

Bylaws of the National Leather Association – Indianapolis Chapter  
Revision 2, 2008

**ARTICLE I: NAME**

This organization shall be known as the National Leather Association - Indianapolis Chapter (hereinafter referred to as “the chapter”). The chapter is a chartered chapter of NLA International. As such it subscribes to the same Statement of Purpose as NLA International and is a nonprofit, educational, social, activist, and charitable organization.

**ARTICLE II: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The purpose of the chapter shall be:

SECTION A: To maintain a communication, information, education, and support network for members of the Leather/BDSM/Fetish community in Indianapolis, Indiana and the surrounding areas.

SECTION B: To promote, with power and pride, the right of all adults to engage in Safe, Sane, and Consensual sexual expression or Risk Aware Consensual Kink activities, including support for the decriminalization of such acts between consenting adults.

SECTION C: To support activism, visibility, and education aimed at the eradication of stereotypical beliefs, misconceptions, and media misrepresentations about the Leather/BDSM/Fetish family in the community at large.

SECTION D: To provide, through our publications, educational material, and events, a forum for the sharing of knowledge, viewpoints, and practices of a diverse network of people.

SECTION E: To build, strengthen, and defend individuals, organizations, publications, and businesses within our community against threats to our freedom of expression, freedom of the press, right to free association, and right to equal protection under the law.

SECTION F: To develop an outreach to all women, people of color, transgendered/transsexual/genderqueer individuals, the deaf, the physically challenged, the economically disenfranchised, and others who have traditionally been discriminated against or poorly represented within the Leather/BDSM/Fetish community.

SECTION G: To facilitate fund raising for deserving projects, organizations, defense funds, and/or charities which have given direct service to the Leather/BDSM/Fetish community.

SECTION H: To preserve a record of our history, traditions, and culture.

### **ARTICLE III: FISCAL YEAR**

The chapter's fiscal year shall run from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **ARTICLE IV: POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

The Policies & Procedures established by the Executive Council of the chapter shall be used to conduct the business of the chapter.

### **ARTICLE V: MEMBERSHIP**

#### SECTION A: Eligibility for Membership

1. Membership in the chapter shall be open to all persons 18 years of age or older who understand and support the Statement of Purpose, pay the required dues, and agree to follow the bylaws and Policies & Procedures.
2. Membership shall be determined without regard for sex, race, creed, color, religion, marital or relationship status, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, citizenship, or any sensory or physical challenge.

#### SECTION B: Classes and Privileges of Membership

1. Full Chapter Membership
  - a. Pays annual dues as defined in Policies & Procedures
  - b. Granted all rights and privileges of bylaws
  - c. Can vote in all elections, propose nominees for chapter office, receive chapter publications, and any other privileges as may be determined by the Executive Council
2. Supporting Chapter Membership
  - a. Pays annual dues as defined in Policies & Procedures
  - b. May attend all chapter meetings and events and receive membership discounts on admission fees if applicable
  - c. May not receive chapter pins or patches, may not vote, hold a chapter office, or propose nominees for chapter offices

#### SECTION C: Revocation or Resignation of Membership

1. Revocation of membership in NLA-International will automatically result in revocation of membership in the chapter.
2. Membership in the chapter may be revoked according to the Policies & Procedures. The decision to revoke a membership will require approval of a two-third majority of the members voting, once the member's right to due process has been exercised as outlined in the Policies & Procedures.
3. Membership in the chapter may be resigned by the member by submitting a letter of resignation to the Membership Chairperson.

## **ARTICLE VI: CONDUCT OF CHAPTER BUSINESS**

### SECTION A: The Executive Council

1. Composition: The Executive Council shall consist of:
  - a. President
  - b. Vice President
  - c. Secretary
  - d. Treasurer
  - e. Member at Large
2. Powers, Duties, and Eligibility
  - a. Shall be executed as defined in the Policies & Procedures
3. Elections and Term of Office
  - a. The officers of the Executive Council shall be elected by the membership for a one (1) year term.
  - b. Elections shall be held as established by the Policies & Procedures.
4. Meetings of the Executive Council
  - a. The Executive Council shall meet at least monthly on the call of the President or presiding officer or a majority of the Executive Council. A quorum shall be at least 80% of the Council members. Such meetings will be open to all members and must be announced a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the meeting time.
  - b. Emergency meetings of the Executive Council may be called without notice. A quorum shall be at least 60% of the Council members. Such meetings will be open to all members. Any decisions made at an emergency meeting must be ratified at the next regular Executive Council meeting.
  - c. The Executive Council may conduct business outside of regularly scheduled meetings using any communication technology. A quorum shall be at least 80% of Council members participating. Any decisions made via this method must be ratified at the next regular Executive Council meeting. Records of any such business must also be kept and be made available to the membership by the next regular Executive Council meeting.
5. Removal from Office
  - a. Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the membership as established in the Policies & Procedures.
6. Vacancy in Office
  - a. Should any Executive Council position become vacant prior to the completion of its term, the position shall be filled in accordance with the established Policies & Procedures.

### SECTION B: Chapter Committees

1. Standing Committees shall consist of:
  - a. Membership
  - b. Elections & Credentials
  - c. Budget

- d. Outreach & Activities
  - e. Publications
  - f. Community Service & Domestic Violence
2. Committee chairpersons shall be appointed by the Executive Council to any willingly volunteering full member of the chapter.
  3. Committee chairpersons shall report to the Vice President. There shall be no term limits for committee chairpersons. In such case as a committee chairperson wishes to resign, resignation will be reported to the Vice President. The Executive Council reserves the right to appoint a new committee chairperson at any time.
  4. Ad-hoc committees may be created and disbanded by the Executive Council as needed.

#### SECTION C: Conducting Chapter Business

1. Chapter Meetings
  - a. Shall occur monthly
  - b. Shall be open to anyone eligible to join the chapter
  - c. Shall be announced a minimum of seven (7) days in advance of meeting time
  - d. Shall be conducted in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order and presided by the President or an officer designated by the President
  - e. Unless specified elsewhere, all issues will require a simple majority of members voting. Abstentions will be noted.
  - f. A quorum of two (2) Executive Council members is required for any regular chapter meeting unless specified otherwise in the Policies & Procedures.
  - g. Chapter business may be conducted outside of regular monthly meetings as established in the Policies & Procedures.
  - h. Minutes of all chapter meetings will be made available to all chapter members and be submitted to NLA-International as required within twenty (20) days of the meeting.

#### SECTION D: Representation of the Chapter

1. Members may identify themselves as members of the chapter.
2. Members may represent the chapter at local and regional events and may indicate their membership in the chapter on business cards, stationery, and in advertising. They may not present themselves as spokespersons for the chapter unless the Executive Council, these Bylaws, the Policies & Procedures, or a vote of the membership specifically authorizes them to do so.
3. Allowed use of the name of the chapter, in part or in whole, and use of office titles and/or logos, shall be governed by the Policies & Procedures.

#### SECTION E: Chapter Monies

1. Monies shall be collected and distributed in accordance with the Policies & Procedures.

## **ARTICLE VII: INITIATIVE AND RECALL**

### SECTION A: Initiative

1. Any full member of the chapter may petition the Executive Council for action.

### SECTION B: Recall

1. A petition for recall of any officer may be presented by twenty percent (20%) of the full members in good standing with the chapter.
2. Recall must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the membership in accordance with the Policies & Procedures.

## **ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS**

### SECTION A: Proposal

1. Any full chapter member may request an amendment to these Bylaws by presenting the request in writing to the Executive Council.
2. Amendments to these Bylaws shall be proposed by the Executive Council or by petition of twenty percent (20%) of the full members in good standing with the chapter.

### SECTION B: Procedure

1. Proposed amendments/revisions of these Bylaws shall be presented at two (2) consecutive chapter meetings and voted on by the next meeting. If a proposed amendment/revision is tabled, it must be presented again at the next meeting.
2. Proposed amendments/revisions of these Bylaws shall be published to the membership a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to voting.
3. Proposed amendments/revisions of these Bylaws shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members voting.

## **ARTICLE IX: CREATION AND REVISION OF POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

### SECTION A: Proposal

1. Any full chapter member may request creation of a new policy or revision of an existing policy by presenting the request in writing to the Executive Council.
2. Creation of a new policy or revision of an existing policy shall be proposed by the Executive Council or by petition of twenty percent (20%) of the full members in good standing with the chapter.

### SECTION B: Procedure

1. A proposal to create a new policy or revise an existing policy shall be published to the membership a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to voting.
2. A proposal to create a new policy or revise an existing policy will be presented to the membership at a chapter meeting.
3. A proposal to create a new policy or revise an existing policy shall require a simple majority of members voting.

## **ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION**

### SECTION A: Process

1. Either eighty percent (80%) of the Executive Council or twenty five percent (25%) of the full members in good standing with the chapter may propose the dissolution of the chapter.
2. The decision to dissolve the chapter must be ratified by three-fourths (3/4) of the full members in good standing with the chapter.

### SECTION B: Procedure

1. Payment or provision of payment of all liabilities of the chapter shall be made prior to any dissolution of the chapter.
2. Disposal of all assets will be made in such a manner as to comply with any and all State and Federal statues and regulations.
3. Where possible, transfer of any assets shall be made to other non-profit organizations whose purpose is sympathetic to the chapter Statement of Purpose.