

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY NEW JERSEY BRANCH CONSTITUTION

I. NAME

The name of the Local Association shall be "The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, New Jersey Branch" (hereinafter called "the Local Association").

II. ASSOCIATION WITH THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

The Local Association is an autonomous body consisting of members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (hereinafter called "the Society"). While it has similar objects to, and associates with, the Society, it operates and carries out its administration and management independently from the Society.

III. OBJECTS

The objects of the Local Association shall be:-

- (a) To preserve and further the practice of traditional Scottish Country Dancing.
- (b) To provide or assist in providing instruction in the dancing of Scottish Country Dances.
- (c) To promote the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish Country Dancing and Music by any suitable means.
- (d) Generally to do such other things as are or may be considered by the Local Association to further the foregoing objects of the Society in the area to which it relates.

IV. MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

1. Membership of the Local Association shall be open to all persons over the age of 18 interested in the objects of the Local Association. Every person who is a member of the Local Association must be a member of the Society.
2. Persons under the age of 18 may become Junior Associates of the Local Association and the privileges accorded to such Junior Associates shall be regulated from time to time by the Committee of Management of the Local Association.
3. The rates of subscription for Members shall be such as may be determined from time to time by the Local Association in General Meeting.

V. OFFICE BEARERS

1. The Office-Bearers of the Local Association shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and one (or more) Member(s)-at-Large who shall all be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Local Association in the manner hereinafter provided.
2. The President shall hold office for one year and on completion of his/her year of office shall be eligible for re-election.

3. The Vice President, Secretary Treasurer and Member(s)-at-Large shall hold office for one year but shall be eligible for re-election.
4. The Committee of Management shall have power to appoint an interim President, Vice President Secretary, Treasurer and/or Member(s)-at-Large to fill these vacancies occurring between Annual General Meetings but any office bearers so appointed shall serve only until the next Annual General Meeting when he/she shall be eligible for election.
5. The Local Association may appoint an Honorary President and Honorary Vice Presidents.

VI. COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

(a) Memberships/Meetings

1. The affairs of the Local Association shall be administered by a Committee of Management (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee") comprised of the Office-Bearers (other than the Honorary President and Honorary Vice Presidents), who shall perform the duties prescribed by this Constitution and by the Parliamentary authority adopted by the Local Association.
2. The members of the Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Local Association. In the event that a vacancy occurs in the Committee prior to an Annual General Meeting, the Committee shall have the power to fill such vacancy by co-option but any member so co-opted shall serve only until the next following Annual General Meeting when he/she may stand for election.
3. All members of the Committee must be members of the Local Association.

(b) Powers and Duties of Committee

1. A Quorum of the Committee shall be three members.
2. The Committee shall have power to constitute Sub-Committees comprised only of members of the Local Association co-opted by the Committee, and entrust such Sub-Committees with such duties as it considers necessary for the efficient working of Local Association affairs.

VII. DUTIES OF OFFICE-BEARERS

1. President - The Local Association President is the executive officer of the Local Association. He/she is responsible for the overall growth and direction of the Local Association. He/she will promote interaction between the Local Association and any other Local Associations, Classes and other organisations having the purpose of promoting Scottish culture. He/She shall preside at Local Association meetings and at meetings of the Committee. In the absence of the President, the Local Association Vice-President shall preside. Should neither the President or Vice-President be present, a chairman shall be appointed from among those present. The chairman of any meeting, whether a Local Association or Committee meeting, shall have a casting as well as a deliberative vote.
2. Vice-President - It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to schedule and co-ordinate social activities, promote the activities of the Local Association through the media and to act for the President in his/her absence.
3. Secretary - It shall be the duty of the Secretary to see that regular meetings are held, to conduct the correspondence of the Local Association and to keep proper minutes of such meetings. Additionally the Secretary shall:-

- (a) prepare an annual report of the activities of the Local Association during the preceding year.

- (b) keep a register of Members of the Local Association.
4. Treasurer - It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive, bank and account for all monies collected by whatever agency from members of the Local Association or from other sources. Additionally the Treasurer shall:-
- (a) cause proper account books to be kept and ensure that the annual accounts of the Local Association are properly examined or audited as required by the laws of the State of New Jersey and the United States of America.
- (b) make the annual Local Association accounts available for inspection by members at reasonable times and present the accounts for adoption by the Local Association at the Annual General Meeting.
5. Member-at-Large: - It shall be the duty of the Member-at-Large to represent the interests of the members of the Local Association.

VIII. LOCAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

1. (a) The Annual General Meeting of the members of the Local Association shall be held within six months after the end of its financial year at such place and at such time as may be determined by the Committee. The financial year of the Local Association shall end on December 31 of each year or such date as may be determined by the Committee or laid down in statutes of the State of New Jersey or the United States of America.
- (b) All members shall be given 14 days written notice of a General Meeting. Every notice shall contain a statement of the business to be discussed at the meeting.
2. The order of business at the Annual General Meeting shall, as nearly as may be, be the following:-
- (a) Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and of any Special General Meetings held in the course of the year.
- (b) Secretary's Report on year's working of the Local Association.
- (c) Treasurer's Report and Accounts.
- (d) Appointment of Office-Bearers and Committee.
- (e) Motions.
- (f) Any other competent business.
3. A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the President or shall be called on a requisition signed by not less than one-tenth of the membership of the Local Association when such membership does not exceed 500. Where membership of the Local Association exceeds 500 a minimum of 50 or one sixteenth, whichever is the greater, of the membership must sign the requisition calling a Special General Meeting.
4. One-quarter of the membership or twenty-five members of the Local Association whichever shall be lesser shall constitute a quorum.
5. The Local Association in General Meeting may enact such rules (hereinafter referred to as the "Rules") as it may determine for the proper working of the Local Association.

IX. SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF MEMBER

1. The Committee may suspend temporarily or terminate the membership of any person whose conduct is in their opinion prejudicial to the interests of the Local Association. Suspension or termination shall not alter the rights or status of the person concerned as a member of the Society.

2. Before suspending or terminating any person's membership, the Executive Committee shall notify in writing the person concerned stating the reasons for the proposed suspension or termination and giving that person the opportunity of replying and of appearing before the Committee, if the member so wishes, to seek revocation of the suspension or termination.
3. The person whose membership has been suspended or terminated shall have the right of appeal at a Local Association General Meeting when a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote shall be necessary to confirm the suspension or termination.
4. Where suspension or termination has occurred or, where appropriate, has been confirmed as in 3 above, the matter shall be notified to the Society.

X. DISBANDMENT

1. Notice of intention to disband the Local Association shall be given to the Secretary of the Society at least two months before the date proposed for such disbandment.
2. The balance of the funds, after all liabilities have been met, and all property belonging to the Local Association shall be transferred to such other charity having objects similar to those of the Local Association (excluding geographical limitations) as the members in General Meeting, whom failing, the Committee, shall decide.

XI. REPRESENTATION IN THE SOCIETY

1. The Local Association in General Meeting may appoint one of its members to represent the Local Association on the Executive Council of the Society. Notification of such appointment shall be given to the Secretary of the Society at least eight weeks in advance of the Society's Annual General Meeting. In the event of the nominated representative being unable to attend any meeting of the Executive Council of the Society, an accredited substitute shall be allowed.
2. The Local Association in General Meeting may nominate one of its members for election as one of the six Members of the Executive Council of the Society who are elected annually by the Society in general meeting. Any such nomination shall comply with the requirements for nomination contained in the constitution of the Society and shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Society at least eight weeks in advance of the Society's general meeting.
3. Subject to any restrictions on numbers and any procedures contained in the Society's constitution, the Local Association in General Meeting (which failing, the Committee) may appoint a delegate or delegates to attend a general meeting of the Society and represent the Local Association at such meeting. In the event of an appointed delegate being unable to attend such meeting, an accredited substitute shall be allowed.

XII. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of the Local Association shall only be altered by Resolution passed by the Local Association in General Meeting and only after receiving the vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote. No alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Local Association to cease to be recognised by the Internal Revenue Service of the United States of America, and by the State of New Jersey Department of Taxation, as a Tax-Exempt Organisation.

X111. GENERAL

The Local Association shall be governed in accordance with this Constitution and with any Rules made by the Local Association in General Meeting.

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The name of the Local Association shall be The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, New Jersey Branch, hereinafter called "the Local Association".

II. ASSOCIATION WITH THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

The Local Association is an autonomous body consisting of members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society known as the "Society". The Local Association shall be a member of the Society and shall be operated and carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Society's Constitution.

III. OFFICERS

The officers of the Local Association shall be:

1. President

2. Vice President

3. Secretary

4. Treasurer

5. Auditors

6. Members of the Local Association

IX. MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

1. Individuals in the Local Association shall be open to all persons over the age of 18 years who are interested in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and who are prepared to pay the subscription fee to become a member of the Society.
2. Persons over the age of 18 years who are members of the Local Association and who are prepared to pay the subscription fee shall be entitled to all the privileges and responsibilities of membership in the Society.
3. The rules of subscription for the Local Association shall be such as to be determined from time to time by the Local Association in General Meeting.

X. OFFICE OF RECORDS

1. The President of the Local Association shall be the person who shall be the Registrar of the Local Association and who shall be responsible for the records of the Local Association as determined at the Annual General Meeting of the Local Association in the manner hereinafter provided.
2. The Registrar shall make a record of the names and addresses of the members of the Local Association for each year.

