



# The South Carolina Debutante Ball Rules, Regulations and Policy

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## DUES, ASSESSMENTS, AND INITIATION FEES

1. Annual dues shall be \$500 for active and Surviving spouse members who have a First Son or daughter being presented, \$125 for senior members, and \$250 for surviving spouses that do not have a first son or daughter being presented and are payable on or before February 1. Members who have reached the age of 80 (determined by husband's age) and choose Emeritus status will pay no dues. Delinquent members will be notified by the Treasurer if payment is not received, and a \$50 late fee will be added to their statement. If payment is not received by date specified by the Treasurer, the member will be dropped from membership according to Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution and Bylaws. Members are required to pay the \$50 late fee with their dues prior to March 1. If members do not pay their dues with their late fee, then the member will be removed from the membership as of March 1. If the member would like to be reinstated to The South Carolina Debutante Ball, the member will be required to pay a reinstatement fee of \$225 in addition to their dues and the \$50 late fee payable by March 15.
2. The Board of Directors shall determine annual assessments.
3. Initiation fee for newly elected members shall be \$1000.00.
4. Neither the Secretary nor Treasurer of the South Carolina Debutante Ball, Inc. shall pay dues while in office.
5. Items Numbered 1, 2, and 3 above shall be subject to change in accordance with Article V, Section 6, of the Constitution and Bylaws.

## NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Nominations must be submitted to the Secretary, before the annual meeting, which is on or about the second Sunday in February of each year, on the *Official Application for Membership Form*. Board Members shall not serve as a *Primary Sponsor* for New Member nominations.
2. Nominations must be fully completed, especially with respect to exact information on all children of nominees.
3. Members are strongly discouraged from submitting applicants for membership whose youngest daughter is older than the ninth (9th) grade at the time of application.
4. The Secretary will screen all New Member applications to make sure that all information is complete and will present applications to the Board at the February Board meeting.
5. The Membership Committee will meet prior to the March Board meeting (as designated in Article 6 below) to decide which applications will be recommended to the Board for membership. According to the Bylaws (Section 5), the President, President Elect and Vice President will serve in the absence of a membership committee member. Should none of the above be able to serve on the Membership Committee, the Membership Committee Chairman may appoint any member in good standing to the membership committee.
6. The Board shall meet in early March to act on the report of the Membership Committee.
7. The Secretary shall notify nominees and sponsors of their election to membership and the Treasurer must receive the initiation fee and the dues by April 1st.
8. Nominations submitted for membership, which are not accepted, may be resubmitted for the following year, provided the nominee is still eligible according to the Constitution and Bylaws. A new nomination form, with complete information, must be submitted.

## ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNUAL BALL

A Debutante is an unmarried female who has attained the age of twenty-one (21) prior to the December Ball but is not older than 22 years of age. The total number of debutantes and guest debutantes shall not exceed twenty-two (22) provided the rules shall not exclude any granddaughters and nieces. The maximum number of debutantes may exceed 22, in special circumstances, as determined by the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Debutante Ball, but not exceed 24 debutantes.

## DEBUTANTE / GUEST DEBUTANTE – Order of Priority

### Debutantes

1. Daughters of active members.
2. Granddaughters of active or senior members in order of Ball number.

### Guest Debutantes

3. Sisters of active or senior members in order of Ball number.
4. Nieces of active or senior members in order of Ball number.
5. First choice of parents of debutante daughters in order of Ball number.
6. All other applications from active or senior members shall be submitted to a committee composed of the Chairman of the Board, the President, and the President-Elect/ Ball Chairman for their consideration and recommendation to the Board for approval. Each year, the committee shall use its discretion in establishing criteria used in the selection process; however, the following factors are guidelines only and may be considered by the committee and are listed here without regard to priority or relative significance: first choice of members, first choice of members whose sons are attending their first ball, number of sponsors (up to three), membership of nominee's parents in other balls, personal notes of endorsement from non-sponsoring members, and preference lists submitted by parents of daughter debutantes.

## ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNUAL BALL – Other Invited Guests

1. All unmarried sons of members, following the year they are a First Son through 24 years of age prior to the Ball, will be able to request an invitation to attend as a guest stag at the expense of The South Carolina Debutante Ball, Inc. As a stag, eligible first sons do not bring a guest.
2. Each year, active or senior members may submit names to the Board of Directors for approval of unmarried males, who have attained 21 years of age or older, prior to the Ball, to be invited as guest stags at the expense of the sponsoring member(s). This includes grandsons of members.
3. All debutante daughters and granddaughters, whether single or married, will be invited as guests at the next annual Ball immediately following the Ball at which they made their debut. Post Debutantes are required to have an escort for the ball, who will also attend at the expense of the Ball.
4. A debutante daughter of an active member making her formal debut can invite:
  - A married sister and her husband
  - A single sister who is over 21 years of age prior to the Ball and her escort
  - A married brother and his wife
  - A single brother, who has attained 21 years of age, and a guest who is subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

An assessment per guest of \$250.00 will be charged to the inviting member.

5. Debutante daughters may invite up to four (4) Grandparents and no more than two (2) Special Guests (or 1 couple) whose daughters are not making their debut at the Ball regardless of where they reside, subject to approval by the Board of Directors and space available. The Special Guests are not meant to be used for classmates due to space. Debutante Daughters may petition the Board for additional guests subject to approval by the Board of Directors and space available. The Secretary will notify the members in writing of the Board's decision after the October Board meeting. Guest fee is \$250.00 per person.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Leader of Figure

The Leader of the Figure at the Annual Ball will be the daughter of the President if she is making her formal debut. The President will select the Leader of the Figure under other circumstances. Criteria for consideration include parents years of service, debutante being both a daughter and granddaughter, and ball number.

### Escorts

Any single young lady under the age of thirty (30) years old is expected to attend with an Escort. This includes the sister of the Debutante, as well as any other Special Guests. The Member would be responsible for the \$250.00 for the escort to attend.

### Grandsons of members

Grandsons are an important part of our Ball. For a Grandson to receive an invitation, the Grandparent member will need to submit the information on the Stag form that is due in September. The cost will be incurred by the sponsoring Member at \$250.

If the grandfather is living and able, he may choose to present the grandson in the receiving line. If the grandfather is no longer living, another member of The South Carolina Ball may be chosen. The grandson will be signified by wearing a red ribbon.

### Names to Registrar

Full names of daughters and granddaughters making their debut must be given to the Registrar prior to March 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

### Appointing Registrar

When appropriate, the President shall appoint the Registrar no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Receiving Line

Debutante daughters, granddaughters, First Sons and Grandsons along with their male Presenter will form the receiving line at the Annual Ball. The Executive Board will be at the head of the receiving line for purpose of introductions.

### Chairman and Co-Chairman of the Ball

The president-elect will serve as Chairman of the Ball, and he will be assisted by the Vice-President, who will serve as Co-Chairman of the Ball.

### Debutante escorts, guest stag fees refunded

The deadline for Debutantes submitting their escorts is September 1. No fees will be refunded for guest debutantes after they have accepted the invitation to attend the Ball. No fees will be refunded for guest stags or other guests after December 10.

### Non-Active Member Ball Fees

Senior and Emeritus Members will pay \$250.00 per person to attend the Ball.

Surviving Spouses that do not have a first son or daughter being presented will pay \$250.00 should they choose to invite an Escort to attend the Ball.

### Music at the Ball

The playlist for the Annual Ball should be approved by the Board of Directors at the October meeting with the goal of ensuring song selections are appropriate for the occasion and in keeping with tradition.

### Behavior at the Ball

According to Article 3 Section 8 of the ByLaws, conduct unbecoming to ladies and gentlemen, offensive to other members, or detracting from the dignity of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, will be subject to such disciplinary measures as the Board of Directors deems proper up to and including exclusion from THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED. Prior to any action being taken, the member shall be notified in writing and given the opportunity to be heard by the Board of Directors.

### Expectations:

- RSVPs to the Annual Ball should be returned promptly but no later than December 1.
- Attire is white tie for gentlemen, floor length gowns for ladies.
- Gloves should be worn at all times. While eating or holding a drink, ladies may unbutton a glove and slip out a hand. Gentlemen may temporarily remove a glove for this purpose as well.
- Members are expected to go through the Receiving line when directed.
- Members are expected to enter the Ballroom and be seated promptly when asked.
- During the Figure, no pictures may be taken, with cellphone or other.
- Members should remain seated and quiet during the Figure.
- Dancing should be appropriate for the occasion.
- No member or guest shall join the band "on stage" to sing or dance.
- Excess alcohol should not be consumed.



At the discretion of the Board based on severity of the violation(s), disciplinary measures could include:

- Loss of ability to request seating assignments
- Monetary fine
- Exclusion from Ball the following year
- Removal from The South Carolina Debutante Ball.