



South Florida Boys of Leather

BY-LAWS

Revised August 1st, 2010

ARTICLE I CREATION, MISSION, AND PURPOSE

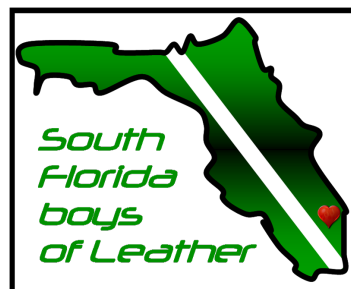
Section 1 NAME

South Florida boys of Leather

Section 2 EMBLEMS AND COLORS

A. Logo

The logo of the South Florida boys of Leather is as follows:



B. Colors



The colors of SFLboL are traditional boy colors: black, hunter green, white and red.

SECTION 3 OWNERSHIP

The ownership, copyright, and trademark of the name, logo and club colors of the South Florida boys of Leather are the sole property of the organization.

SECTION 4 MISSION

The mission and Purpose of the South Florida boys of Leather is to serve, support and enhance the Leather community.

SECTION 5 PURPOSE

This organization exists to provide leather boys a forum to have fun, learn, educate, socialize, contribute and support each other and their community. Membership is open to anyone who self-identifies as a leather boy over the age of 21 regardless of gender, race, orientation or appearance.

The purpose of this group is to provide a social and educational forum for those who desire the camaraderie of like minded individuals and to learn and grow in a safe environment.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1 NUMBER

The number of brothers shall not exceed seventy (75). Forty (40) Active, Thirty (30) Associate.

SECTION 2 AGE

No member shall be under the age of twenty-one (21) years.

SECTION 3 DUES and FEES

- A. Annual Membership fee for Brothers \$45.00 per year
Active members who elect to become Associate Members and whose dues are paid in full will not be refunded the difference in membership Status.
- B. Annual Membership fee for Associates \$25.00 per year
- C. Pledge Membership fee \$15.00
(applied to annual upon acceptance)

SECTION 4 CLASSES

A. BROTHER (Active Member)

A Brother is any individual who is active and in good standing in their required attendance. A Brother is a friend and supporter of the club and must attend seven (7) general membership meetings and a minimum of twelve (12) hours annually for volunteering at club sponsored social functions/educational workshops/fundraisers. The membership may rescind Brother status at any time by majority vote of active members in good standing for any brother who does not meet the basic participatory requirements or is in breach of the SFLboL Code of Conduct, at any business meeting as outlined in Article II, Section 3, Subsection K.

Additionally, any Brother who fails to pay his financial obligations to the club for a period of six (6) months without redress from the Leadership Council (hence forth referred to as LC), is automatically removed from membership rolls with no further action from the club.

B. 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 supporter of the club and must attend one (1) designated function of the club annually. The brotherhood may rescind associate membership at any time by 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 LC is automatically removed from membership rolls with no further action from the club.

Associate members who were previously brothers may petition the active membership for reinstatement without prejudice or probationary period. Reciprocally, any brother in good standing may elect to become an associate member.

C. APPLICANT

Any individual who identifies as a leatherboy may apply to the brotherhood by completing a membership application. That applicant must be sponsored by at least one (1) member in good standing.

I. Any Applicant / pledge who fails to meet the requirements as put forth by the membership committee, shall have to wait a period of Six (6) months from the date of denial to re-apply to group.

D. PLEDGE

Applicants may be accepted into pledge status by the approval of a majority of brothers in good standing in attendance of any business meeting.

Probationary members must:

- subscribe to the mission and purpose of the club;
- attend and participate in no less than one hundred (100) percent of all designated functions during the probationary period;
- attend and participate in any event, meeting, or process deemed

necessary by the LC, the Sergeant-at-Arms, or by the probationary member's sponsors;

- satisfy any further requirement(s) imposed by the Club's Membership Procedures.

The probationary period shall be no less than four (4) months. The brotherhood may rescind probationary membership at any time by majority vote of brothers in good standing in attendance of any business meeting.

Probationary members may petition the Membership Committee to become brothers at the successful completion of their probationary period. Upon petition, the LC may extend an invitation to become a brother to the probationary member with the approval of a majority of all brothers in good standing.

F. 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 fewer than one (1) designated club function annually.

Alumni membership may be revoked by the same procedure outlined for brothers in Article II, Section 3, Subsection E, Number ii.

G. LIFE BROTHER

Brothers who maintain membership for no less than ten (10) years as a brother, and; who have 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 Mandatory meeting. Life brothers may only be selected at the annual Mandatory meeting, and must be selected by sixty (60) percent of all members in good standing.

Life brothers continue to enjoy all the rights and responsibilities of membership; however they are exempt from paying dues.

Life membership may be revoked by the same procedure outlined for brothers in Article II, Section 3, Subsection E, Number ii.

H. FRIEND OF (HONORARY) MEMBER

The brotherhood may select individuals from the community who have supported the club, its ideals, mission and purpose, to receive honorary membership. Honorary Membership may also be extended to other members of the community out of state or region who have displayed their commitment to the community. The club may extend no more than Two (2) honorary memberships per year. Honorary members are nominated by the LC on the advice of any member. Honorary members must be selected by eighty (80) percent of all brothers in good standing at the annual Mandatory meeting.

Honorary members enjoy the following privileges:

- to display and respect club colors;

- to recruit members;
- to serve on committees;
- to attend meetings and events closed to non-brothers.

Honorary members are exempt from paying dues in recognition of their service to the club and the community.

Honorary membership may be revoked by the same procedure outlined for members in Article II, Section 3, Subsection E, Number ii.

I. BROTHERS-IN-SPIRIT

All members in good standing, regardless of their class of membership, may, at time of their death, be made Brothers-In-Spirit. Their names shall be carried on the roster by the Scribe and shall be honored by the members of the South Florida boys of Leather as they see fit.

This membership shall be awarded retroactively to all members who, at the time of their passing, were members in good standing.

SECTION 5 GOOD STANDING

A member is considered to be in good standing if that member has:

- paid all dues and monies owed the club within sixty (60) days of notification;
- attended sufficient club functions per their membership category.

Additionally, the LC may make exceptions for hardship at the request of the member, on a case by case basis.

SECTION 6 RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES

Brothers represent the heart of the organization. Each brother holds all of the rights and responsibilities of membership, including the right or responsibility:

- to display and respect club colors;
- to attend a majority of designated functions;
- to embody the spirit of the club at community events;
- to recruit and select members;
- to serve as and to elect officers;
- to chair and serve on committees;
- to attend meetings and events closed to non-brothers;
- to attend all business meetings called by the Leadership Council;
- to vote on club business;
- to pay dues;
- to abide by the bylaws of the organization.

Brothers must remain in good standing in order to enjoy these rights.

Should a brother feel he cannot fulfill these responsibilities, he may elect, with the consent of the LC, to become an associate member.

SECTION 7 NON-DISCRIMINATION

The South Florida boys of Leather does not discriminate in the selection of members and the attendance at functions based upon race, creed, age, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

SECTION 8 REVOCATION of MEMBERSHIP

The brotherhood may revoke the membership of any brother for just cause. To impeach a brother, any other brother may petition the LC outlining reasons for expulsion. The LC will notify the brother of the petition and shall call a hearing of the LC within thirty (30) days and will provide at least fourteen (14) days' notice of the hearing.

The brother will have an opportunity during the LC hearing to present any reasons why membership should not be revoked. The LC then has the responsibility to vote on whether or not to bring the revocation to the general brotherhood, determined by simple majority. Should the LC determine such a vote is necessary, a special meeting of the membership will be called within thirty (30) days. At said meeting, the brother is expelled when two-thirds of all members in good standing find just cause. Additionally, any brother who fails to pay his financial obligations to the club for a period of six (6) months without redress from the LC is automatically removed from membership rolls with no further action from the club.

ARTICLE III OFFICERS

SECTION 1 LEADERSHIP BOARD

The Leadership Council shall consist of the alpha, beta, moneyboy, scribe and Sergeant-at-Arms. No officer may hold more than one elected office. All officers must be brothers for at least one (1) year prior to the start of their term and be in good standing. This rule may be waived only by majority vote of the LC.

All terms end the last day of January each year. If the annual Mandatory meeting has not yet been called, officer terms will automatically be extended until such meeting may be held. No member shall serve in the same office for more than three (3) consecutive annual terms.

A. alpha

The alpha shall call regular and special meetings of the members, and of the LC, in accordance with these by-laws; and shall chair said meetings. The alpha shall set the agenda for all meetings.

The alpha shall represent the club for all external meetings, committees and functions where the presence of the club is requested or required; but may, with the consent of the LC, designate other brothers as the representative.

The alpha shall ensure the books, reports, and statements required by

statute are properly kept, made, and filed according to law. At the annual Mandatory meeting, the alpha shall present a report of the club's standing.

The alpha shall, with the consent of the LC, make any contracts and agreements on behalf of the club.

B. beta

The beta shall serve in the absence or incapacity of the alpha and exercise his official duties and responsibilities as outlined in these by-laws.

The beta shall serve as chairperson of all internal committees formed by the LC; unless another brother is designated.

The beta shall serve as mediator for disputes among members, seeking first to arbitrate a resolution.

C. scribe

The scribe shall keep minutes of all club business meetings and of LC meetings. The scribe shall distribute minutes of all meetings to brothers within thirty (30) days of the close of the meeting.

The scribe shall also provide all brothers a copy of any meeting agenda prior to said meeting.

The scribe shall maintain a roster of all members. The scribe will keep a record of attendance at all club events, and will keep the "good standing" roster.

The scribe shall send and receive all general correspondence on behalf of the club.

D. moneyboy

The moneyboy shall maintain and develop the budget, and shall provide, at any brother's request, an accounting of all or part of said budget.

The moneyboy shall maintain all financial records, and prepare reports as required by the LC and by law. The moneyboy shall present annually, an accounting of the prior year's finances to the brothers.

The moneyboy shall assess dues and other financial obligations authorized by the LC and the brothers, and shall collect said assessments.

The moneyboy will provide the Sergeant-at-Arms monthly with a list of brothers and members whose balances are more than thirty (30) days past-due.

Should the office of moneyboy be left vacant by the club, the LC shall appoint one of their number to assume said duties.

E. Sergeant-at-arms

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain rule and order at all meetings of the club.

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall chair the Membership Committee, and shall serve as the single point of contact for prospective and pledge members. As directed by the LC, the Sergeant-at-Arms shall develop and organize educational events for pledge members.

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall receive all applications for membership on behalf of the club.

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall manage the procedures of petition for membership revocation, except in the case with the Sergeant-at-Arms is the subject of said petition as outlined in Section III Subsection(3)(D) of this document.

Should the office of Sergeant-at-Arms be left vacant by the club, the LC shall appoint one of their number to assume said duties.

SECTION 2 LEADERSHIP DUTIES

A. The officers of the LC shall have control and general management of the affairs and business of the organization.

B. The LC will, by majority vote, designate all required and optional club functions.

C. The LC will establish a working budget for the organization and have such budget ratified prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.

D. The LC will make financial recommendations on operating expenditures to the membership.

E. The LC will be responsible for the club functioning within the legal guidelines of the municipality, state, and federal jurisdictions in which it operates.

F. The LC shall uphold the tenets of these bylaws, and propose revisions and amendments where they deem necessary to continue the mission and purpose of the organization.

G. All afore mentioned items must be presented and approved by the general membership.

SECTION 3 ELECTIONS

Nominations shall be open to the brothers for not less than one month prior to the annual mandatory meeting. The LC must close nominations prior to the start of the election of officers during the annual meeting. A member may be nominated for more than one office, and may nominate himself. Each nomination requires a second.

All officers of the organization shall be elected annually by the brotherhood. Voting shall be by secret ballot, and each brother in good standing is permitted one vote per office. Any member in good standing who cannot attend may designate a proxy in writing to the scribe in advance of the meeting. The scribe will also hold the responsibility of tallying the votes.

The election shall start with alpha. If no candidate for alpha receives a majority in the first round of voting, the top-two candidates will face each other in a second round. In the case of a three-way tie, all three tied candidates will proceed to the second round of voting. If there is still a tie after the second round, the current LC will meet and select the alpha-elect.

Following the election of the alpha, the beta, scribe, moneyboy and Sergeant at Arms shall in turn be elected. The brother with the most votes for office will be selected. In case of a tie, the alpha-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.

A. Proxy Votes

Any full voting member shall be allowed to vote via real-time technology, defined as; Cell phone call, text message, and/or video conferencing in real-time to vote only on LC position changes.

Proxy vote is to be voted on and approved by general membership at beginning of meeting, so long as absent member has provided notification to the LC prior to start of said meeting and absent member can be verified he/she is the actual one voting.

All votes must be verified by LC and entered into minutes, as proxy vote and who verified votes by at least 2 LC members.

SECTION 4 VACANCIES

Vacancies on the LC occurring between annual Mandatory meetings shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the brothers in accordance with election provisions in Article III, Section 2, Subsection A at a specified meeting duly called for that purpose within sixty (60) days of the vacancy. The alpha may fill vacant positions until such meeting can be called. Should the position of alpha become vacant, the beta shall assume the duties of alpha until a special meeting may be called.

SECTION 5 REMOVAL

The brotherhood may remove any officer for due cause. To impeach an officer, any brother may petition the Sergeant-at-Arms outlining reasons for removal. The alpha will notify the officer of the petition and shall call a hearing before the LC within thirty (30) days, giving at least fourteen (14) days notice of said hearing. The LC must impeach the officer by a majority of no less than 75 percent, and shall then present the charges to the membership. The Council Member who is the subject of the hearings does not vote. The LC shall call a special meeting of the brothers within thirty (30) days, giving at least fourteen (14) days' notice. At that meeting, the officer will be removed should two-thirds of all brothers in good standing find just cause.

Should petition be brought against the Sergeant-at-Arms, that petition shall be submitted to the any other member of the LC. The receiving member shall call the LC to order, and the beta will fulfill the duties of Sergeant-at-Arms until the Sergeant-at-Arms is either removed or cleared.

LC members may not miss 2 consecutive meetings. If an LC member misses 2 consecutive meetings, they will be subject to removal from the LC, subject to vote by the General Membership. Also, if an LC member misses more then 2 non-consecutive meetings, they will be subject to removal from the LC by the General Membership, by vote. Exceptions can and maybe made on a case by case basis by the General Membership.

SECTION 6 COMPENSATION

No monetary compensation for services shall be paid to any of the officers of the organization.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

SECTION 1 GENERAL MEETINGS

The South Florida boys of Leather will meet for the purpose of doing business on the first Sunday of each Month with one (1) Mandatory Membership Meeting annually. The LC shall notify the membership no less than thirty (30) days prior to the annual Mandatory meeting. The LC may also call additional meetings for the purpose of conducting business at any time with seven (7) days' notice to the membership. Committee meetings may occur on a regular or an ad hoc basis, as needed to accomplish the goals of the committee.

Quorum shall be established as a majority of one-third (1/3) of the brothers in good standing. If no quorum is reached, the LC may not call the meeting to order. Furthermore, any business voted on without a quorum of members present shall not be considered to have been ratified.

SECTION 2 LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

The alpha shall convene the LC at least once within sixty (60) days following his assumption of office, and at other times as necessary. The LC may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of their meetings and the management of this organization as they deem proper, so long as they are not inconsistent with these by-laws, or local, state, or federal law.

All brothers may attend LC meetings. For these meetings, quorum consists of two-thirds of the officers, and only officers may vote. If a quorum is not present at any meeting of the LC, those present shall adjourn the meeting until a quorum is present.

SECTION 3 COMMITTEES

The LC may, on occasion, designate special and standing committees, and delegate its powers to said committee.

ARTICLE V CODE of CONDUCT

SECTION 1 GENERAL

ALL Members are expected to conduct themselves in a professional, courteous and respectful manner at any time they present themselves in club colors, attend official functions, meetings and workshops.

All boys attending Meetings, Socials and Fundraising events sponsored by SFLboL shall not be intoxicated or under the influence of drugs during such events.

The first offense, the member will be asked to leave immediately. The second offense, will result in disciplinary actions.

This should also be a guideline when boys are out in other public places, representing the group while wearing our club colors.

All boys shall uphold the integrity of the organization when in public and shall not, under any circumstances, defame, libel, disparage or be critical of the club or any member.

SECTION 2 BOYS BILL of RIGHTS

1. Every boy has the right to have his body, intellect, and emotions protected by his Dom.
2. Every boy has the right to choose the man whom he serves and to discontinue that service and take his leave without being subjected to physical, mental, or emotional abuse.

3. Every boy has the right to be cared for, disciplined appropriately, and allowed to feel pride in his submission.
4. Every boy has the right to protected sex if he so wishes.
5. Every boy has the right to privacy if he so wishes. No boy can be black-mailed, publicly humiliated, or physically coerced into service without his expressed desire to be so.
6. Every boy has the right to defend himself from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.
7. Every boy has the right to consent or not to consent to sexual activities.
8. Every boy has the right to seek refuge, counsel, and advice from other subs and Doms without the expectation of sex, money, or any other service in return.
9. Every boy has the right to a physically and emotionally available circle of friends.
10. Every boy has the right to protect his own possessions and finances against intercession, theft, and non-consensual acquisition.
11. SIRS: Refer to this profile or copy and paste this Bill of Rights into your own if you wish to let subs know how you feel about their rights.

subs, boys, and pups: Refer to this profile or include the Bill in your own and take a stand against boys and abuse.

-Copied, with thanks, from LaboursLost

ARTICLE VI CALENDAR and FISCAL YEAR

SECTION 1 CALENDAR YEAR

The calendar year shall commence on February 1 and terminate on January 31.

SECTION 2 BUDGET AND FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall run from February 1 to January 31. The moneyboy shall submit an

annual budget to the brotherhood for their approval prior to the start of the fiscal year. Any brother who holds responsibility over a portion of the budget, may, at his discretion, spend that appropriation in good faith, with no further approval from the club or the LC.

ARTICLE VII

RATIFICATION AND NOMINATIONS

SECTION 1 RATIFICATION

The ratification of a two-thirds majority of all brothers with active membership as of February 1, 2008 shall be sufficient for the establishment of these by-laws. Upon ratification, these by-laws shall supersede any and all previously written by-laws of this organization. The LC shall cause the club to be in compliance with all provisions of these by-laws within ninety (90) days; except that the ratification of these by-laws shall not cause current officers to be removed from office, discharged from their duties, or change the expiration date of their terms.

SECTION 2 AMENDMENTS

Any brother may propose amendments to these by-laws at any time. The LC shall review all proposals received no later than thirty (30) days prior to the annual Mandatory meeting.

All proposed amendments that receive approval of sixty (60) percent of the LC shall be submitted to the brotherhood in writing for a vote at the annual Mandatory meeting.

The brothers will cause these by-laws to be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of all brothers in good standing.

Should the South Florida boys of Leather be required by law to amend these bylaws, the LC may call a special meeting to cause these bylaws to be amended under the procedure outlined above.

ARTICLE VIII

DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the South Florida boys of Leather, the LC shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the organization, dispose of all of the assets of the organization exclusively for the purpose of the organization in such manner, or to such organization(s) maintained and operated for

charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes. All effort shall be made to locate a deserving organization whose mission and purpose is similar to that of the South Florida boys of Leather.