

JERSEY BOYS OF LEATHER BY-LAWS

Revised 2-17-12

I. CREATION, MISSION, AND PURPOSE

A. NAME

- i. The name of the organization shall be the Jersey boys of Leather.

B. EMBLEMS

- i. The logo of the Jersey boys of Leather is as follows:



C. OWNERSHIP

- i. The colors of the club are its graphical representation.
- ii. The ownership, copyright and trademark of the name, logo and colors of the Jersey boys of Leather are the sole property of the organization, *which includes* the club's logo on any article of clothing, flag, or banner, or *other object*.

D. MISSION

- i. To provide leatherboys a forum to educate, socialize, have fun and support each other in their community.

E. PURPOSE

- i. The Jersey boys of Leather is a group of self-identified leatherboys. The term leatherboy is defined as broadly as possible with the intent of being inclusive, and boy not being based on sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or appearance. Our purpose is to gather in brotherhood and boyhood, supporting our members and our community with respect and integrity.

II. MEMBERSHIP

A. NUMBER

- i. The number of brothers shall not exceed fifty (50).

B. AGE

- i. No member shall be under the age of twenty-one years (21) except for associate member who may be no younger than nineteen (19) years of age.

C. CATEGORIES

i. Applicant

- Any individual who identifies as a leatherboy may apply to the brotherhood by completing an application.
- The applicant must be sponsored by at least two (2) brothers, alumni, or life brothers.

ii. Associate

- An Associate member is any individual who is approved by a majority of brothers in good standing in attendance of any business meeting.
- An Associate member is, in general, a friend and support of the club and must attend one designated function of the club annually.
- The brotherhood may rescind associate membership at any time by a majority vote of brothers in good standing at any business meeting.
- Additionally, any associate member who fails to pay his financial obligations to the club for a period of six (6) months without redress from the Executive Board is automatically removed from the membership rolls with no further action from the club.
- Associate members who were previously brothers may petition the brotherhood for reinstatement without prejudices or probationary period pending vote by the Executive Board.

iii. Pledge

- Applications may be accepted into pledge status by the approval of a majority of brothers in good standing in any business meeting. Pledges must:
 - a. Subscribe to the missions and purpose of the club.
 - b. The pledge period shall be no less than 4 months. The brotherhood may rescind pledge membership at any time by majority vote of brothers in good standing in attendance of any meeting.
 - c. Attend and participate in any event, meeting, or process deemed necessary by the Executive Board.
 - d. Pledges must attend three out of four business meetings during the four month pledge period.
 - e. Completion of an approved pledge project is required.
 - f. Satisfy any further requirement(s) imposed by the Club's Membership Procedures.
 - g. Pledges may petition the Membership Committee to become a brother at the successful completion of their probationary period.
 - h.. Upon petition, the President may extend an invitation to become a brother to the pledge with the approval of all brothers in good standing.
 - i. The Executive Board reserves the right to make exceptions to the above requirements on a case-by-case basis.

iv. Brother

- Rights and Responsibilities:
 - a. To display and respect club colors.
 - b. To attend a majority of designated functions.
 - c. To embody the spirit of the club at community events.
 - d. To recruit and select members.
 - e. To serve as and elect club officers.
 - f. To chair and/or serve on committees.
 - g. To attend meetings and events closed to non-brothers.
 - h. To attend all business meetings called by the President.
 - i. To vote on club business.
 - j. To pay dues.

- k. To abide by the bylaws of the organization.
 - l. Brothers must remain in good standing in order to enjoy these rights.
- Revocation
 - a. The brotherhood may revoke the membership of any brother for just cause. To impeach a brother, any other brother may petition the Executive Board thru the Sergeant-At-Arms outlining reasons for expulsion. The president will notify the brother of the petition and shall call a hearing of the Executive Board within thirty (30) days and will provide at least fourteen (14) days notice of the hearing.
 - b. The brother in question will have the opportunity during the Executive Board hearing to present any reason why membership should not be revoked.
 - c. The Executive Board will then decide by majority vote if impeachment is necessary.
 - d. If the Executive Board deems impeachment necessary, the President shall call a special meeting of all Brothers in good standing. At said meeting the vote of expulsion shall be brought before the club.
 - e. A minimum two-thirds vote is needed at said meeting to expel the Brother in question.
 - f. Any brother who fails to pay his dues within two (2) months shall be informed by mail that they are in arrears. If said brother has no exemption from the Executive Board, they shall be removed from the membership rolls and informed by the President of the outcome.
- v. Alumni
 - Brothers who maintain membership for no less than five (5) years may elect to become alumni members. Alumni retain all rights and responsibilities, excepting the right to serve as and to elect officers and the right to vote on club business. Alumni members are expected to remain active, and attend no less than one (1) designated club function annually.
 - Alumni membership may be revoked by the same procedure outlined for brothers in Article II.C.iv.Revocation.
- vi. Life Brother
 - Brothers who have served no less than ten (10) years as a brother and served no fewer than two (2) years as an officer, may be selected by their peers for Life Brotherhood.
 - Life Brotherhood recognizes members whose longevity, participation, and brotherhood have been instrumental in the history of the club.
 - Any brother may sponsor a brother for said honor and present said sponsorship at the annual meeting.
 - Life Brothers may only be selected at the annual meeting.
 - Life Brotherhood must be approved by two-thirds majority of all members in good standing.
 - Life Brothers continue to enjoy all the rights and responsibilities of membership but are exempt from paying dues.
 - Life membership may be revoked by the same procedure outlined for brothers in II.C.iv.Revocation.
- vii. Honorary Member
 - The brotherhood may select individuals from the community who have supported the club, its ideals, mission, and purpose, to receive honorary membership.
 - The club may extend no more than one (1) Honorary Membership per year.
 - Honorary members are nominated by the Executive Board on the advice of any member.
 - Honorary Members must be selected by a four-fifths majority of brothers in good standing.
 - Privileges:
 - a. To display and respect club colors.
 - b. To recruit brothers.
 - c. To serve on committees.
 - d. To attend meetings and events closed to non-members.
 - e. Exemption from paying dues.
 - Honorary membership may be revoked by the same procedure as in Article II.C.iv.Revocation.

viii. Brothers-In-Spirit

- Must be in good standing, regardless of their class of membership at their time of death.
- Names shall be carried on the roster by the Scribe and shall be honored by the members of the Jersey boys of Leather.

ix. Charter Founding Brothers

- Maintain the same duties and privileges outline in section II.C.vi.
- May attend all business meetings called by the president
- Charter membership is bestowed on the following:
 - a. Mark "Spanky" Bialous
 - b. Robert Sherer "Marshall Roberts"
 - c. Anthony Campana
 - d. Brian Carr
 - e. Thomas Harrison
 - f. Robert Vitale

D. GOOD STANDING

- i. Brother has paid all dues and monies owed the club within sixty (60) days of notification.
- ii. Brother attends club functions.
- iii. Brother may not miss more than two (2) consecutive business meetings without receiving an exception from the Executive Board.

E. NON-DISCRIMINATION

- i. The Jersey boys of Leather does not discriminate in the selection of members and attendance at functions based upon race, creed, age, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity, unless otherwise noted elsewhere in these by-laws or where restricted by governing law.

III. ORGANIZATION

A. MEETINGS

- i. Quorum shall be established as a majority of the brothers in good standing. If no quorum has been met, the President may call the meeting to order but no votes may occur.
- ii. Jersey boys of Leather will meet for the purpose of doing business at least once per two-month period. The President shall notify the membership no less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.
- iii. The President may also call additional meetings (both physical and via electronic means) for the purpose of conducting emergency business.
- iv. Committee meetings may occur on a regular and/or emergency basis, as needed to accomplish the goals of the committee.
- v. Individual members may hold a written or electronically transmitted voting proxy for another member unable to be in physical attendance at a meeting, which is valid only for the duration of said meeting, to allow quorum to be met in situations where it might otherwise be in jeopardy due to a member's absence.

B. OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE BOARD

- i. Must be brothers for at least one (1) year and in good standing.
 - ii. May not hold more than one (1) elected office at a time.
- Only exception is by majority vote of the current Executive Board.

iii. No member shall serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms.

iv. Election Procedure

- The period of nominations shall be opened at the February meeting and remain open throughout the next month. If made after the meeting, nominations may be accepted via electronic or other documentable means.
- Members may be nominated for more than one (1) office.
- Members may nominate themselves.
- Each nomination requires a second.
- All officers shall be elected annually (beginning in 2011).
- Upon calling the March meeting to order the President shall call to a close the nomination period and commence the election.
- Voting is by secret ballot. Any member who cannot attend the meeting has the option of designating a proxy in writing to the Scribe in advance of the meeting.
- The Scribe shall be responsible for the tallying of all votes for officers.
- The brother with a majority of votes shall take office.
- The election shall start with the office of President, followed by Vice President, Scribe, Treasurer, and Sergeant-At-Arms.
 - a. If no candidate receives a majority in the first round of voting the top two (2) candidates will face each other in a second round.
 - b. In the case of a three (3) way tie the top three will compete in a second round. If after two rounds no candidate is selected the current Executive Board shall convene in private and select the new officer.
 - c. In the case of a tie the President-Elect shall choose from the tied candidates.
- Each office shall be tallied individually so that a person elected to one office may be removed from running for subsequent offices.
- Elected officers will take the oath of office and assume their positions at the beginning of the April meeting. This allows sufficient time for the current administration to transfer any assets or other relevant information to the incoming officers.

vi. The Executive Board General Duties

- President
 - a. Call regular and special meetings of member and of the Executive Board.
 - b. Shall chair said meetings according to the by-laws.
 - c. Will be responsible for the general agenda of all meetings.
 - d. The President shall be the spokesperson for the club.
 - e. The President shall review all finances with the treasurer on a quarterly basis.
 - f. At the first meeting of the fiscal year the outgoing President shall present to the brothers a report of the club's standing.
 - g. The President, with the consent of the Executive Board, shall make any contracts and agreements on behalf of the club.
- Vice President
 - a. Shall serve in the absence or incapacity of the President and exercise the duties of President as outlined in these by-laws.
 - b. Shall be the chairperson for the Membership Committee.
 - c. Shall serve as the single point of contact for prospective brothers and pledges.
 - d. Shall receive all applications for membership on behalf of the club.
 - e. As directed by the Executive Board shall develop and organize educational events for prospective brothers and pledges.
 - f. Shall serve as Ombudsman for disputes among members, seeking first to arbitrate a resolution.

- Sergeant-At-Arms
 - a. Shall maintain rule and order throughout all meetings via Roberts Rules of Conduct.
 - b. Shall manage the procedures of petition for membership revocation, except in such case where the Sergeant-At-Arms is the subject of said petition.
 - c. Should the office of Sergeant-At-Arms be left vacant by the club, the Executive Board may choose to appoint a brother in good standing to assume said duties or leave the position vacant until such time the club determines a need for it to be filled.

- Treasurer
 - a. Maintain and develop the budget.
 - c. Shall maintain all financial records, and prepare reports as required by the Executive Board.
 - d. At the first meeting of the new fiscal year the Treasurer shall present an accounting of the prior year's finances to the brothers.
 - e. Be responsible for assessing and collecting dues and other financial obligations authorized by the Executive Board and general membership.

 - f. Shall provide a monthly report to the Sergeant-At-Arms of brothers whose balances are more than thirty (30) days past due.
 - g. May not be intimately involved with another member who has the power to sign club checks.
 - h. Should the office of Treasurer be left vacant the Executive Board shall appoint one of their brothers in good standing to assume said duties .

- Scribe
 - a. Shall keep minutes of all club business meetings and of Executive Board meetings
 - b. Minutes and agendas of meetings shall be distributed within thirty (30) days of the close of the meeting.
 - c. Shall maintain a current roster and record attendance at club functions.
 - d. Scribe shall send and receive all correspondence on behalf of the club.
 - e. Should the office of Scribe be left vacant the Executive Board shall appoint a brother in good standing to assume said duties.

- Road Captain
 - a. Shall be responsible for maintaining current information to be made available to the club monthly in report format regarding runs and other events being held by other leather clubs and organizations.
 - b. The Road Captain shall also maintain (either in physical form or electronically) a compilation of event information, to facilitate member attendance at other events.
 - c. The Road Captain is responsible for planning travel and/or accommodation arrangements as needed for the club should it decide to travel to an event as a group en-masse and will serve as the point of contact for members regarding the logistics of such events.
 - d. Should the office of Road Captain be left vacant by the club, the Executive Board may choose to appoint a brother in good standing to assume said duties or leave the position vacant until such time the club determines a need for it to be filled.
 - e. Should act as a liaison for other organizations when practical.

C. COMMITTEES

- i. The Executive Board may designate special and standing committees, and on occasion delegate its powers to said committees.
- ii. Brothers may petition the general membership to form committees.
- iii. Approved committees are empowered to select a chairperson.
- iv. Chairpersons of all committees report to the Executive Board.

D. BUDGET AND FISCAL YEAR

- i. The fiscal year shall commence on April 1 and terminate on March 31 of the following year.
- ii. The Treasurer shall submit an annual budget to the brotherhood for their approval prior to the start of the fiscal year.
- iii. Any brother who holds responsibility over a portion of the budget, may, at his discretion, spend the appropriation in good faith, with no further approval from the club or Executive Board.

IV. RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS

A. RATIFICATION

- i. Two thirds majority of all brothers in attendance with active membership and in good standing is required to ratify all bills presented to the caucus.
- ii. The new bills shall supersede all previously written by-laws of this organization
- iii. The rest of the organization shall be informed within 90 days that a new bill or amendment is ratified.
- iv. No new Bill or Amendment shall displace any current Officers from their duties or tenures.

B. AMENDMENTS

- i. All brothers in good standing may propose amendments to these by-laws at any general membership meeting.
 - ii. The Executive Board will review all proposals received within thirty (30) days of receipt.
- All proposed amendments must receive two-thirds of the Executive Boards votes for approval before being passed onto the floor of the General Membership.
 - To be passed all Bills and Amendments must receive two-thirds majority vote of the quorum in attendance.

V. DISSOLUTION

A. AFTER DISSOLUTION

- i. Upon dissolution of the Jersey boys of Leather, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the organization, transfer all remaining funds to a deserving organization whose mission and purpose is similar to that of the club.