



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Adopted June 9, 2014

Where used in this document references in the masculine also shall be read and construed as in the feminine in all cases where such construction would so apply.

ARTICLE I

Definitions

NSMA - Northern Stars Motorcycle Association (NSMA)

The organization shall be known as "NORTHERN STARS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION". The NSMA is a "Not for Profit" Organization with no official group registration/incorporation. The NSMA shall not borrow any monies without the approval of the membership.

QUORUM - a Quorum shall be considered to exist where:

In the case of there being only 2 executive members in office, both are in attendance and/or cast their votes;

In the case of there being more than 2 executive members in office, 50% (minimum 2) or greater of said number are in attendance and/or cast their votes;

PRECEDENCE - "In the event of any conflict between the NSMA National Constitution, Bylaws and/or Policies (NCBP) and any NSMA Chapter Constitutions, Bylaws and/or Policies (CCBP) , the NCBP shall take precedence and overrule the CCBP."

ARTICLE II

A Member shall be any person who has satisfactorily made application through the National Northern Stars application form.

Upon review by a Quorum of NSMA Executive Officers, any Member may be suspended or removed from membership in the NSMA where they have been found by said quorum to be acting in a manner deemed unethical of being a member. Applications for removal or suspension of an individual's membership may be made by the Executive of a Chapter to the NSMA Executives.

A Member holding the position of National President or National Vice President must be the owner of a Yamaha Star motorcycle.

A General Member shall have one vote in the event a matter comes before the general membership.

All general voting / nominations / polling within the NSMA shall be done solely on the NSMA Delphi Message Forum under the Member's Only folder. Voting / nominations / polling by email or telephone will not be accepted.



ARTICLE III

The Executive of the NSMA term may be indefinite, but is to be reviewed annually each November in an informal request to the General Membership in the Members Only section of the message forum for a show of confidence/continued support. In the case of a perceived majority showing of non-confidence, a vote is to be held, and in the case of 75% or greater of the General Membership indicating non-confidence, the Officer shall forfeit their position and a new Officer sought through the regular channels as stated elsewhere in this document. There is no limit to the number of terms an Executive Officer can serve on the Executive of the NSMA.

The Executive Officers of the Northern Stars Motorcycle Association shall include:

- The Executive Officers shall include the National President, National Vice President, National Treasurer, National Membership Coordinator, National Promotions Officers, National Webmaster, and at no more than two representatives from each Chapter as assigned by the President of the Chapter. See ARTICLE V – The Executive Officers Voting.

- **SECTION A**

The duties of the NSMA Executive shall be to:

- Act in all matters put forth for the operation and well-being of the NSMA;
- Properly investigate and present to the NSMA membership relevant business and activity situations;
- Oversee the management of property owned by the NSMA;
- Maintain the integrity of the constitution and bylaws of the NSMA;
- Appoint or remove Executive with a majority vote from the Executive;
- At the resignation of their term of office, deliver to the successor all tools, documents, material and pertinent information in their possession pertaining to their position.

- **SECTION B**

The duties of the National President shall be to:

- Have general supervision of the affairs of the NSMA;
- Assist all other officers in the performance of their duties;
- Actively promote the NSMA and its activities to both current and prospective members and the public;
- Prepare and distribute to the membership an annual report summarizing the affairs of the NSMA during the 12 month period prior to the production of said report. This report is due by January 31 of each year.

- **SECTION C**

The duties of the National Vice President shall be to:

- Perform all the duties of the National President in the event of the absence of the National President;
- Assist the Chapter Executives in the performance of their duties;



- **SECTION D**

The duties of the National Treasurer shall be to:

- Be the custodian of all funds and property of the NSMA;
- Keep an itemized record of the NSMA receipts and disbursements;
- Deposit the funds collected in a bank or institution as approved by the Executive Officers;
- Undertake the payment of any and all debts incurred by the NSMA and approved for payment by the NSMA executive during the normal course of operation, such payment to be made as available from NSMA funds;
- Oversee the financial books and report to the members when requested;
- Annually conduct the NSMA financial review and report the completion of the review to the NSMA Executive. This report is due by January 31 of each year. The report must be reviewed, and accepted by at least two other Executives.

- **SECTION E**

The duties of the National Membership Coordinator shall be to:

- send a welcome email asking the person to visit the forum;
- compile, update and keep a complete listing of all current members of the NSMA
- obtain any missing information on the application form;
- pass along membership information to the various Chapter membership officers as and when it is requested.

- **SECTION F**

The duties of the National Webmaster shall be to:

- Keep the website of the NSMA up to date, and make modifications as necessary;
- Assign email addresses where applicable;
- Assist Chapter Webmasters when necessary;
- Create sub-domains for Chapters & special events such as the National Rally.

- **SECTION G**

The duties of the Chapter Representatives will be to:

- Represent their Chapter & members;
- Each Chapter shall have no more than two representatives on the Executive. This can be the Chapter President & Vice President, or any two members that will act on behalf of the Chapter; all representatives to be assigned by the Chapter President, and approved by the National Executive.

- **SECTION H**

- Executive must be actively involved on the Executive forum;
- All matters put forth by the Executive for voting must meet the follow criteria (See ARTICLE V – The Executive Voting);



- If a motion is made by email or message forum correspondence only the said motion is made and properly seconded, a seven day information period will be required before going to a vote of the Executive.

Executives that no longer participate on a regular basis should be deemed inactive and releasing them from the Executive will be considered. An Executive vote will determine the future status of the said Executive Officer. See ARTICLE V – The Executive Voting.

A Call for Nominations for any vacant Executive Positions will be made within the current Executive on the Executive Message Forum. Nominees do not need to be current Executives, just nominated by a current Executive. If there are no nominations, then a Call for Nominations will go to the Membership in the Members Only folder on the NSMA Message Forum. Nominations will stay open for 2 weeks, and the candidate will have 1 week to accept or reject the nomination.

All elections will be held in the Members Only folder on the NSMA Message Forum only via a poll, and will run for 1 week. The only exception to this is if there is only 1 volunteer/nomination. The Executive Board shall decide whether to accept the volunteer/nomination into the position.

All members of the Executive who are unable to perform their elected duties shall notify the President, in writing that they wish to stand down from their position. Standing down from their position does not constitute resignation from the Executive Board as a whole.

In the event that any member of the Executive is failing to communicate with the executive as a whole, either in person, or by email, then that member shall be notified by the President that a response is required from them.

ARTICLE IV

In the case where a member of the Executive Board elects to resign his position, the Executive shall:

- i. elect a person from amongst the remaining Executive Board to assume the title and duties of the vacant position; or
- ii. Call for Nominations for the vacant Executive Positions will be made within the current Executive on the Executive Message Forum. Nominees do not need to be current Executives, just nominated by a current Executive.

All offices are filled and duties performed are on a volunteer basis with no compensation due any individual. Term of service shall be until terminated by either the office holder or by a vote of the Executive. See ARTICLE V – The Executive Voting.



ARTICLE V

The Executive Voting Regulations:

- Each member of the Executive has 1 (one) vote;
- Voting by the Executive will only take place if there is a quorum of the Executives voting on the Executive Message Forum, and all Polls will remain open for seven days.
- In the case of any "tie" vote, the vote shall be re-submitted for all members of the Executive. If there is still a tie, then the vote must go to the general membership via the Members Only Folder.

ARTICLE VI

The ownership of the forum shall remain that of the President. The President shall appoint at minimum one other Executive member who shall have full access to the forum. In the event the President resigns, the ownership of the forum shall be automatically transferred to the incoming President. The incoming President shall have the option of appointing his / her own alternative Executive Board member as it relates to the ownership of the forum.

ARTICLE VII

This Constitution may be amended only by at least a 2/3 majority vote of Executive, and shall be followed by an appropriate notice to the General Membership.



ARTICLE VIII - Canadian Chapter Policies and Other Helpful Guidelines

By forming a Canadian Provincial Chapter within the Northern Stars your Chapter Officers and members will need to understand the following policies and guidelines, which are beneficial to all.

1. Star Motorcycles are our rides of choice. And as such, all Northern Stars Presidents and Vice Presidents, national and provincial, must ride Yamaha Star motorcycles.
2. All Provincial Chapters must adhere to the Copyright Information of the Northern Stars, available at <http://www.northernstarsrider.ca/copyright.html>.

Your Chapter may use the logo's and images from the main Northern Stars website, but all use and/or displays of these logos and images must be pre-approved by the Northern Stars Executives prior to their use and/or distribution, further; they are not to be modified in any way without the expressed written permission of the Northern Stars Executives.

As you may know, the Northern Stars, as a Not-for Profit Society, has very limited operating funds to cover website hosting, CMA insurance, event hosting such as our National Rally's etc... And, as such, the Northern Stars Executives duly and respectfully request the following:

- No Materials bearing in part or in whole any portion of the Northern Stars may-be reproduced and or sold by any person/s or by any Chapter without the explicit written approval of the National NSMA Officers.
 - the Northern Stars definitely encourages you and your Chapter to produce and sell Chapter specific logo merchandise so that your Chapter may also raise operating funds, but reserves the right to approve or disallow any such materials prior to their production and/or sale.
3. The Northern Stars can (if you so choose) provide Small patches designed and made like the present small Northern Stars "patch" customized for your Chapter. Small patches are allowed to show geographic area as long as they are not worn as a back patch.

Your Chapter is required to charge its members the exact same price per patch as the Northern Stars do for their equivalent patch.

Your Chapter would then pre-order the small patches for your Chapter members and once monies are collected to fill a minimum order of 25 patches, you would then



place the order (with the Northern Stars) and pre-pay for the small Chapter patches at a reduced price. Contact us for your costs and details.

Your Chapter benefits from this in many ways;

Your Chapter gets patches made "quickly".

The Northern Stars identity is maintained throughout Canada.

The patch quality is maintained.

You save big dollars on artwork set-up fees.

You can order smaller quantities. (25 minimum) at big cost savings.

And, you get a few dollars per small patch for your Chapter account.

4. Your Chapter / members may NOT place "ROCKERS" under or over the LARGE Northern Stars "patch" that contain reference to a geographic area (town, city, province, region, etc). It is Northern Stars Policy to not allow "ROCKERS" under LARGE patches to avoid confrontation with the general public and other motorcycle groups who may interpret this as a display of ownership of a specific territory. It is the Northern Stars policy to possibly revoke and or disallow any Chapter Charter formed within the Northern Stars if this should occur. The Northern Stars wish to avoid any such confrontation with other motorcyclists and the general public.
5. As of May 2014 all Chapters are allowed to have their own "custom" Large - 12" or Medium - 7" patch based on the April 2012 "winged" patch. Here are the regulations for this patch:
 - Standardized one-piece patch for all Chapters with the Chapter's name in a lower banner. i.e. "Northern Stars of AB" & "Star Riders of Ontario". The use of the province name by itself is not allowed.
 - Chapters must purchase these patches through the National Merchandise Officer with a minimum order of 25. These must be prepaid in full. These will be for the Chapters to sell, and will not be for sale through the National Merchandise Store.
 - Chapters will sell these for a set price of \$45 for the Large and \$30 for the Medium (to be determined based on cost). This is \$5 more than the National Patch due to the increased cost of production.
6. The Northern Stars have a large amount of domain web space available. We can provide your Chapter with web space and an internal Canadian web address (sub domain like alberta.northernstarsrider.ca) at no charge to the Chapters. All



Chapters using our web space must have respectable content as deemed and monitored by the Executive.

7. Your Chapter President and V.P. will be given direct access to a "private" forum for the Northern Stars Executives, and will become part of the Northern Stars Motorcycle Association Executive.
8. Your Chapter Officers will also be given a list of current Northern Stars members in your area. This list can then be used in good faith for your Chapter development. Please respect your member's privacy and use the list wisely. It is the responsibility of your Chapter Officers to ensure your members' information remains private, and that the information provided to you by the Northern Stars is used wisely and not distributed without individual member consent.
9. Chapters always benefit from the support of the Northern Stars Executive and from the garnered support from Yamaha Canada.
10. "All Chapters in Canada are accepted / approved by the Northern Stars. Currently, we are accepting applications for those Provinces in Canada that do not have a Chapter. Also, we are only approving one Chapter per Province or Territory."
11. Chapters under the Northern Stars are not to charge membership fees. They are also not to require a member to attend a certain number of events as part of the membership. Membership is FREE, that is monetary & participation based.
12. No Northern Star National or Chapter Officer shall be an officer in another Motorcycle Association/Organization.

We offer an open exemption for Fire/Police/Ambulance/Military based Motorcycle Clubs for all positions except President & Vice President.

Anyone who is currently an officer of the Northern Stars and another group previous to March 1/09 you will not be forced to choose. You will be grandfathered / grandmothers at this point. The exception to this grandfather / grandmother clause is for the President or Vice President positions.

13. Any individual may become a full member of the Northern Stars, subject to the approval of the Northern Stars Executive.

We are pleased to work with you while you set-up and continue to grow your Chapter. Feel totally free to contact us if you have any questions or if you need clarification on any of the above policies and guidelines. Let's grow together as proud Northern Stars. A family like no other.