

Seattle girls of Leather Bylaws

Name

Seattle girls of Leather (SgoL)

Description

Who We Are

We are a group of self-identified Leathergirls. Membership is not limited by race, creed, orientation or gender; however, an identification of Leathergirl is essential. A girl-heart is an individual self-identity. Seattle girls of Leather is a unique and powerful group of individuals — our solidarity and commonality is found in our understanding that the definition of Leathergirl involves who you are and not just how you play.

Mission

What We Do

SgoL holds monthly meetings, communicates via discussion board, does outreach at Leather events throughout the Puget Sound area, and volunteers for a variety of non-profit organizations.

Our mission is twofold:

- To provide camaraderie, and a safe space to any individual who identifies as a Leathergirl.
- To provide community service within & outside of the Puget Sound area Leather Community at large.

Leather girl flag



Logo

Supporter logo

Colors

The official SgoL colors are: black, white, red, and pink.

Ownership

Sheryl D is the owner and designer of the Leather girl flag. She has given us permission to utilize it.

SgoL owns the rights to the SgoL logo and supporter logo. Design credit, when requested, is to be given to Leland Carina.

Non-Discrimination

SgoL does not discriminate on the basis of gender, gender expression, sex, national origin, disability, race, or religion.

Membership

1. AGE

No member shall be under the the age of eighteen(18) years.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL MEMBERS

- a. Display and respect club colors
- b. Embody the spirit of the club at community events
- c. Recruit members

3. CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

a. Associate Member

An Associate Member is a probationary position for girls who would like to become Full Members. Associate Members are expected to follow all the rules of a member, listed above. The Associate Member may petition the Sergeant-at-Arms to become a Full Member upon completion of membership requirements (below) and with the approval of a majority¹ of the membership in good standing.

b. Full Members

1. Full Members in good standing must fulfill the following responsibilities:

a. Full Member Option A:

- i. Pay annual dues, which are \$30.00
- ii. Attend two (2) of any previous four (4) business meetings
- iii. Attend three (3) events outside of business meetings per year
- iv. Must attend one (1) before petitioning to become a Full Member then two (2) more in the remainder of the first year
- v. May serve on committees

2. OR

a. Full Member Option B:

- i. Pay annual dues, which are \$30.00
- ii. Attend at least two (2) business meetings per year
- iii. Must attend one (1) before petitioning to become a Full Member
- iv. Must attend the annual business meeting in October
- v. Attend nine (9) events outside of meetings per year
- vi. Must attend three (3) before petitioning to become a Full Member, then six (6) more in the remainder of the first year.
- vii. Must serve a volunteer or coordinator role in five (5) of those events.
- viii. May serve on committees.

¹Throughout these bylaws, it is understood that a 'majority' means a simple majority, unless otherwise conditioned, as in 'two-thirds' majority.

- ii. Full Members in good standing have the following rights. (Members must remain in good standing in order to enjoy these rights.)
 - 1. Elect and serve as elected officers
 - 2. May chair committees
 - 3. Vote on club business

Members who do not fulfill these responsibilities are Associate Members. Should an Associate Member petition for reinstatement, said member shall be reinstated as soon as they fulfill any lapsed requirements.

c. Supporter

An SgoL Supporter is any individual who is not an Associate Member or a Full Member, or a group who provides financial support of at least twenty (20) dollars in the fiscal year (defined in Finance section). At the discretion of the membership, a person or group which provides significant non-monetary service to the club may be designated a Supporter. Supporters receive a button designating the year of their donation or service, and mention on the club web site.

d. Honorary Member

The title of Honorary Member is reserved for any person who goes above and beyond all expectations in support of the club, who is not an Associate Member or a Full Member. It may be bestowed at the discretion of the membership at the Annual Meeting. Honorary Members shall receive an official SgoL pin and mention on the club web site.

e. Emeritus Member

Members who remain in good standing for no less than four (4) years may elect to become Emeritus Members. Emeritus Members retain all rights and responsibilities, excepting the right to elect officers and the right to vote on club business.

Emeritus membership may be revoked by the same procedure outlined for members.

4. GOOD STANDING

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

- a. Paid all dues and monies owed the club within (60) days of notification
- b. Attended sufficient club functions per their membership category
- c. Represents the club in a positive and appropriate manner

The Steering Committee may make exceptions for hardship at the request of the member.

5. DELINQUENT MEMBER

A Delinquent Member is any Full Member who is not in Good Standing.

6. SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

a. Suspension

The membership of any member may be suspended without hearing or prior notice with notification from the Treasurer to the President, or designated acting President, that the delinquent member has been notified. Members must be notified of Suspension in the same manor as notification of delinquency. Members who are suspended may not vote on any issue before the Membership, nor run for or hold office of any kind. At the discretion of the Steering Committee the suspended member shall be required to return his or her club pin and membership patch to SgoL.

b. Termination

SgoL reserves the right to refuse, revoke or suspend membership for cause other than non-payment of dues, assessments, fees, or other charges after appropriate notice. A super-majority of two-thirds (2/3) of members present is sufficient to trigger a hearing. The Steering Committee shall choose the time, location and form of a hearing to determine the status of the Member. Appeal from a Steering Committee vote of termination may be made to the next Annual Meeting of the corporation provided that notice of the intent to appeal is provided to the President of the Steering Committee at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting. Terminated members shall return their membership pin and patch to SgoL.

Meetings

1. General Membership Meetings

SgoL will meet for the purpose of doing regular business at least once a month, with the October meeting designated the Annual Meeting. Additional meetings may be called as required by club business. The President shall notify the membership by

posting online to the SgoL web site (SgoL.org) of the date, time and location of the next general meeting. Special meetings will be announced via the SgoL online group in addition to being posted on the web site.

Future meetings may be canceled by a majority vote of the Membership present.

2. Voting

In order to vote, you must be a Full Member in good standing of the organization.

3. Procedure

Meetings will start with a reading of the minutes from the previous meeting. The Sergeant at Arms will keep time and the order of speakers (the “stack”). At the discretion of the Sergeant at Arms, meetings may revert to using Robert’s Rules of Order to help mitigate conflict. We will go over old business, new business, and then have announcements.

Any Full Member in good standing may make a motion, any other Full Member in good standing may second that motion. Motions must be made to hold a vote, to table a discussion until the next meeting, and to adjourn.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee consists of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Sergeant at Arms and two (2) Committee Members at large selected from the membership. All officers must be members in good standing for at least one (1) year prior to the start of their term, excepting the first office-holders for each position.

All terms are for one (1) year, and no officer may serve more than three (3) consecutive terms in office.

Meetings of the Steering Committee must take place at least every three (3) months.

1. Duties

Each Steering Committee member must:

- a. Serve the membership by ensuring the continued health of the organization
- b. Serve on at least one committee
- c. Attend three-fourths of the monthly meetings within their year of service
- d. Attend the Annual Meeting
- e. Attend Steering Committee Meetings
- f. In the event that a Committee member cannot attend due to extenuating circumstances, they must inform the President of their absence prior to the meeting and provide for their business to be handled by another Officer

2. Officers

a. President

The President shall call regular meetings, meetings of the Steering Committee, and the Annual Meeting in accordance with these bylaws, and chair the above meetings. The President also sets the agenda for all above meetings, and distributes it to the club four (4) calendar days prior to the meeting.

The President will serve as the most visible representative of the club, and is the official representative of the club at outside functions and to other groups or clubs.

The President shall oversee the other officers in their duties.

The President shall write a monthly President's message for the web site describing the recent activities and future activities of the SgoL.

The President shall actively seek out new opportunities and connections for the club, both within and external to the Leather community.

The President shall supervise the public relations of the club, including press releases.

b. Vice President

The Vice President acts as an additional visible representative of the club.

In case the President is absent or unable to perform their duties, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the President.

The Vice President shall supervise the web presence of the club.

c. Secretary

The Secretary keeps track of the club's legal documents and takes minutes at meetings and posts them online within three (3) business days.

The Secretary maintains the inventory of club merchandise, supplies and paraphernalia.

The Secretary writes all official club press releases.

d. Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for keeping track of the club's funds, creating and maintaining the club budget, and collecting and tracking dues.

e. Sergeant at Arms

The Sergeant at Arms keeps order and time during meetings. The Sergeant at arms

must maintain close familiarity with the club's bylaws and meeting procedures.

The Sergeant at Arms ensures that all meetings are conducted in an orderly manner; all discussion stays on topic and that emotion does not control the meeting. The Sergeant at Arms will call a time out if discussions veer off topic and/or emotions are running high.

The Sergeant at Arms is the head of the Membership Committee, and is responsible for determining the current membership status of any Member or Associate Member.

3. Elections

Officer elections shall be held at the Annual Meeting. Candidates are selected by majority vote of the Full Members present. Voting will be by paper ballot. Two Full Members, who are not candidates, will tally the votes. In case a Full Member can not be present, they may select another Full Member to be their proxy for voting purposes.

4. Compensation

No compensation for services shall be paid to any of the officers of the organization. Officers shall be allowed reasonable advancement or reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their regular duties.

5. Resignation

In the event a member of the Steering Committee wishes to resign their position, they must tender their resignation in writing to the full Steering Committee.

6. Removal

Officers may be removed by unanimous vote of the Steering Committee, excepting the officer in question.

7. Vacancies

Any vacancy caused by the death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or otherwise, of any Officer shall be filled by vote of the Full Members. In the event of a vacancy in any office other than that of President, such vacancy may be filled temporarily by appointment by the President until the Full Members can vote to fill the vacancy. Filling officer vacancies can occur at a regular meeting. Vacancies occurring in committees appointed at the discretion of the Steering Committee may or may not be filled as the Steering Committee shall determine.

Committees

1. Membership Committee

The Membership Committee shall be made up of the Vice President, the Sergeant at Arms, and up to three (3) Full Members as designated by the Steering Committee; and shall be chaired by the Sergeant at Arms.

The Membership Committee shall review all applications for membership and make recommendations to the Full Members on said applications.

The Membership Committee shall orient all new Associate Members to the club.

2. Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees

Either the President, Steering Committee or a majority of the Full Members may designate special and standing committees, and delegate powers to said committee.

Finance

The fiscal year shall run from January 1 to December 31. The Steering Committee shall submit a budget to the Full Members for approval at the first meeting in the fiscal year.

Any Full Member who holds responsibility over a portion of the budget may, at their discretion, spend that appropriation in good faith, with no further approval from the Steering Committee or the Full Members. Receipts for expenditures shall be submitted to the Treasurer at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Dedication of Assets

Upon dissolution of the SgoL, the Steering Committee shall, after paying or making provision for payment of all the liabilities of the organization, Any remaining assets of the organization shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

Approval of These Bylaws

These articles shall take immediate effect upon ratification by two-thirds (2/3) of the eligible members present. Eligibility is determined by having attended two (2) of any of the four prior meetings (June, July, August, September 2010).

Amendments

Any Full Member in good standing may propose an amendment to the bylaws. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the President for inclusion in the upcoming meeting's agenda one week prior to the meeting. Proposals will be read and

discussed the first month, then voted on the following month.