

Rules and Regulations

Highland Cemetery ♦ Est. 1877



**By order of the Board of Trustees, all artifacts
found in the Cemetery are the property of the Cemetery.**

Experience has shown that adoption and enforcement of rules and regulations are necessary to secure peace and good order within the cemetery. Therefore, for the MUTUAL protection of every plot purchaser, these rules and regulations are adopted as the rules and regulations of the Highland Cemetery (hereinafter referred to as "Cemetery"), Hopewell, New Jersey, and all property owners and persons within the cemetery, and all plots sold, will be subject to said rules and regulations, amendments and alterations as will be adopted by the Board of Trustees from time to time, and the reference to these rules and regulations in the deed issued to these plots will have the same force and effect.

DEFINITIONS: the terms "lot", "plot", or "burial space" will be used interchangeably and will apply to one, or more than one, adjoining graves; to one or more than one, adjoining lot or plot; or to one or more than one crypt or vault.

The term "interment" means permanent disposition of the remains of a deceased person by burial, inurnment or entombment.

The term "memorial" includes a monument, marker, raised or flush, tablet, headstone, private mausoleum for family, or individual use, tombstone, coping, lot enclosure, surface burial vault or corner post.

The term "monument" includes a tombstone or memorial of granite or other approved stone which shall extend above the surface of the ground.

<p>The following Rules and Regulations are binding not only upon the plot purchaser but upon all of those who succeed to the interests of the plot purchaser, either by assignment, sale or inheritance.</p>
--

RULE 1: This cemetery reserves the right to refuse to allow the use of any of the cemetery facilities at any time to any person or persons whom the management may deem objectionable to the best interests of the cemetery. Only the plot owner, his relatives or invited guests will be permitted on the cemetery plot.

Buses or conveyances of cumbersome description will not be allowed to enter the cemetery without permission. The Cemetery reserves the right to exclude vehicles when the grounds are unusually crowded.

Peddling of flowers or plants or soliciting the same is prohibited within the confines of the cemetery.

No signs, notices or advertisements of any kind will be allowed in the cemetery unless placed by the Cemetery.

RULE 2: The Cemetery is open every day. Visitors must observe all rules. Visitors must keep to the drives and must not cross over, occupy or otherwise trespass upon any lot or grave not their own. Any person entering Cemetery grounds does so at their own risk and shall be solely responsible for any damages done to them or their property while on Cemetery grounds. The Highland Cemetery Association will not be held responsible for any injuries sustained at the Cemetery.

RULE 3: There will be no interments, disinterments, removals or interment services permitted on Sundays or any of the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas – and when any of the above mentioned holidays fall or are legally observed on a Friday or Monday. If needed, please call for exception.

RULE 4: Concrete burial vaults will be required for all full interments. This rule becomes necessary as sunken graves are dangerous as well as unsightly.

RULE 5: The remains of no more than one person may be interred in any one full grave space, except in the case of the burial of cremation remains. In the case of burial of cremation remains, the following shall be allowed: (1) a maximum of one full interment with two sets of human ashes, or (2) up to four sets of human ashes per full grave. Cremation plots are available in which 2 sets of human ashes may be interred.

RULE 6: The Cemetery distinctly disclaims all responsibility for loss or damage for causes beyond its reasonable control, and especially from damage caused by the elements and/or acts of God. The Cemetery also disclaims all responsibility from thieves, vandals, unavoidable accidents, whether the damage be direct or collateral.

RULE 7: Besides being subject to these rules and regulations, all interments, disinterments, inurnments and removals are made subject to the orders and laws of the properly constituted authorities of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer and/or State of New Jersey.

RULE 8: Plots will be sold as they are laid out and the grade, which is fixed at the time of preparation of the ground for sale, cannot be changed. No mounds on graves will be allowed. Diagrams of the dimensions of each lot sold are kept at the office. All plots are sold for cash. No interment shall be permitted or memorial erected in or on the property not fully paid for.

RULE 9: All interments, disinterments, inurnments and removals must be made at a time and in the manner and upon such charges as are fixed by the Cemetery, and subject to the rules of the New Jersey Department of Health.

RULE 10: No person may be interred in any plot without the written consent of all those owners of the plot who are RECORDED as such on the books of the cemetery.

RULE 11: All orders for special work on plots must be in writing to the Cemetery Manager.

RULE 12: When instructions regarding the location of an interment space in a plot cannot be obtained, or are indefinite, or when for any reason the interment space cannot be opened where specified, the Cemetery Manager or his representatives may, at his discretion, open it in such location in the plot as he deems best and proper, so as not to delay the funeral. The Cemetery shall not be liable in damages for any error made.

RULE 13: All funerals, while within the cemetery grounds, shall be under the direction of the Cemetery Manager or his representative. A burial permit issued by the Board of Health must be given to the Cemetery Manager or his representative before proceeding to the grave.

Once a casket containing a body is within the confines of the cemetery, no funeral director, or his assistant, employee of agent, shall be permitted to open the casket or to touch the body without the consent of the legal representatives of the deceased or, in the event of their being unavailable, without a court order.

RULE 14: All transfers of ownership in plots shall be subject to a \$100.00 fee made payable to the Highland Cemetery Association when the transfer is recorded. The Highland Cemetery Association will repurchase vacant lots. The price of said lots is not to exceed \$1000.00.

RULE 15: Each lot owner must notify the Cemetery of any change of address. In case of the death of a lot owner, the heirs must file with the Cemetery satisfactory proof of the new ownership. The Cemetery will not allow interments to be made until such proof is given.

RULE 16: The removal by the heirs of the bodies of a deceased lot owner and his immediate family for profits to themselves, is repugnant to the ordinary sense of decency and is absolutely forbidden.

RULE 17: Disinterments may be made with the consent of the Cemetery authorities, in accordance with the Board of Health rules, and the written consent of the owner or owners of the plot and the nearest surviving relatives of the deceased. Such disinterments must be made by the workmen in the employ of the cemetery and at the convenience of the cemetery. A permit from the Board of Health must be filed with the Cemetery before the disinterment is commenced. If the proper consent cannot be obtained or the cemetery refuses its consent, the consent of the proper court of Mercer County, New Jersey, shall be sufficient.

Rule 18: Cremated remains cannot be left at the cemetery without an interment order. If the arrangements for their interment are not made, the Cemetery shall in no way be held responsible for the loss or destruction of said remains.

RULE 19: All plots are sold with PERPETUAL CARE. All Perpetual Care proceeds are deposited in the Maintenance and Preservation Fund which is supervised by Stifel Nicolaus and periodically supervised by the NJ Cemetery Board. The principal sum is turned over by our Board of Trustees for careful investment. Stifel Nicolaus remits only the interest income to the Board, with which they maintain the plot, thus insuring the perpetuity of the cemetery as a whole.

Our Perpetual Care service includes the regular trimming of the grass, seeding or sodding, if necessary, filling sunken graves, and generally keeping the plot in an attractive and satisfactory condition, exclusive of damage to stonework through vandalism or natural causes.

RULE 20: Planting on any lot is prohibited without first obtaining the approval of the Cemetery Manager. The owner of a plot shall be permitted to plant shrubs and plants of a type approved by the Cemetery Manager. In choosing shrubbery careful attention should be given to species, possible future growth, etc. The Cemetery Manager will be glad to cooperate in this connection by giving suggestions or any information desired.

Detailed plans for all plantings, showing type and location, must be submitted in advance for approval by the Cemetery Manager.

Plants, shrubs and flowers will not be removed or destroyed without consent of the Cemetery Manager. No person will trim or prune any branches of any tree or shrub within the cemetery grounds, whether upon his/her lot or not. On request, through proper channels, the cemetery employees will do any pruning needed without charge.

The Cemetery Manager reserves to itself the entire control of any tree, shrub or vine growing within the Cemetery enclosure whether planted by a lot owner or otherwise, including the right of removal if any trees or shrubs situated in any lot shall by means of their roots or branches become detrimental to the adjacent lots or avenues, unsightly, or prove an inconvenience to passers-by. Trees will not be removed to make room for additional burial space.

The Cemetery Manager will use reasonable care in examining trees and removing those apparently in an unsound and dangerous condition or unsound and dangerous limbs and branches of trees, but expressly disclaims responsibility for damage either to person or property resulting from fallen trees and branches of trees.

RULE 21: If, through the act or neglect of an owner, a plot becomes overgrown or unsightly, the Cemetery Manager shall have the right and duty to enter thereon and restore it to proper condition. The cost will be charged to the owner and must be paid before any further interment may be made in that plot.

RULE 22: Unplanted vases, beds, boxes, urns and prepared graves are unsightly. The Cemetery Manager reserves the right to remove any such vases, beds, boxes or urns and shall not be responsible for any loss with regard to the same.

RULE 23: Monuments and markers are subject to approval as to size and design in accordance with the dimensions and location of the respective lots. Contracts for monuments and markers must not be executed until approved by the Cemetery Manager. Monuments or markers that are of unique/unusual size, color or style must be approved by the Highland Cemetery Association Board of Trustees.

RULE 24: Sills, markers and posts must be approved prior to construction.

RULE 25: Visitors to the cemetery are reminded that these grounds are sacredly devoted to the interment of the dead, and that strict observance of the decorum which should characterize the place will be required. All vehicles must park close to the edge of drives but not on the grass, and must not make any unnecessary noise – blowing horns, etc. Care should be taken in driving through the cemetery; there is a ten mile per hour speed limit within the enclosure, and FUNERALS in all cases MUST BE GIVEN PREFERENCE.

All dogs will be welcome on the cemetery grounds when accompanied by an owner/handler and either in a car or in control of on a leash. Dog owners/handlers must clean up after their dog(s).

The discharge of firearms is prohibited with the exception of military funerals or commemorative events with prior permission from the Cemetery Association.

Any person who defaces, mutilates or otherwise injures any monument or memorial, or injures or removes any shrubbery, trees, plants, flower bulbs or flowers in the ground will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

RULE 26: The Highland Cemetery Association believes that the American Flag should be used in the Cemetery only on the graves of those who have been in the military service of the United States, and only on Memorial Day and other special days of remembrance. All flags will be removed at once when they become soiled and unsightly.

RULE 27: Christmas grave blankets are no longer permitted. The removal and expense of disposing of them is very costly. In addition, blankets can do damage to the turf. All Christmas flowers, wreaths and sprays will be removed from the cemetery by February 15th of each year.

The placing of plastic flowers is not allowed. After a few days of bad weather, these flowers become faded and unsightly; on blustery days they blow about the grounds and the wire stems, etc., cause damage to our mowing equipment. If plastic flowers are set, the cemetery reserves the right to remove them and is in no way responsible for them.

RULE 28: General maintenance of the cemetery is included in the purchase of your plot. If one wants to voluntarily contribute additional monies to the cemetery, it can be done by donation or Will. We recommend a clause to be used if by Wills: "I bequeath to the Highland Cemetery Association, in trust, the sum of _____dollars, to apply to the income (in accordance with its rules and regulations) for cemetery beautification."

RULE 29: No commission will be allowed to any employee, trustee or individual, for their services, good will or influence in accordance with Code of Ethics of the American Cemetery Association. No employee is allowed to act as an agent or representative of any individual, firm or corporation, nor is allowed to receive any extra compensation for any personal service or attention, or for materials furnished or otherwise, either individually or for the Cemetery.

RULE 30: Uniform courtesy to all is required from our employees. Errors will occasionally be made and the Board of Trustees will rectify them. Any error, neglect, carelessness or incivility of employees must be promptly reported to the Board of Trustees and complaints will be investigated.

RULE 31: Employees are forbidden to loan tools and equipment or to sell or give away soil, sod, seed, fertilizer, etc. Sod, soil or leaf mold must not be taken from any place in the Cemetery.



The Rules and Regulations are made available to all existing and prospective grave or plot owners upon request. These Rules and Regulations are also provided to all deed owners at the time the signed deed is given to the grave or plot owner. By accepting the deed showing purchase of a plot(s) or grave(s), the deed holder agrees to accept, and be bound by, these Rules and Regulations and all future rules and regulations that may be adopted by the Association.

By order of the Board of Trustees
Highland Cemetery Association
Bylaws revised: May 1, 2023

All correspondence to:

Hopewell Cemetery Association P.O. Box 2 Hopewell, NJ 08525 609-947-2652