

Constitution of the United Sidecar Association, Inc.

First organized as the Pullman Hackers and incorporated in the State of Illinois in 1968, then reorganized in 1976 and incorporated as the United Sidecar Association, Inc., the primary mission of the United Sidecar Association, Inc. is to promote the development, interest, and general welfare of sidecaring.

We, the members of the United Sidecar Association, Inc. have the following goals:

- To promote safety standards, policies, practices and procedures helpful in the safe use and activities of sidecars;
- To unite sidecar enthusiasts through shared information and group activities.
- To maintain a fiscal balance necessary to achieve all goals.
- Although the United Sidecar Association (USCA), Sidecar Safety Program (SSP) and the Sidecar Industry Council (SIC), are separate and independent organizations, they are mutually supportive of each other in the goals of helping to promote sidecaring as a sport.

I. ORGANIZATION

A. ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSION

Membership shall be open to all persons interested in sidecars and sidecaring. A person does not have to own a sidecar to be a member.

Admission to membership shall be by written application, in a form and manner as shall be prescribed by the Board. The application shall be accompanied by the specified amount of dues.

Membership in the USCA shall not be transferable nor re-assignable except by approval of the Board.

B. DUES

The dues and privileges of all classifications shall be specified from time to time by the Board and shall be published at the beginning of the calendar year and whenever revised. Dues will be set for a single membership; plus additional fees as may be necessary to cover initial membership material and foreign postage. The benefits of membership in-so-far as they pertain to event discounts, extend to the immediate family residing with the member. This includes spouses and children under the age of 18.

Honorary Life Members are not required to submit dues to the Association.

Any member three (3) months or more behind in renewing dues, shall be considered not in good standing, shall not be entitled to vote at association meetings nor receive the Association's publication. Reminder notices may be sent out prior to cancellations of membership, at the discretion of the Membership Registrar.

A member may reactivate membership by paying all dues outstanding.

Initial membership will include membership card, a club memento, subscription to The Sidecarist, the news journal of the USCA, USCA Emergency / Friendship Directory, copies of the club Bylaws and Constitution.

C. MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

A member is one whose dues are fully paid and who shall continue to meet the requirements of eligibility for membership.

Family membership includes named member, spouse and any minor (17 years or younger) children, but such membership shall be entitled to only one vote and one copy of The Sidecarist. Spouses may elect to become Associate Members in order to receive the right to vote and a membership card.

Honorary Life Membership, is a classification bestowed upon a member by the Board, for exceptional services rendered to the USCA, or, for promoting the cause of sidecaring. Honorary Life Members do not have voting privileges and may not hold office.

II. BOARD

The United Sidecar Association, Inc., shall have a Board which shall contain a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, seven (7) Regional Directors. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by the Bylaws, the Standing Rules of Order, the Constitution and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association.

No current or past (for up to three years) Officer or Director of the USCA shall receive, directly or indirectly, any salary or emolument from the USCA, either as such Officer or Director in any other capacity. No current or past (for up to three years) Officer or Director of the USCA shall be interested, directly or indirectly, in any contract relating to the operations conducted by the USCA, nor in any contract for furnishing supplies there to.

A. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF THE BOARD

1) NOMINATION

Nomination will be by simple written petition. A sample of the petition is as follows:

Please accept this petition in nomination of _____ for the position of _____ of the USCA. He/she is a member in good standing of the USCA and is assigned membership number _____. Respectfully submitted, _____, USCA member number _____.

Also, attached to the petition (or submitted before the nomination is accepted by the Election Chair) will be a position statement and biographical sketch from the nominee giving: (a) goals and beliefs regarding the position and (b) experience and interests in regards to the position and (c) a recent picture. The Board may set limits as to the length of these statements.

Nominations will be for a single position on the Board.

Other rules of the Nomination process may be set forth in the Standing Rules of Order.

2) ELECTION

Election to the Board shall be by ballot mailed to every eligible member of the USCA, through a separate mailing, by inclusion in The Sidecarist, or, by any means found suitable by the Board. Whatever method is chosen; every care will be taken to ensure that all members have an opportunity to vote.

Other rules of the Election process may be set forth in the Standing Rules of Order.

B. TERMS OF OFFICE

The length of term of office for any elected Board member, is two (2) years. Other rules of the terms of office may be set forth in the Standing Rules of Order.

III. MEETINGS

A. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

There will be a minimum of one (1) Board Meeting and one (1) General Meeting every calendar year.

B. MEETING AGENDA

A. BOARD MEETINGS

The Board will meet to discuss the business of the USCA. Notes of the meeting will be kept by the Secretary, or, in the absence of the Secretary, the Vice-President. The Board shall have the option to audit the financial books of the club on an annual basis. This task can be performed by members of the Board, or, by a committee of at least two members in good standing, selected by the Board to perform the audit. The Audit Committee shall report the results of the audit, to the Board in writing. Regardless of who performs the audit, the books must be signed and dated by those conducting the audit.

B. GENERAL MEETINGS

A General Meeting of the Association will involve both the members of the Board and the membership of the USCA, to discuss issues of concern to the membership at the meeting. Notes of the meeting will be kept by the Secretary, or, in the absence of the Secretary, the Vice-President.

C. ATTENDANCE

1) BOARD MEETINGS

Members may attend any live Board meetings, but must indicate their intention by written request in advance to the Secretary, or, by invitation by a Board member. If attendance is by invitation, the Board member shall inform the Secretary in writing. Further, any member may petition the Board to audit the on-going virtual meeting conducted on the Board's Forum. Permission will be automatically granted unless a majority of the Board votes to deny it. Good reason must be presented to justify a denial.

2) GENERAL MEETINGS

General Meetings are open meetings and may be attended by all interested persons.

D. VOTING

Voting procedures at all meetings, shall be according to parliamentary procedure as adopted in Article VI, and additional procedures described in the Standing Rules of Order.

IV. COMMITTEES

Committees, whether standing or special, may be appointed by the Board as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the Association. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nomination and Election Committees.

V. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, shall govern this Association in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, Standing Rules of Order and Constitution. and any special rules of order the Association may adopt.

VI. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended or added to at any time, provided the amendment was submitted in writing to the Board, who after review of the amendment then posts notice of the change to the membership for a period of at least (30) days. The Board will accept input from the membership and taking that input into account, the Board will then act on the amendment, which shall require passage by two-thirds vote of the Board. The membership will then be informed of the result of that vote.

VII. INDEMNIFICATION

The USCA shall indemnify each present and future Board member, officer, and employee of the organization against any judgment, costs, or expenses which may be imposed on or reasonably incurred by him in connection with any claim, action, suit, or proceeding hereafter made or instituted, in which he may be involved by reason of his/her being a member of the Board, an officer or employee of the association.

In the event that a Board member, officer or employee of the organization shall serve as a Director or officer of any other association or organization at the request of the USCA for the benefit or advantage of this organization, such indemnity shall likewise be extended to such Board member, officer or employee of the organization.

This agreement of indemnification by the USCA is binding upon the organization, its successors and assigns, and shall insure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of any such Board member, officer, or employee, but shall not be exclusive of any other rights to which any Board member, officer or employee may be entitled as matter of law.

The indemnification herein provided for shall in no event be applicable or effective in any case in which any Board member, officer or employee shall be finally adjudged in any such action, suit, or proceeding to be liable because he/she acted fraudulently or in bad faith.

VIII. DISSOLUTION

If the Board of the USCA, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, concludes that the corporation can no longer continue to function in the manner intended by its founding fathers, as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws, the corporation may be dissolved by unanimous vote of the Board.

In the event of dissolution, the assets of the corporation shall be distributed as provided for the laws of the State of Illinois, or as provided for in the Internal Revenue Code as said laws exist, or as may be amended in the future.