

BY-LAWS OF THE FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY

ARTICLE I

SECTION 1: TITLE - The name of this organization shall be the:

FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY

SECTION 2: PURPOSE

A. MEMBERSHIP

This Society is for people interested in the leather, uniform, Levi, and BDSM lifestyle and the celebration of special interests. This Society of persons is open to individuals who have been designated as people of interest, regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or national origin, and is dedicated to educating the community and promoting unity in social, charitable and political ways. Membership is contingent on satisfactorily fulfilling the process of pledgship.

SECTION 3: VISION

In order to secure unity, integrity, honor, respect, trust and tradition within the community of North Florida and Florida At-Large, the members of the FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY, promise to uphold every individual as equals and his/her lifestyle as long as they adhere to the By-Laws of The FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY. Members will strive to reach out to everyone, no matter what sexual orientation or race. Neither will they discriminate due to handicap or gender identity. They vow to create and maintain a solid unified front that encourages growth, understanding and cooperation. They also will promote and create an educational program for teaching and instructing the Leather/BDSM lifestyle as mentors and examples of correct and proper etiquette and protocol.

SECTION 4: EMBLEM

The official emblem of the FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY shall be a triangle of a stylized bird with wings spread in dark blue color with the letters "FCLS" in red in a step pattern down the center section of the bird with a red heart at the bottom of the letter pattern.

SECTION 4: BY-LAWS

These by-laws shall become effective October 1, 2006 and shall supersede all previous by-laws. Amendments to these by-laws may take place at the annual meeting within the correct manner and procedure. The most current issue of "Robert's Rules of Order" shall supersede anything not covered in these by-laws. Violation of these by-laws will result in disciplinary action.

SECTION 6: FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year for the FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY shall be from July 1 to June 30 of any calendar year.

ARTICLE 2

SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIP: Membership shall include active, associate, alumni and honorary members.

A. ACTIVE MEMBERS

1. Active members must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and must reside within the First Coast region including surrounding counties within the state of Florida and Georgia and receive 100% approval of the Executive Board at the time of application.
2. There will be no limit on the number of active members.
3. Each active member shall have full voting privileges.
4. Active members are required to attend all general meetings. If a member is unable to attend a meeting, he/she shall notify one of the Executive Board members prior to the next board meeting. The Executive Board will decide, at its sole discretion, whether there is just cause to excuse the absence.
5. Active members with three (3) unexcused absences or two (2) months delinquent dues shall be notified in writing by the Secretary to appear at a meeting of the Executive Board to show cause why they should not have their membership terminated and colors removed. The decision of the Executive Board is final and is not subject to appeal.

B. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1. Associate members must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age and must receive 100% approval of the Executive Board. Associate membership shall be comprised of two types of members:
 - a. A person who is an active member in good standing of another uniform, leather, Levi or motorcycle club may be voted for associate membership after his/her credentials have been checked and verified by a member of the Executive Board.
 - b. A person who is not a member of another uniform, leather, Levi or motorcycle club may be voted on for associate membership after his/her credentials have been checked and verified by a member of the Executive Board.
2. There will be no limit on the number of associate members.

3. Associate members must receive a three-fourths affirmative vote by the active members present at the meeting.
4. Associate members shall not have voting privileges but may discuss issues.
5. Associate members who are two (2) months delinquent in their dues shall be notified in writing by the Secretary to appear at a meeting of the Executive Board to show cause why they should not have their associate membership terminated and colors removed. The decision of the Executive Board is final and is not subject to appeal.

C. ALUMNI MEMBERS

1. Alumni members are members, in good standing, who move away from the Duval county area yet wish to remain a part of FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY.
2. Alumni members shall state to the club in writing, their desire to become an alumni member of FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY.
3. There will be no limit on the number of alumni members. Founding members are eligible for Alumni status.
4. Alumni members must receive a three-fourths affirmative vote by the active members present at the meeting.
5. Alumni members shall not have voting privileges but may discuss issues.
6. Alumni members who are two (2) months delinquent in their dues shall be notified in writing by the Secretary to appear at a meeting of the Executive Board to show cause why they should not have their alumni membership terminated and colors removed. The decision of the Executive Board is final and is not subject to appeal.
7. Alumni members may retain their club colors and are encouraged to wear them at all FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY meetings, functions, bar nights, runs and other activities.

D. HONORARY MEMBERS

1. Those non-members who in the opinion of FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY have made major contributions to and have supported the purpose of FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY shall be considered for honorary membership.
2. Honorary members must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
3. There will be no limit to the number of honorary members.
4. Honorary members must receive a three-fourths affirmative vote by the active members present at the meeting.

5. Honorary members shall not have voting privileges but may discuss issues.
6. There shall be no dues for honorary members.

SECTION 2: CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE

A. CLUB COLORS

1. Club Colors denote membership into the FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY. They also announce the member is involved in the Leather/BDSM lifestyle. Therefore, no active, associate, alumni, or honorary member of the FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY shall allow anyone else to wear his/her club colors.
2. If membership is revoked for any reason, club colors shall be returned to any member of the Executive Board. Executive Board members shall have the right to reimburse monies paid for club colors due to revoked membership.
3. Any fund or monies as dues paid shall not be reimbursed for revoked membership.

B. FAVORABLE CONDUCT

Each active, associate alumni and honorary member and pledge must present themselves as public representative of FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY and as such must conduct him/herself with dignity and responsibility to reflect favorably on fellow members and FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY in general.

C. GROSS MISCONDUCT

Gross misconduct or heinous behavior in public while wearing club colors or at FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY functions will not be tolerated. This includes, but not limited to: theft, willful destruction of property, selling or excessive use of alcohol and/or drugs.

D. DISCIPLINE/DISPUTE RESOLUTION

We acknowledge that our actions and reputations are one with FCLS. As members, we agree to the reality that all members represent FCLS and all actions, words, and deeds reflect the standards of Club. Being a Leather Club, we hold to a high standard of behavior. We believe in personal responsibility for ones actions, be they words or deeds. Personal responsibility is a core value that cannot be compromised in any way.

As such, we must guard against any incident or event with which a member is associated that might adversely impact the reputation of FCLS. If and when such a situation shall arise, the member shall IMMEDIATELY inform the President of FCLS, (if unavailable any available Elder of FCLS). The member shall report all circumstances leading up to the situation, what took place, and what actions they have taken to remedy the situation to date. The member must be aware that what will be acceptable as a satisfactory solution is not their decision but is up to the membership of FCLS via the club President, with due advise from the Elders. Corrective action must be timely to prevent damage to FCLS.

We will NEVER publicly behave in a disrespectful manner with one another and will keep all disputes private (in house). Members will always be polite and respectful to non-members. We will use proper channels to resolve differences. If a member has a dispute with another member on a club related (non personal) item, they will at the first opportunity, (decorum allowing), bring the item to the Presidents attention. If the dispute involves the President, the member will, bring the item, (decorum allowing), to any other FCLS Officer or Elder.

Once an occurrence, event, or dispute is brought to the attention to the President, or Elder it must be addressed at the next FCLS meeting, (regular or special). If the President or Elder fails to have this item placed on the scheduled agenda, it shall, be discussed during the Parking Lot portion. Any club member having knowledge of this occurrence, event, or dispute, will bring this to the membership's attention. The reasons for the failure of the President, and or Elder, to properly address this issue shall be explained to the membership within 30 days from the reporting of the incident.

What is adequate or acceptable resolution shall be determined by the President, (or Elder in matters involving the President), with due advice from the Elders, with approval of a quorum of FCLS members. A finite time frame shall be always given to perform the approved resolution. As members of FCLS we agree to accept the judgment/resolution as final and irrevocable. Refusal to do such will be considered a de facto, warranting an immediate and permanent resignation from the FCLS.

The above is not all-inclusive, WE ARE A LEATHER CLUB, and as such are inherently tasked to uphold the traditional accepted universal codes of behavior and ethics. We believe in personal responsibility for ones actions, be they words or deeds. This is a core value that cannot be sidestepped, or avoided in any way.

Finally, the Executive Board will review such behavior. Disciplinary action may include, at a minimum a reprimand and, at maximum termination of membership and revocation of club colors based on a decision by three-fourths of the voting members present.

SECTION 3. PUBLICATIONS

- A. The FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY shall maintain two separate publications entitled "By-Laws" and "Policy and Procedures".
- B. The FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY minutes and financial reports are not for general distribution except to individual club members.

SECTION 4: PLEDGESHIP

- A. PURPOSE OF PLEDGESHIP

Pledge ship is to allow an applicant for membership the opportunity to show his/her interest and support of FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY's purposes and the ability to work with members to accomplish its goals.

B. PROCESS OF PLEDGESHIP

The process of pledge ship will include:

1. Becoming acquainted with the Executive Board and the other members of FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY who will explain its purposes, interests and functions.
2. Being allowed to attend minimum of three (3) regular meetings with a sponsor.
3. Being asked to declare his/her interest and intent toward FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY
4. Completing an application form with a sponsor's signature and submitting it to the Pledge Master.
5. Completing a minimum three (3) month probationary pledgeship, during which time the pledge will be expected to study and learn the by-laws, attend a minimum of three (3) regular meetings and all other club functions.
6. Being assigned a project by the Pledge Master which the pledge will complete for the club. This must be completed before the pledge will be considered for membership. This project is tailored to show the club, the pledge's willingness to work in and on future projects.
7. Being voted on at a monthly meeting following the three (3) month probationary period and after completion of project. A pledge must receive three-fourths approval of the active members present to be accepted as an active member.

SECTION 5: RESIGNATIONS

A. METHOD OF RESIGNING

Any active, associate or honorary member of FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY may resign from membership at any time by submitting a letter of resignation to the Executive Board along with the club colors.

- B. ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESIGNATIONS - All resignations will be announced at the next regular meeting.

ARTICLE 3

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall consist of the following: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Master at Arms/Pledge Master.

A. PRESIDENT

1. The President shall plan and preside at all board and regular meetings.
2. The President shall appoint all committees.
3. The President shall, prior to the annual meeting, appoint a nominating committee.

B. VICE-PRESIDENT

1. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in his/her absence.
2. The Vice-President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

C. SECRETARY

1. The Secretary shall record, transcribe and distribute copies of the minutes of all regular meetings. The Secretary shall keep a file of the approved minutes of all meetings. The Secretary shall keep a record of attendance at all meetings.
2. The Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence and keeping a file of the same.
3. The Secretary shall be responsible for all distributions of records to members as directed by the Executive Board.
4. The Secretary shall keep an up to date copy of all by-laws with amendments and changes and shall provide copies of the by-laws to all members.

D. TREASURER

1. The Treasurer shall be in charge of and record all financial matters. Detailed records must be kept of all incomes and all expenses.
2. The Treasurer shall notify all active and associate members of dues owed and collect them in a timely manner.
3. The Treasurer shall provide a detailed financial report at each monthly meeting.
4. The Treasurer shall publish a yearly written financial report to be presented to the Executive Board, the general membership and such governmental agencies as required by law.
5. The Treasurer shall file all tax returns as may be required by law.

6. The Executive Board, except the Treasurer, shall direct audits of all financial records kept by the Treasurer, including frequency of audits, and appointing a person(s) to conduct the audits.

G. MASTER AT ARMS

1. The Master at Arms shall be responsible for all physical property of FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY. The Master at Arms shall maintain an inventory of all property, which shall be audited by the Executive Board.
2. The Master at Arms shall be responsible for transporting the required properties to and from all functions.
3. The Master at Arms shall maintain order at all meetings and functions.

H. PLEDGE MASTER

1. The Pledge Master shall be in charge of all pledges. The Pledge Master shall receive application for club membership from potential pledges, and track and record attendance at club functions during the time allocated for the pledge's three (3) month probationary period.
2. The Pledge Master shall assign all pledges their project(s) as described in Article II, Section 4.
3. The Pledge Master shall insure all pledges have studied the by-laws and fully understands them.
4. The Pledge Master shall monitor the conduct, meeting attendance, and project performance of all pledges, and report his/her findings at the meeting during which the pledge is considered for membership.

SECTION 2: GENERAL

A. IMPEACHMENT

Any officer can be impeached for gross dereliction of duty. Any active member, in writing to the Executive Board, may initiate impeachment proceedings. A simple majority of the Executive Board, except for the concerned officer who shall not vote on his/her own impeachment, is required to bring the impeachment to the full vote of the active membership. A three-fourths majority of active members present is required to remove an officer.

B. DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

All expenses incurred by FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY must be justified and receipts presented to the Treasurer prior to payment. Authorities for expenditures are as follows:

1. Any officer may spend up to twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) per expenditure in fulfilling his/her office without prior approval.
2. An expense over twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) but less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per expenditure must be pre-approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
3. An expense over one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per expenditure must be pre-approved by majority vote of the active membership.

C. CHECKING ACCOUNT SIGNATURES The Treasurer shall maintain a checking account with a minimum of two (2) authorized signatures.

D. SPECIAL AWARDS - The Executive Board shall recognize and provide special awards to individuals and other clubs.

SECTION 3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. NOMINATION RESTRICTIONS

Nominations for officers are limited to active members in good standing.

B. OPEN NOMINATIONS

In addition to those named by the nominating committee, the floor shall be open for further nominations.

C. SECRET BALLOT If there is more than one nomination for an office, voting for that office shall be by secret ballot.

D. TIME OF ELECTIONS

Election of officers shall be at the annual meeting.

E. TERM OF OFFICE

Elected officers shall serve for a period of two one-year terms beginning on the annual meeting in July, after which said officers may also be appointed to retain their office for an indefinite period of time by a quorum vote of the membership.

SECTION 4: OFFICER'S RESIGNATION

An officer may resign in writing to the Executive Board. If more than (2) months remain in the term of office, an election will be held at the next general meeting. If two (2) months or less remain, the situation will be handled as follows: In case of the President's resignation, then the Vice-President will assume the duties of the President. In the case of other officers, the President will appoint a successor for that office, subject to the approval of a majority of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE 4 MEETINGS

SECTION 1: REGULAR MEETINGS

A. REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Regular meetings will be held monthly at a specific date and time to be determined by the Executive Board and to be approved by the present active members.

B. EMERGENCY MEETINGS

Emergency meetings may be called at any time by the Executive Board or by three (3) or more active members.

C. RESCHEDULING MEETINGS

In case of extenuating circumstances (i.e.: inclement weather), the Executive Board shall be responsible for rescheduling the meeting and notifying members of the new date and time.

D. RULES OF ORDER Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*.

E. QUORUM REQUIRED

Business may be conducted at the regular meetings with a quorum of 50% plus one (1) active member present.

SECTION 2: EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

A. PRIOR TO GENERAL MEETINGS The Executive Board has the right to meet prior to the regular meetings.

B. CLOSED EXCEPT BY INVITATION The Executive Board meetings shall be closed to the general members, except by invitation.

C. REQUEST BY ACTIVE MEMBER Any active member may request in writing to attend a meeting of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE 5 DISBANDMENT

SECTION 1: PROCEDURE

To insure that FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY's direction continues to be nonprofit, in the event of disbandment, the remaining active members shall decide by majority vote which assets to donate to charitable or nonprofit organizations and which to sell at auction.

SECTION 2: DISPOSAL OF FUNDS

All of FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY'S funds shall be donated to the charitable or nonprofit organization(s) selected by majority decision of the remaining active members.

ARTICLE 6 AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: METHOD OF PROPOSAL

Two (2) members of the Executive Board or 25% of the active members shall propose an amendment in writing.

SECTION 2: PRESENTATION AND VOTING

The proposed amendment shall be presented in writing at a general meeting and discussed. The amendment can be tabled until the general monthly meeting until the amendment is accepted. The amendment shall be voted on only at the next annual meeting.

SECTION 3: RATIFICATION

An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the active members present shall be required for ratification of the proposed amendment.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER

I agree that the members, operators, owners and agents of FIRST COAST LEATHER SOCIETY (hereinafter referred to as the club) or the club's locations may not be liable in any way for any occurrence in conjunction with the club's activities, which may result in injury, death or damage to me.

In consideration for being allowed to attend these activities and undertakings, I release the aforementioned club members, location owners, operators and agents, including but not limited to the person mentioned, from any harm, injury or damage, which may befall me, while I attend or participate therewith, whether foreseen or unforeseen; and further to save and hold harmless said activities and club members, location owners, operators and agents for any claim by me or by my family, estate, heirs or assigns, arising out of my attendance and participation in the club activities.

I further state that I assume all risk or claim, which may arise in connection with such activities. I further state that I assume all responsibilities of participation in this, the club's activities. I further state that I am physically fit. It is further understood and agreed that all rights of recovery under applicable Florida Law, similar law of any state or territory of the United States, including any rights under Federal Law are hereby expressly waived.

I further state that I am of legal age and am legally competent to sign this release; and that I understand the terms herein are contractual and not a mere recital; and will abide by this document as my own free act. I have informed myself of the content of this release by reading it.

I hereby irrevocably consent to and authorize the use and reproduction by you, or anyone authorized by you, of any and all photography, which you have taken of me in connection with this event, negative or positive, for any purpose in promoting the club events without compensation to me. All negatives and positives together with the prints shall constitute your property, solely and completely.

Finally, I agree to abide by the regulations, notwithstanding the other provisions of this agreement.

Member Printed Name: _____

Member Signature: _____

Date: _____

President Signature: _____