

Bylaws of the National Leather Association – Dallas

PREAMBLE

The National Leather Association – Dallas (hereinafter referred to as “NLA-Dallas”) is a chartered chapter of the National Leather Association – International (hereinafter referred to as “NLA-International”). NLA-Dallas is a nonprofit, educational, social, political and charitable organization.

ARTICLE I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- A. To establish and maintain a communication, information, education, and support network for Members of the Leather/BDSM/Fetish community in North Texas.
- B. To promote, with power and pride, the right of all adults to engage in safe, sane and consensual sexual expression, including support for the decriminalization of such acts between consenting adults.
- C. To facilitate political activism, visibility, and education aimed at the eradication of stereotypical beliefs, misconceptions, and media misrepresentations about the Leather/BDSM/Fetish community.
- D. To provide, through our publications, educational materials, and conferences, a forum for the sharing of knowledge, viewpoints, and practices of a diverse network of people.
- E. To educate and strengthen individuals, organizations, publications and businesses within our community against threats to our constitutionally mandated liberties.
- F. To facilitate fund raising for projects, organizations, defense funds, and charities which directly service the Leather/BDSM/Fetish community.
- G. To create and preserve a record of the Leather history, traditions and culture of NLA-Dallas.

ARTICLE II. NLA-DALLAS MEMBERSHIP

- A. Membership is open to any person over the age of eighteen (18) who supports the Statement of Purpose. Membership in NLA-International is optional and not a pre-requisite for membership in NLA-Dallas.
- B. NLA-Dallas will recognize the membership of sister NLA-International chapters for the purposes of entry to events and educational programs at the NLA-Dallas Member entry fee rate.

- C. Members shall pay annual dues at the rate set by the Executive Committee. If dues remain unpaid at the expiration of the grace period defined in the Policies and Procedures, membership and all rights and privileges of membership in NLA-Dallas are forfeit. All rights and privileges of membership shall remain in full effect during the grace period.
- D. The records pertaining to membership will be maintained according to the Policies and Procedures.
- E. Rights and privileges of Membership are defined in the Policies and Procedures.
- F. Members of NLA-Dallas may not present themselves as spokespersons for NLA-Dallas unless the Executive Committee, these Bylaws, or a vote of the Membership specifically authorizes them to do so.
- G. Members have the right to be publically known within NLA-Dallas as they choose, either by their legal name or a scene name of their choice and have their Membership Cards issued in that manner. Any changes to name preference must be submitted in writing to the Membership Director. Membership in NLA-Dallas is confidential and a Member's legal name, mailing address, telephone number, or information regarding financial transactions will not be released, other than to the Co-Chairs, the Treasurer, the Membership Director or the NLA-International Membership Chair without written authorization from the Member in question, other than the report sent to the NLA-International Membership Chair each quarter for reconciliation with the NLA-International Membership list. Members can use the NLA-Dallas PO Box if not comfortable providing their home address. The Communications Director will be provided Members' preferred names and email addresses on file with NLA-Dallas by the Membership Director. Any other Member of the Executive Committee may request specific information from the Membership records to conduct NLA-Dallas business. Approval of this request requires a vote of the Executive Committee.
 - a. Statistical or demographic information drawn from Membership records that does not specifically or personally identify a Member does not fall under these privacy protections.
- H. Members may resign membership at any time by submitting a written notice of resignation to the Membership Director or Co-Chairs. No proration of dues shall be given upon resignation.
- I. Membership may be revoked for any action deemed inconsistent with the purpose of NLA-Dallas according to the process described in the Policies and Procedures.

ARTICLE III. CONDUCTING CHAPTER BUSINESS

- A. The fiscal year shall begin on the first (1st) day of August and end on the thirty-first (31st) day of July.
- B. No audio recording, video recording, photography or any form of analog, digital or electronic reproduction will be permitted during any NLA-Dallas meeting without the unanimous express consent of all in attendance.
- C. Meetings:
 - a. The Co-Chairs will determine the agendas of all meetings. In absence of both Co-Chairs, the Secretary and Treasurer will determine the meeting agenda.

- b. Minutes of all meetings will be made available to the Membership by the Secretary in the method prescribed by the Policies and Procedures.
- c. Unless specified otherwise, meetings will be conducted according to these Bylaws, the Policies and Procedures, Robert's Rules of Order (current revised edition) and established tradition.
- d. At any meeting, guests may be asked to leave the room during the discussion and/or consideration of sensitive issues. A request that an issue be declared sensitive does not require a second. The sensitive issue will be disposed of before any other business is conducted. The Minutes will only include the general topic of discussion of a sensitive issue as well as the outcome of any resulting vote.

D. General Meetings:

- a. A General Meeting, open to anyone over the age of eighteen (18), will be conducted monthly at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee.
- b. Members will be notified of the time and place of all General Meetings at least one (1) week in advance.
- c. Quorum shall consist of twenty percent (20%) of the Membership plus two (2) Executive Committee Members. Quorum is required for:
 - 1. Amendment(s) to or revision(s) of these Bylaws;
 - 2. Amendment(s) to or revision(s) of the Policies and Procedures;
 - 3. Election of Officers; and
 - 4. Voting on the expenditure of NLA-Dallas funds, as defined in the Policy and Procedures.
- d. Special Called General Meetings:
 - 1. May be called by any two (2) Members of the Executive Committee or by written petition of twenty percent (20%) of the Membership.
 - 2. Members will be notified of the time and place of Special Called General Meetings at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance via the NLA-Dallas website and/or sent via email.
 - 3. When a Special Called General Meeting is called by Member petition, the petition must be available for inspection at that meeting.

E. Executive Committee Meetings:

- a. Quorum shall consist of two-thirds (2/3) the sum of the currently filled Executive Committee Officers, Directors and Members at Large. Quorum is required for the Executive Committee to conduct any business.
- b. Special Called Executive Committee Meetings:
 - 1. Special Called Executive Committee Meetings may be called by any two (2) Members of the Executive Committee.
 - 2. Members of the Executive Committee will be notified of the time and place of Special Called Executive Committee Meetings at least forty-eight (48) hours via email.

- F. Unless specified in these Bylaws or the Policies and Procedures, approval of any motion requires a majority of the voting Members present. Abstentions will be noted.

ARTICLE IV. ADMINISTRATION OF NLA-DALLAS

- A. NLA-Dallas shall be governed by these Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures under the leadership of the Executive Committee

- B. The Executive Committee shall consist of:
 - a. The Officers:
 - 1. Two (2) Co-Chairs
 - 2. Secretary
 - 3. Treasurer
 - b. The Directors:
 - 1. Communications
 - 2. Education
 - 3. Membership
 - 4. Social Activities
 - c. The Member(s) at Large
 - d. The Representatives:
 - 1. Marketing
 - 2. Domestic Violence Project
 - 3. NLA–International
 - 4. Beyond Vanilla Co-Director(s)
 - 5. Representative(s) that maintain relationships with other organization of which NLA-Dallas is a member.
 - e. Sergeant at Arms – As needed or when called to serve by the Executive Committee.

- C. All Members of the Executive Committee should endeavor to attend all Executive Committee Meetings and General Meetings. The individual roles, responsibilities and rights of the Members of the Executive Committee are defined in the Policies and Procedures.

- D. The Executive Committee, except for the Representatives and the Sergeant at Arms, will be elected as follows:
 - a. The Co-Chairs will serve staggered terms, observing gender parity when possible.

 - b. The female Co-Chair, Secretary, Social Activities Director, Communications Director, and Membership Director will be elected in odd numbered years.

 - c. The male Co-Chair, Treasurer, and Education Director will be elected in even numbered years.

 - d. The Officers and Directors are elected to serve a two (2) year term and are limited to three (3) full consecutive terms per position.

 - e. The Member(s) at Large are elected to serve a one (1) year term and are limited to four (4) full consecutive terms in this position.

- f. To qualify as a nominee seeking office on the Executive Committee as an Officer or Director, one must have been a Member of NLA-Dallas for at least thirteen (13) months prior to election. Nominees must also have attended at least two (2) NLA-Dallas meetings or events (not including bar nights or Beyond Vanilla) per quarter in the thirteen (13) continuous months prior to election.
- g. The Sergeant at Arms and the Representative positions on the Executive Committee are appointed by the elected Members of the Executive Committee.

1.Appointed Members of the Executive Committee do not have the right to vote, however, in the instance an appointed Member is also an elected Member, the right to vote is retained.

E. Annual Elections.

- a. Annual elections will be held at the General Meeting in July.
- b. The newly elected Members of the Executive Committee will assume office at the Annual Change-over Meeting following the annual elections.
- c. Members at Large are elected by plurality voting while the elections for all other positions are determined by a majority vote.
- d. Nominations will be open no later than the General Meeting in June.

F. Special Elections.

- a. Should an office become vacant before the expiration of its term where there are at least three (3) months of the term remaining, nominations to fill that position will be opened at the next General Meeting. If the office is vacated during a General Meeting, nominations will be opened during the meeting in progress and the election will occur at the next General Meeting.
- b. If less than three (3) months of the term remain, the Executive Committee may elect to leave the position vacant or appoint to fill the position if needed.
- c. The newly elected Member of the Executive Committee will assume office immediately. The newly elected Member will receive a transfer of knowledge from the person who previously held this position, when possible or the Co-Chairs.
- d. All special elections are determined by majority vote including those for Member at Large.

- G. An Executive Committee Member may resign by submitting a written resignation to the Executive Committee as described in the Policies and Procedures. Self-nomination or acceptance of nomination by an elected Member of the Executive Committee for another elected position on the Executive Committee shall constitute an immediate de facto resignation from the current elected position.

- H. Any elected Member of the Executive Committee may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Membership in attendance at a General Meeting for the reasons defined in the Policies and Procedures and by the process described in the Policies and Procedures.
- I. For as long as membership in NLA-International is an NLA-International requirement for chapter Executive Committee Members, each Executive Committee Member will have the option to fund their own NLA-International membership, or pending available and uncommitted funds, to have their NLA-International membership funded annually by NLA-Dallas.

ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DUTIES

- A. The Executive Committee is responsible for the management, activities, and goals of the chapter as approved by the Membership.
- B. The Executive Committee will meet at least monthly except in December.
- C. Meetings of the Executive Committee are open to the Membership as well as invited guests having relevant business with the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may limit the participation of visitors.
- D. The Executive Committee may approve, by majority vote, expenditures of up to two hundred dollars (\$200.00) without a vote of the Membership, provided it does not exceed fifty percent (50%) of available funds. Expenditures above this limit must be presented at a General Meeting for approval.
- E. All motions approved by the Executive Committee must be recorded in the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes and their availability for review reported at the next General Meeting.

ARTICLE VI. COMMITTEES

- A. The Executive Committee may establish or dissolve any and all standing or ad-hoc committees as deemed appropriate.
- B. The Executive Committee, and any standing or ad hoc committee, may opt to conduct business via email, private chat rooms, telephone conferencing, video-conferencing or other electronic or virtual means as long as the method chosen is agreed upon unanimously and available at no additional expense to any Member of said committee.
- C. Committees are defined further in the Policies and Procedures, as needed.

ARTICLE VII. AMENDMENT PROCEDURES

- A. Any Member may bring proposed amendment(s) to and/or revision(s) of these Bylaws or the Policies and Procedures directly before the Membership for consideration or submit them to one of the Co-Chairs to be included in the agenda of the next General Meeting no fewer than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the starting time of meeting in question. The proposed changes must be presented at two (2) consecutive General Meetings for discussion prior to ratification voting.
- B. Proposed rules changes will be published to the Membership a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to consideration by the Membership and included in full as part of the Minutes of the General Meetings at which they are presented.
- C. Amendment(s) to and/or revision(s) of these Bylaws requires the approval of three-fourths (3/4) of the Membership present at a General Meeting. Amendment(s) to and/or revision(s) of the Policies and Procedures require the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the Membership present at a General Meeting.
- D. Prior to the ratification vote, any adopted amendment(s) to a proposed rules change(s) requires that the amended proposed rules change(s) be re-published to the Membership and presented at the next General Meeting.

ARTICLE VIII. DISSOLUTION PROCEDURES

- A. Dissolution of NLA-Dallas shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Membership.
- B. Payment or provision of payment of all liabilities of NLA-Dallas shall be made prior to any dissolution of NLA-Dallas.
- C. Disposal of all assets will be made in such a manner as to comply with any and all State and Federal statutes and regulations.
- D. Where possible, transfer of any assets shall be made to other nonprofit organizations whose purpose is sympathetic to the NLA-Dallas Statement of Purpose.