

BAY STATE MARAUDERS

CONSTITUTION

FIRST CLUB MEETING

March 1st, 2003

ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION RATIFIED September 6th, 2003

FORMAL CLUB PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT February 27th, 2004

AMENDED January 22nd, 2006

REDRAFTED CONSTITUTION RATIFIED: February 1, 2015

AMENDED April 7th, 2021

AMENDED July 2nd, 2023

ARTICLE I – ORGANIZATION

Section 1 - Name

The name of this organization shall be: the BAY STATE MARAUDERS.

ARTICLE II – AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

Section 1 - Authority

The BAY STATE MARAUDERS decisions and authority must adhere to Federal, State and local laws and to legal statutes, policies, and other regulations of recognized legal authorities.

Section 2 – Not for Profit

The BAY STATE MARAUDERS shall be a nonprofit organization.

Section 3 - Purpose

The BAY STATE MARAUDERS is a fellowship of members, primarily leather/Levi oriented, whose purpose is to develop character and leadership in the spirit of friendship, brotherhood, and goodwill.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Type of Memberships

The BAY STATE MARAUDERS shall consist of the following categories of members: Charter, Full, Inactive, Associate, and Alumnus.

Section 2 – Voting and Commencement of Membership

A. Applicants and changes of membership status must be accepted by a two-thirds equivalent vote of the membership present and voting, except where otherwise indicated. Only members in good standing with voting privileges may be present during the discussion and the vote.

B. Membership shall begin after an affirmative vote and full payment of initial dues.

Section 3 - Full Members

A. The BAY STATE MARAUDERS membership is restricted to adults 21 years old and over, who meet all other qualifications for membership, and who are elected into the club pursuant to the Constitution and Bylaws.

B. Applicants must submit a written or electronic application and have a recommendation of a full member in good standing.

C. An applicant's pledge period begins on the date when the application is

submitted, and ends when they are voted upon for membership, or when their pledge period expires.

D. During their pledge period, applicants must attend two Club meetings and two social events, which may include Club meetings. Upon fulfillment of these requirements, the applicant is eligible for a vote of membership. The pledge period shall be limited to six months.

E. Full members must attend at least two club meetings each program year: July 1st to June 30th. Failure to maintain the meeting attendance requirement will revoke the member's in good standing status. The good standing status will be restored when the member completes the two meeting requirements of the current the program year.

Section 4 - Associate Members

A. Persons who wish to participate in the activities of the Club but are unable to function as full members (because of distance, full membership in another similar club, or other constraints) may apply for associate membership.

B. Applicants submit a written or electronic application and must have the recommendation of two full members in good standing.

C. Applicants must attend at least one club function within a twelve-month period.

D. Associate members may cast one-half vote on club matters.

E. Associate Members must attend at least one (1) club function each program year: July 1st to June 30th.

Section 5 – Alumnus Members

A. Full members in good standing may request to become Alumnus Members

B. Candidates for Alumnus Membership must have been members of the **BAY STATE MARAUDERS** for at least two years.

C. Alumnus Members may enjoy the social privileges of the **BAY STATE MARAUDERS**.

D. Alumnus Members do not have voting privileges.

Section 6 – Inactive Members

A. A member may take a leave of absence by submitting a request to the Board. If the leave of absence is approved by a majority vote of the Board, his financial obligation shall be waived during his leave only.

B. A member on leave of absence shall be considered an Inactive Member and shall have no voting privileges, but shall have all social privileges.

C. Leave of absence shall be for a maximum of one year, subject to review. At that time, the Board may elect to extend or terminate the leave by majority vote. Failure of an Inactive Member to request an extension of leave or change in membership status to a member of the Board within the specified period shall be considered as resignation from membership in the Club.

Section 7 - Charter Members

A. Charter Members are those members who initially voted to establish the **BAY STATE MARAUDERS**.

B. Charter Members shall be identified in club publications, shall be permitted to wear Charter member pins and shall be so identified in the membership list.

Section 8 – Associate Membership in Other Clubs

Members of the **BAY STATE MARAUDERS** may also be Associate Members of other similar clubs within the leather/Levi or kink community.

Section 9 – Availability of Club Documents

A. A copy of the Constitution and Bylaws of the BAY STATE MARAUDERS shall be available to prospective, full, and associate members.

B. Club records shall be open to full and associate members in good standing.

ARTICLE IV - CLUB FINANCES

Section 1 – Authority

A. The club may collect dues to fund club activities.

B. The club may authorize the opening of a bank account to manage club funds and designate individuals to act officially as signatories of the account.

Section 2 – Adjustment of Dues

In individual cases of hardship, dues may be reduced, suspended, or waived by majority vote of the Board.

Section 3 - Arrears

A. The Treasurer shall notify Members whose dues are in arrears. Members with dues 60 days in arrears shall have their voting privileges suspended pending payment.

B. Members with dues 90 days in arrears shall be subject to review by the Board and to dismissal by a two-thirds equivalent vote of the members present and voting.

Section 4 – Refund

Upon voluntary termination of membership, prepaid dues may be refunded on a quarterly prorated basis at the discretion of the Board. Upon the involuntary termination of membership, prepaid dues shall not be refunded.

ARTICLE V – ATTENDANCE

Section 1 - Expectation

Full Members are expected to attend BAY STATE MARAUDERS meetings and functions.

Section 2 - Records

Attendance at meetings shall be taken by the Secretary or his designate. Attendance at other club events shall be assessed by the report of those present at the event.

Section 3 - Notification

A member who cannot attend a meeting or function must notify the Club or another member.

ARTICLE VI – CLUB COLORS

Section 1 – Insignia

The club insignia may be displayed by members and others as authorized.

Section 2 - Banner

The club shall have an official banner bearing the insignia of the club. The banner may be displayed at official club activities. When a member attends an official function of a similar organization, he may display the club banner at that function with the permission of the host.

Section 3 - Token

The membership may approve the presentation of a token bearing the club insignia to another organization, institution or individual of recognized commonality, as a gesture of friendship and fraternal goodwill.

Section 4 - Patches

A. The club shall have large and small patches bearing the club insignia. Members are encouraged to wear Club patches.

B. Large patches may be displayed on leather vests in the middle of the back, between the shoulder blades.

C. Small patches may be worn at the member's discretion.

D. Full, Alumnus and Charter Members shall be permitted to wear patches of any size.

E. Associate members shall be permitted to wear the small patches only.

F. Former members are not permitted to wear the club colors.

ARTICLE VII - NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Section 1 - Qualifications

Full Members in good standing may be nominated, or they may nominate themselves for one, or two Officer positions. However, they may only accept one office.

Section 2 - Acceptance

Nominations shall be accepted either at the meeting prior to the election meeting, or at the election meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1 - Schedule

The Election of Officers shall be held one month prior to the Annual Meeting. Newly elected Officers shall take office at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2 – Voting Qualifications

Each voter must be a Full or Associate member in good standing.

Section 3 – Vote Weighting

Each Full Member shall be entitled to cast one vote for each vacancy on the Board. Each Associate Member shall be entitled to cast one-half vote for each vacancy on the Board.

Section 4 – Form of Election

A. Officers shall be elected by open vote, or by secret ballot upon a sustained motion to do so.

B. In the event of a sustained motion for a secret ballot, the Secretary shall make available to each voting member present at the election a ballot on which to vote, so as to distinguish half votes from full votes.

Section 5 – Absentee and Proxy Voting

Absentee and proxy voting shall be permitted for officer elections upon an equivalent majority vote of those present and eligible to vote.

Section 6 – Runoff Election

A candidate must receive an equivalent majority of the total votes cast. If no candidate receives said majority, then a runoff election shall be held between the top two candidates, and the candidate who receives an equivalent majority shall be elected. The runoff election shall occur immediately after the initial election is held.

Section 7 - Vacancies

Should the office of President become vacant, the Vice President shall assume the President's duties. Should any other office become vacant, an election shall be held within one month to determine a successor. The newly elected officer's term shall run concurrently with the terms of the existing officers.

ARTICLE IX - BOARD OF THE BAY STATE MARAUDERS

Section 1 – Officers

The club shall elect officers as follows to represent the BAY STATE MARAUDERS. They shall be known as the Board.

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Treasurer
4. Secretary
5. Road Captain

Section 2 – Term of Office

The term of office for each elected Officer shall begin and end on the date of the Annual Meeting. The term length shall be one year. Except for the office of Treasurer, which shall be not more than five consecutive full terms.

Section 3 – Term Limits

- A. No member shall hold the same elected office for more than two consecutive full terms.
- B. To be considered a full term served, an officer must serve at least half of the term of office.

ARTICLE X - DUTIES OF THE BAY STATE MARAUDERS OFFICERS

Section 1

The President's duties shall include:

- A. General oversight of Board, appointed positions, and of the club
- B. Upholding the spirit of the Club's Constitution
- C. Development of the membership and activities of the club
- D. Presiding over meetings
- E. Preparing the agenda for meetings
- F. Establishing committees
- G. Ensuring appropriate use of club colors

Section 2

The Vice President's duties shall include:

- A. Assisting the President in conducting meetings
- B. Presiding over meetings in the absence of the President
- C. Serving the remainder of the President's term should the President not be able to complete the term
- D. Assisting the President in preparing the agenda for each meeting, if necessary
- E. Ensuring appropriate use of club colors

Section 3

The Treasurer's duties shall include:

- A. Being responsible for the Club's funds
- B. Making payments and expenditures as approved by the Membership
- C. Maintaining accurate records of income and expenditures and filing such records in a safe place
- D. Making financial reports to the membership at each regular meeting
- E. Notifying members if they are delinquent in their dues

Section 4

The Secretary's duties shall include:

- A. Recording accurate minutes of Club Meetings, transcribing them, and distributing them to the membership
- B. Keeping and filing complete sets of the minutes
- C. Maintaining an official list of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the members and distributing it to the membership
- D. Assisting the President and the Vice President in preparing the agenda for each meeting, if necessary
- E. Recording attendance at meetings
- F. Preparing an accurate voting list
- G. Preparing and establishing procedures to process ballots
- H. Reading correspondence received at the meetings

Section 5

The Road Captain's duties shall include:

- A. Electronically distributing invitations and notifications for the activities of the **BAY STATE MARAUDERS** and other clubs. The Road Captain is not responsible for processing invitations from individual members for non-official club activities.
- B. Coordinating road trips and club runs.

ARTICLE XI: APPOINTED POSITIONS

Section 1 - Appointment

The Board may appoint members to positions such as historian, webmaster, etc. The appointees shall serve until they resign, or until their appointments are rescinded by the board.

Section 2 - Responsibility

Responsibilities for appointed positions shall be defined in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII – CONDUCT

Fighting shall not be tolerated at club meetings or functions. While wearing club colors, members shall act with proper decorum and in keeping with the dignity of the **BAY STATE MARAUDERS**.

ARTICLE XIII – CENSURE

Section 1 - Charges

Any member may be brought up for censure on substantiated charges. These charges may include, but are not limited to, violation of this Constitution and/or Bylaws, harassment or intimidation of a member, or violation of another member's rights, or of a civil or criminal statute.

Section 2 – Form of Censure

Censure can take the form of a formal reprimand, suspension, or expulsion from the Club or removal from the Board.

Section 3 - Procedure

For procedure, see Robert's Rules of Order, 1915 edition, Article XIII, sections 72, 73, and 75.

ARTICLE XIV – MEETINGS

Section 1 - Definitions

Club meetings shall include:

- A. Regular meetings, which shall be held monthly, unless canceled at a prior meeting by an equivalent majority of members present and eligible to vote.
- B. Board meetings, which shall be held as needed.
- C. Committee meetings, which shall be held as needed.
- D. Special meetings, which may be called by the President, the Board, or an equivalent majority of the voting members. Each member shall be notified at least one week prior to a Special meeting, of the date, time, place, and purpose of the meeting, which shall be limited to the purpose for which it was called.

Section 2 - Quorum

- A. At a Regular or Special Meeting, a quorum shall exist when at least 25% of the Full Members in good standing are present.
- B. At a Board meeting, a quorum shall exist when at least three officers are present.

Section 3 - Voting

- A. Voting shall be by an equivalent majority vote of eligible members, present and voting unless stated otherwise herein. In case of a tie, the presiding board member's vote shall be dropped.
- B. Equivalent votes shall be defined as the number of total votes cast, excluding abstentions, and counting full and half votes as such.
- C. Voting may be conducted by secret ballot upon an equivalent majority vote to do so.
- D. Where there is a potential conflict of interest with another fetish community organization, including but not limited to scheduling or competing financial interests, members shall abstain from voting.

Section 4 - Procedure

Robert's Rules of Order, 1915 edition, shall guide Club meetings except where they are inconsistent with the Constitution or Bylaws of the Club.

ARTICLE XV – BYLAWS

The BAY STATE MARAUDERS may enact any Bylaws which they deem necessary for the proper functioning of the Club or which may be necessary to carry out the Articles of this Constitution, as long as such Bylaws are consistent with this Constitution and are approved by an equivalent two-thirds vote as defined in Article "MEETINGS" above.

ARTICLE XVI - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Section 1 - Proposals

Any Full or Associate Member in good standing may propose amendments to this Constitution.

Section 2 – Review Committee

A Committee shall be appointed by the Board and shall review proposed amendments to this Constitution and then report back to the membership with its recommendations.

Section 3 – Voting

Proposed amendments must be ratified by a number of eligible votes equal to two-thirds of the full members in good standing. Absentee ballots shall be permitted for Constitutional amendments.

ARTICLE XVII – RATIFICATION

The Constitution of the BAY STATE MARAUDERS must be ratified by a number of eligible votes equal to two-thirds of the full members in good standing. Absentee ballots shall be permitted for Constitutional ratification.

