



# The South Carolina Debutante Ball Bylaws

Updated October 2022

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## ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL INCORPORATED, will be to plan and to provide an annual debutante ball for eligible daughters and guests of members; and to do all things necessary or desirable to accomplish these purposes. Primary decisions will be made for the benefit of the potentially eligible debutante daughters and not for the politics of the parents.

## ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

### SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

The Membership of this Corporation will consist of Active, Senior, Emeritus, and Surviving Spouse members as are hereinafter provided.

The Active Membership will not exceed one-hundred married couples. The age of each married couple will be determined by the age of the husband.

A Member may become eligible for Senior Membership after serving in good standing as an Active Member for (20) consecutive years or be age sixty (60) or older, provided that the Active Membership roll will not be reduced below sixty-five (65), and subject to the procedures and method of Senior Membership approvals and privileges, as is hereinafter provided by the Constitution and Bylaws of this corporation.

A Senior Member may become eligible for Emeritus Membership once they reach the age of 80.

In the event that an active member couple or a senior member couple are separated by death, the surviving spouse will move to Surviving Spouse membership, as defined in Article III, Section 11(b). A Surviving Spouse may become eligible for Senior Membership after serving in good standing as an Active Member or Out-of-Town Member for (20) consecutive years or be age sixty (60) or older.

## SECTION 2. MEMBERSHIP CODES

All couples at the time of acceptance to membership will be assigned a specific membership number, which has never been assigned to any other member or former member. The Secretary will maintain an accurate listing in the Corporate Membership Books of all members, former members (including deceased members), in such order which will indicate accurately the current status of membership, the year of membership acceptance, and the priority of membership acceptance.

In the case of "Founding" and "Charter" Members, the priority listing was determined by the order in which initiation fees were received by the corporation. The priority listing of new members going forward should be assigned randomly.

Membership numbers shall be prefixed with a "F" for Founding Members, with a "C" for Charter Members, with a "S" for Senior Members, with an "E" for Emeritus Members, with an "SS" for Surviving Spouse Members, with a "D" for Deceased Members, and with a "X" for Living Former Members. More than one letter should be prefixed if applicable.

## SECTION 3. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY

In order for a nominee to be considered for membership in THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, the couple must meet all the qualifications as stated in this section.

- A. A nominee must be a married couple and remain married in order to continue as a member.
- B. A nominee must be the parents of one or more daughters who may become eligible to be presented at an Annual Ball.
- C. The husband and/or wife must have been a resident for at least five years of The Greater Columbia Area at the time of consideration for membership. The Greater Columbia Area is defined as an area within approximately twenty-five (25) miles of The State House Capitol at Columbia, South Carolina.

#### SECTION 4. NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- A. Proposals for membership must be submitted on THE OFFICIAL APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP FORM OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, and must be signed by two Active or Senior Members, who will sponsor the applicant. The sponsor must list four members of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, that Applicant knows, other than sponsors on the application form. These four members listed on the application will be provided a form letter requesting their comments. All form letters must be returned to the Membership Committee before the application is considered. Applications shall be filed with the Secretary of the Corporation, who will be custodian of all membership records.
- B. There will be an annual limitation on sponsors for memberships. No Active Member may sponsor more than one applicant in any calendar year, but applications for their children, including sons-in-law, will not be included. No member of the Membership Committee may sponsor an applicant.
- C. All proceedings of the Membership Committee regarding the acceptance or rejection of applicants will be confidential. Voting on all applicants will be by secret ballot.
- D. At its regular meetings, the Membership Committee will consider those applications submitted by the Secretary of the Corporation. The Committee may reject or postpone action on any application at any of its meetings, but may not vote to elect an applicant to membership until the applicant's name has been submitted by the Secretary for a minimum of twenty (20) days to all Active Members for consideration by regular U.S. First Class Mail Service (post date will be considered as day number one). Active Members are urged to register favorable or unfavorable comments concerning each applicant, either in writing or verbally, to any member(s) of the Membership Committee, or arrangements may be made with the Chairman to appear before the Committee. All members present at a regular meeting must vote. The Board of Directors shall inform the Membership Committee of the maximum number of new members which may be recommended to the Board of Directors for approval for membership. The Membership Committee shall determine the method by which they will recommend new members to the Board of Directors for approval. At the conclusion of each meeting,

all records and reports, including minutes of the Committee's actions, will be given to the Corporate Secretary. A favorable vote by the Board of Directors approving the action of the Membership Committee is required prior to new membership acceptance.

- E. Following the approving action of the Board of Directors, the Secretary of the Corporation will promptly notify the applicant and the sponsors of the Committee's action in electing the applicant to membership. The sponsors only will be notified of the rejection of an applicant. An individual whose application is rejected may not be again proposed for membership until eight (8) months after the time of the rejection and all procedures outlined in the Corporation's Constitution and Bylaws have again been strictly followed.
- F. It is the policy of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, to give first priority to sons and sons-in-law for membership, provided they qualify under Article III, Section 3, Paragraphs (A), (B), and (C). Priority means that all eligible sons and sons-in-law applying for an Active Membership must be considered first in filling any vacancies in the membership. However, the request for membership may be rejected after due consideration.

#### SECTION 5. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Corporation will be Chairman of the Membership Committee. He and his wife will serve along with two other Active Member couples of the Board of Directors not presently serving as officers of the Board of Directors of the Corporation, and with two Active Members couples not serving on the Board of Directors elected by the Active Membership. The President and his wife, the President-Elect and his wife, and the Vice President and his wife will serve on the Membership Committee when the Chairman of the Board of Directors and either or both or the other non-officer Board of Director Members are not available to serve. In the absence of the Chairman of the Board of Directors, the President will serve as Chairman of the Membership Committee. Each member of the Membership Committee will serve a two-year term, with one position renewed annually.

## SECTION 6. NEW MEMBER BOARD APPROVAL

By a majority vote, the Board of Directors may override favorable recommendations for membership by the Membership Committee. In such case, the application for membership is automatically rejected.

## SECTION 7. NON-ELIGIBILITY MEMBERSHIP DATES

Except in extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the Board of Directors, new members will not be accepted between June 1st and December 31st of any year.

## SECTION 8. CONDUCT UNBECOMING TO LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

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.

## SECTION 9. TITLE TO MEMBERSHIP

The title to the membership will be vested in the name of the couple.

## SECTION 10. VOTING AND REPRESENTATION

In all corporate affairs, there will be only one vote per Active Member couple, and one spouse can represent the couple when the other spouse is not in attendance.

## SECTION 11. DIVORCE AND DEATH

### A. DIVORCE

The eligible daughter or daughters of a member couple divorced after April 1 of the year of the daughter(s) debut will have their status as a daughter-debutante immediately terminated. One or both divorcing parents may request in writing that the daughter(s)

be allowed to attend the Ball, and provided all dues and assessments have been paid, the Board is encouraged to grant her, or them, guest debutante status as provided for under paragraphs two and five "Attendance at Annual Ball", Rules, Regulations, and Policy of The South Carolina Debutante Ball, Incorporated.

#### B. DEATH

In the event that an active member couple or a senior member couple are separated by death, the surviving spouse will retain all membership privileges and obligations of their respective membership. The Surviving Spouse *may* bring a guest to the Ball. The Surviving Spouse will be assigned a membership code "SS" as is provided in Article III, Section 2. Upon the death of the Surviving Spouse, the couple will be assigned a membership code for deceased members "D" as is provided in Article III, Section 2, and will be entitled to all membership privileges for deceased members as is provided for in Article IV, Section 5, Paragraphs (A) and (B) and as is provided for in Article III, Section 4, Paragraph (F).

In the event the Surviving Spouse remarries, the couple may elect to apply for active membership and all of its privileges and obligation. Acceptance will be at the discretion of the Board of Directors, requiring a simple majority vote. If no vacancies are available for active membership, the Board shall hold said application until such time a vacancy should occur and that application shall receive the highest priority consideration for acceptance or rejection over all other membership applications submitted or pending. During the course of this period, the Surviving Spouse shall retain all privileges and obligations in this Section. No additional privileges shall be granted the Surviving Spouse Couple prior to the Board of Directors action on the Couple's application.



## ARTICLE IV: SENIOR, EMERITUS, AND SURVIVING SPOUSE MEMBERSHIPS

### SECTION 1. ELIGIBILITY OF SENIOR AND EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP

Active and Surviving Spouse Members may become Senior Members when they meet the requirements for Senior Membership as stated in ARTICLE III, SECTION 1.

Only Senior Members may become Emeritus Members and must first meet the requirements for Emeritus Membership as stated in ARTICLE III, SECTION 1.

### SECTION 2. APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR SENIOR AND EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP

Any Active or Surviving Spouse Member of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, who is eligible for Senior or Emeritus Membership and who wishes to become a Senior or Emeritus Member, must make a request in writing to the Corporate Secretary for Senior Membership by January 1 for the request to be considered at the Annual Meeting.

### SECTION 3. METHOD OF APPROVAL FOR SENIOR AND EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors of The South Carolina Debutante Ball, Incorporated, will act favorably on requests for Senior Membership as long as the member's daughters have made their debut and it will not reduce the Active Membership Roster below sixty-five (65). The member applying for Senior Membership must have served in good standing as an Active or Surviving Spouse member for twenty (20) consecutive years or be age sixty (60) or older. Should the number of applications for Senior Membership be such as to reduce the Active Membership below sixty-five (65), then favorable acceptance will be based on seniority in The South Carolina Debutante Ball, Incorporated, and second, on age at the previous birthday of the husband. All applicants for Senior Membership not approved under these rules will be placed on a waiting list and will have priority for Senior Membership the following year.

The Board of Directors of The South Carolina Debutante Ball, Incorporated, will act favorably on requests for Emeritus Membership as long as the member applying for Emeritus Membership is age eighty (80) or older and in good standing.

#### SECTION 4. PRIVILEGES OF SENIOR AND EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP

##### A. DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

A Senior Member couple will be required to pay annual dues which may apply towards the assessment for attendance at any function. Senior Member dues may be adjusted by the Board of Directors at their discretion. If a Senior or Emeritus Member couple attends any meeting, social function, Annual Ball, and/or other corporate event, they will be assessed an amount for each separate event as is determined to be fair and reasonable by the Board of Directors.

##### B. SENIOR AND EMERITUS ATTENDANCE AT ANNUAL BALL

A Senior or Emeritus Member couple who wishes to attend THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, Annual Ball in any particular year, must make such request in writing to the Board of Directors through the Corporate Secretary by September 1 prior to the Annual Ball. This request must be accompanied by a check in the amount of the assessment deemed necessary for Senior or Emeritus Members. All Senior or Emeritus members will be notified at least thirty (30) days prior to September 1 concerning the Annual Ball. If the affirmative replies of the Active Members are such that the Board of Directors will have to limit participation by Senior or Emeritus Members, then those Senior or Emeritus Members who cannot be accommodated at the Annual Ball will be notified by the Board of Directors and their check will be returned. The Senior or Emeritus Members who have a relative involved in the Annual Ball will have priority.

##### C. OPTION FOR SENIOR AND EMERITUS MEMBERSHIP

When an Active Member becomes eligible for Senior Membership, it is entirely the couple's option to become a Senior Member, if the Active member has served in good standing for twenty (20) consecutive years or be age sixty (60) or older, provided the

member's daughters have made their debut and the Active Membership roll will not be reduced below sixty-five (65). When Senior member becomes eligible for Emeritus Membership, it is entirely the couple's option to become an Emeritus Member, if they have reached the age of eighty (80) or older. Emeritus Members will no longer be required to pay dues.

D. RIGHTS OF DESCENDANTS OF SENIOR OR EMERITUS MEMBERS

By becoming a Senior or Emeritus Member, a Senior or Emeritus Member's descendants maintain all rights as if they were an Active Member.

E. MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION CHANGES

All changes in membership classification must be affirmed by the Board of Directors

F. ATTENDANCE FEES TO MEETINGS AND/OR SOCIAL EVENTS OTHER THAN ANNUAL BALL

If the South Carolina Debutante Ball, INCORPORATED, has meetings and/or social functions, other than the Annual Ball, Senior or Emeritus Members may attend upon payment of an amount of money as determined by the Board of Directors as authorized in ARTICLE IV, SECTION 4, Paragraph (A). Dues payments will apply toward these charges of the Senior Members.

G. SENIOR and EMERITUS MEMBERS HAVE NO VOTE

The Senior and Emeritus Member(s) will have-" No Vote" in the affairs of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, or be eligible to hold office, except for one Board position as provided in Article V, but will receive all information, notices, etc., which is normally furnished an Active Member.

## SECTION 5. PRIVILEGES OF SURVIVING SPOUSE MEMBERSHIP

### A. DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

A Surviving Spouse will be required to pay annual dues which may apply towards the assessment for attendance at any function. Surviving Spouse dues may be adjusted by the Board of Directors at their discretion. Surviving Spouse dues will be the same as an Active Member the year of presentation (Debutante Daughter or First Son) and reduced every other year until they move to Senior membership.

### B. RIGHTS OF DESCENDANTS OF SURVIVING SPOUSE MEMBERS

Surviving Spouse Member's descendants maintain all rights as if they were an Active Member.

## SECTION 6. RIGHTS OF DECEASED MEMBER DEPENDENTS AND SONS-IN-LAW

### A. DAUGHTERS OF DECEASED MEMBERS

The eligible daughter or daughters of a deceased member, provided they were an Active, Senior or Surviving Spouse Member at the time of death, shall be entitled to make their debut(s) provided that a payment in lieu of annual dues and Annual Ball related expenses as assessed by the Board of Directors is rendered to the Corporation in a timely manner as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors. Such charges should not exceed a member's annual membership dues for that year, plus the Annual Ball assessment for that year.

### B. SONS AND SONS-IN-LAW OF DECEASED MEMBERS

Sons and sons-in-law of deceased members will have the same privileges and priorities as set forth in ARTICLE III, SECTION 4, Paragraph (F).

## ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### SECTION 1. GOVERNING BODY

The governing body of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, will be vested in the Board of Directors, which will consist of nine (9) couples, one of which shall be a Senior Member couple who is eligible to vote. The Board of Directors will elect from its members a Chairman of the Board of Directors, a President, a President Elect, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Board of Directors deems advisable. Senior Members may not hold an officer position. Actions of the Board of Directors will be subject to a veto by the Founding Executive Committee, as provided for in ARTICLE VI of this Constitution and Bylaws.

### SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Directors will define the policies and will have full administrative authority in all matters relating to the business of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, subject to ARTICLE VI of this Constitution and Bylaws. The Board of Directors will have the authority to adopt and enforce Rules and Regulations. It will exercise general control and supervision over all officers and committees of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED. It will also be their duty to keep the membership informed of changes in policy and such other matters as will promote better understanding and a more harmonious relationship.

### SECTION 3. INTERPRETATION OF BYLAWS

The Board of Directors will have exclusive authority to construe and interpret the Bylaws of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, subject to ARTICLE VI of this Constitution and Bylaws. Any such construction or interpretation of the Bylaws will be final and binding on the membership subject to Roberts Rules of Order

## SECTION 4. OFFICERS

The officers of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, will be elected by the Board of Directors.

## SECTION 5. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

### A. ELECTIONS

Elections to the Board of Directors will be held at the October Annual Meeting, except that vacancies on the Board of Directors for unexpired terms will be filled in accordance with ARTICLE V, SECTION 9, and ARTICLE V, SECTION 5, Paragraph (C) where applicable.

### B. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee, consisting of the Chairman of the Board, the President, the President Elect, and two previous members of the Board of Directors who have served as President and as Chairman of the Board and their spouses will present to the Annual Meeting a slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors. Those nominees shall have been previously contacted in order to determine their willingness to serve if elected, and to be made aware of the responsibilities and duties they will be expected to perform if elected.

### C. VACANCIES

Vacancies of the Board of Directors will be filled each year at the Annual Meeting. The President will announce the number of members to be elected, ask for the report from the Nominating Committee, and call for nominations from the floor. Should there be any nominations from the floor, the President will make such nominees aware of the duties they will be expected to perform and in return, receive their willingness to serve if elected. He will appoint the necessary tellers and the vote will be by secret ballot. The nominee or nominees receiving a majority of the votes cast will be declared elected.

### D. TERM OF OFFICE

The initial election structure and the succession of the Board of Directors will be decided by the Founding Members and made part of this Constitution and Bylaws in Amendment I to this Constitution and Bylaws.

## SECTION 6. DUES, INITIATION FEES, AND ASSESSMENTS

The Board of Directors will have full responsibility and authority to establish and collect the dues, initiation fees, and assessments to be paid by the members.

## SECTION 7. COLLECTION OF DUES, INITIATION FEES, AND ASSESSMENTS AND PAYMENT OF CORPORATE OBLIGATIONS

The Board of Directors will see that the Treasurer receives all monies of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, and deposits them in such depositories as the Board may direct, including short-term investments in Certificates of Deposit, Brokerage Money Market Account, and short-term Government bills or notes. At the direction of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer will disburse monies for obligations of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED.

## SECTION 8. ANNUAL MEETING

An Annual Meeting of the Membership will be held on or around the second Sunday in February each year at a location to be stipulated in the Notice of Annual Meeting and the membership will receive the Notice of Annual Meeting at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. One-third (1/3) of the members will constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business and may evidence this quorum by their actual presence or by written proxy filed with the Secretary of the Corporation prior to the Annual Meeting. Prior to the Annual Meeting in February, there will be a meeting of the membership in October to approve the incoming Board of Directors.

## SECTION 9. FILLING OF UNEXPIRED TERMS ON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors will appoint a replacement for any board member who dies or resigns. The replacement will fill the unexpired term of office until the next Annual Meeting, at which time the unexpired remaining portion of the term will be filled in accordance with ARTICLE V, SECTION 5, Paragraph (B) of this Constitution.

## SECTION 10. OBLIGATIONS

THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, shall not become financially obligated on any matter unless the Board of Directors specifically authorizes such obligations. All financial obligations approved by the Board of Directors must be recorded in the regular Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may from time to time authorize its agent to represent the Board of Directors in a financial transaction. Such authorization must be stipulated clearly in the Minutes of the Board of Directors.

## SECTION 11. SPECIAL MEETINGS OF MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors may call a special meeting of the membership upon fourteen (14) days written notice to the membership. The Notice of Special Meeting must indicate the time, place, date, and a reasonable explanation of the purpose of the meeting. No other matters may be brought before the membership at this time.

## SECTION 12. SPECIAL MEETINGS BY PETITION

The membership may call for a special meeting by signed petition of the majority of Active Members. Upon receipt of such petition, the President must designate the time, place, date of the meeting, and a reasonable explanation of the subject to be discussed. The meeting must be held within thirty (30) days of receipt of the petition for a special meeting by the President. The membership must be given at least fourteen (14) days notification and the Notice of the Special Meeting must contain the time, place, date, and the reasonable explanation of the subject to be discussed at the meeting. No other matters may be brought before the membership at this time.



## SECTION 13. ORDER OF BUSINESS AT ANNUAL MEETINGS

The order of business at all Corporate Annual Meetings will be as follows:

- Roll Call
- Reading of Minutes
- Report of The Treasurer
- Report of Committees
- Election of Auditors
- Elections
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Adjournment

## SECTION 14. ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED, in all meetings and cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and Bylaws, or the special rules of order of THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEBUTANTE BALL, INCORPORATED.

## SECTION 15. ANNUAL AUDIT

At each Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors will recommend for membership approval the appointment of a certified public accounting firm as independent auditors for the coming year. The report of the auditors will be presented to the next Annual Meeting.

# ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS

## SECTION 1. TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Active Members present, or represented by written proxy, at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation or at a Special Meeting called for the purpose of amending the Constitution and Bylaws subject to proper notice to the membership under Article V, Section 8, Section 11, and Section 12, where applicable.