permitted within the Cemetery without adult supervision. All children must display appropriate behavior while on the grounds of the Cemetery. Except for service animals, no pets shall be permitted in the Cemetery. Bringing lunches, food, beverages or illegal substances for consumption within the Cemetery is strictly forbidden. No article of any kind will be permitted on any grave, lot, or tree. The sitting or leaning on monuments or walls is not permitted. Benches placed within the cemetery are placed for this purpose. The Cemetery is not responsible for theft or damage to anything placed on graves or lots. Only vaults, grave markers, monuments or vases approved by the Cemetery shall be permitted to be used. No bench, chair, or trellis shall be permitted or be brought upon the Cemetery grounds. The Cemetery shall have the right to remove any dead or damaged tree, shrub, or vine. No touching, scraping, rubbing, or spraying of liquids on the memorials or monuments is permitted for any purpose. Any person found on the Cemetery grounds without permission will be considered a trespasser. Holders containing flowers or other decorations will

be removed as soon as the flowers fade and wither, and the right is reserved by the Cemetery to make such removal. Also winter wreaths, and artificial flowers will be removed at such time as is specified by the Cemetery, and the owner thereby forfeits all rights, title and interest to the same, and the Cemetery may dispose of them by sale, destruction or in any other way it deems best. No person shall use profane or boisterous language or in any way disturb the quiet and good order of the Cemetery. All persons are forbidden to hunt fowls or other animals about the Cemetery. All persons are strictly forbidden to break or injure any tree or shrub, or mar any landmark, memorial, or monument, or in any manner deface the grounds of the Cemetery. No money shall be paid to the attendants of the Cemetery grounds. The entire time of the persons regularly employed on the grounds belongs to the Cemetery. Visitors and owners must not otherwise engage them. All orders, inquiries and complaints must be left at the Athens Township Hall. No person or persons other than an employee of the Cemetery so authorized shall be permitted to bring or carry firearms within the Cemetery, except a military guard of honor, and they only when in the charge of an Officer and during a military service. All work and planting of any kind on all lots and graves is strictly prohibited. From March 1st to November 15th only natural flowers shall be placed in the urns. From November 15th to March 1st, artificial flowers or wreaths may be used. Placing potted flowers, plants, wreaths or baskets on lots and graves is not permitted except on Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, Armistice Day, and Christmas Day. They shall be removed by the owners within five (5) days from placing on lots and graves on the special days herein set forth. The digging of holes for any purpose whatsoever is strictly prohibited. All persons are reminded that the grounds are sacredly devoted to the burial of the dead and that the provisions and penalties of the law, as provided by statute, will be strictly enforced in all cases of wanton injury, disturbance and disregard of the rules and the laws of Ohio.

Section 9. Modifications and Amendments

The Athens Township Board of Trustees may, and hereby expressly reserves the right at any and all times, with or without notice to owners, to adopt new rules and regulations, or to amend, alter and/or repeal any rule, regulation and/or article, section, paragraph and/or sentence in the rules and regulations. Special cases may arise in which the literal enforcement of a rule may impose unnecessary hardship. The Trustees, therefore, reserve the right without notice, to make exceptions, suspensions or modifications in any of the rules and regulations, when in their judgment, the same appear advisable; and such temporary exceptions, suspensions or modifications shall in no way be construed as affecting the general application of these rules and regulations, or as creating any enforceable precedence.