

EMPIRE CITY MOTORCYCLE CLUB
BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 – MEMBERSHIP

I - Prospective Members: A new applicant for full or associate membership is herein after referred to as a “prospect”. A prospect for *full membership* must be a male, twenty-one (21) years of age or older and a licensed and insured motorcycle owner and operator. Additionally, a prospect for full membership must reside within a fifty (50) miles radius of Columbus Circle in New York City and have the ability to attend monthly club meetings in-person, club sponsored events and rides.

*(*An exception may be granted by two-thirds majority vote when the prospect has served one (1) year as an associate member and has demonstrated that he has the ability to attend meeting, events and rides. See Article 1, Section V for application process for Associate Membership.)*

- a) A prospect is required to present a valid motorcycle license, motorcycle registration and proof of motorcycle insurance to the Road Captain or in the Road Captain’s absence, two full club members in good standing as defined by **Article 1, Section B, Sub-Section 1** of the Empire City Motorcycle Club (“ECMC”) By-Laws. Additionally, the prospect may be requested to present their motorcycle to the Road Captain for a general safety inspection prior to riding with the club.
- b) The prospect must show their intent to join the club by completing the official ECMC membership application and presenting it to the Executive Board at an Open General Meeting. The membership application must be fully complete and include the signatures of two (2) full club members in good standing with whom they have previously ridden, who shall be the prospect’s sponsors. The prospect’s sponsors shall monitor the prospect’s behavior and shall be responsible for the prospect general acclimation into the club until the prospect is voted-in as a pledge.
- c) The prospect must attend at least: one (1) open general club meeting, and one (1) official club event before being eligible to pledge.
- d) After the prospect is accepted as a pledge, the Pledge Master shall either serve as his mentor, or delegate mentoring to another full member.

II – Pledges: A pledge who is applying for full ECMC membership must NOT be a full “back patch-wearing” member of any other motorcycle club or organization of similar composition or purpose. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of attending full members, including absentee ballots shall be required to accept a prospect as a pledge. Full Members shall vote to either:

- accept the Prospect as a Pledge, or
- reject the membership application of the prospect.

a) If the prospect is accepted as a pledge, the pledge period of no less than three (3) months and no more than six (6) month shall commence. At each Open General Meeting during the pledge period, the attending full members by a simple majority shall vote to either extend the pledge period another month or terminate the pledge’s membership application. Full membership may only be extended to the pledge after at least a three month pledge period and by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the full voting membership.

b) If the pledge is rejected as a full member, he may resubmit an application for full membership one (1) year from the date of the rejection.

c) A pledge shall observe the following basis rules:

- i. A pledge is expected to attend all Open General Meeting during the pledge period, except when excused by the Pledge Master or a member of the Executive Board.
- ii. A pledge is expected to know and abide by the ECMC Constitution and By-Laws.
- iii. A pledge is expected to acquaint himself with all ECMC full members (familiarily referred to as “brothers”).
- iv. At all times, a pledge is expected to respect his ECMC brothers and the club, in general, as well as the brothers of other similar motorcycle clubs, including but not limited to AMCC affiliated clubs.
- v. A pledge is expected to wear pledge colors, rockers and/or insignia at all official ECMC or AMCC events, rides and meetings, and whenever deemed appropriate by the Pledge Master.
- vi. A pledge cannot vote or present a motion at meeting, or hold a position on the Executive Board.
- vii. Other rules may be communicated to the pledge as deemed warranted by either the Pledge Master or the Membership Committee

- d) Full membership cannot be extended to a pledge until the pledge participates in at least (3) official ECMC club rides for the Road Captain to determine the pledge's motorcycle riding and safety skills.
- e) An application for full membership must be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of ten dollars (\$10.00).

III – Full Members: A new full ECMC member is a former pledge who has successfully completed the pledge period and process and has received a two-thirds majority vote by the full voting membership. After the pledge is accepted as a full member, a probationary period of no less than six (6) month shall commence. During the probationary period the new full member may neither serve on the Membership Committee nor as an officer of the Executive Board.

- a) Full ECMC members are prohibited from applying for full membership to any other motorcycle club or organization of similar composition or purpose. Both pledges and full members are prohibited from wearing the back patch of any other motorcycle club or organization of similar composition or purpose.
- b) A former ECMC member who requests reinstatement as a full member shall abide by Article III, Subsection F of the ECMC Constitution. All requests for reinstatement as a full member must be made within one (1) year of the date of separation from ECMC. An application from a former member who has not been affiliated with the club for more than one year (1) shall be treated as a new application for full membership.

IV – Reserved Members: A full member in good standing with special circumstances may apply to have his membership level changed from Full Member to Reserve Member. The Full Member applying for Reserve Member status must do so in writing to the Executive Board. The Executive Board will inform the full members of the request at the earliest Open General Meeting.

- a) Reserve membership status is granted for a period of no more than six (6) months, after which it may be either extended or withdrawn. A reserved member requesting a extension must do so in writing to the Executive Board. Reserve membership status is extended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the full voting membership.

- b) A reserved member retains all of the privileges of a full member except making motions, voting or casting an absentee ballot.
- c) A reserved member may not hold a position on the Executive Board, nor actively chair any committee, however a reserved member is not barred from participating on a committee
- d) A reserved member shall be required to pay annual membership dues. The reserved member is not required to attend meetings, events or rides.

V. – Associate Member: An applicant for Associate membership must be a male, twenty-one (21) years of age or older and a licensed and insured motorcycle owner and operator. A applicant for Associate Membership must reside outside a fifty mile radius of Columbus Circle in New York City.

*(*An geographical exception may be granted if the applicant resides within a fifty mile radius of Columbus Circle if the applicants describes “special circumstances” in writing when applying for Associate Membership. “Local Associate Members” shall have higher participation expectations as outlined in Article I, Section B, Subsection 3(c) of the ECMC By-laws.)*

- a) An application for Associate membership must be fully completed and include the signatures of two (2) full club members in good standing.
- b) An application for Associate membership must be accompanied by a non-refundable application fee of ten dollars (\$10.00).
- c) The applicant must attend at least: one (1) open general club meeting, and one (1) official club event within one (1) year of the application date.
- d) Associate membership may only be extended to the applicant after at least a one (1) year association period and by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the full voting membership.
- e) A applicant for Associate membership is required to present a valid motorcycle license, motorcycle registration and proof of insurance to the Road Captain or in the Road Captain’s absence, two full club members in good standing as defined by Article 1, Section B, Sub-Section 1 of the Empire City

Motorcycle Club By-Laws (herein after referred to as the “By-Laws”).
Additionally, the applicant may be requested to present their motorcycle to the Road Captain for a general safety inspection prior to riding with the club.

- f) An Associate Member shall observe the following basis rules:
- i. An Associate Member is expected to know and abide by the ECMC Constitution and By-Laws.
 - ii. An Associate Member is expected to acquaint himself with all ECMC full members (familiarily referred to as “brothers”).
 - iii. At all times, an Associate member is expected to respect his ECMC brothers and the club, in general, as well as the brothers of other similar motorcycle clubs, including but not limited to AMCC affiliated clubs.
 - iv. An associate Member is generally expected to assist the club whenever possible.
 - v. Other rules may be communicated to the Associate Member as deemed warranted by the Executive Board.
- g) If at a later time, an Associate member applies for full membership, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of attending full members, including absentee ballots shall be required to accept an Associates members application for Full Membership. Full Members shall vote to either:
- accept the Associate member’s application for full Membership, or
 - reject the full membership application of the Associate Member.
- h) If an Associate Member’s application for full membership is rejected, the application process terminates, however the applicant retains his status as an Associate Member.
- i) If the application of the Associate Member is accepted, the transition period of no less than one (1) month shall commence.
- j) At the next Open General Meeting, the attending full members by a two-thirds (2/3) majority shall vote to either:
- extend full membership status to the Associate member or

- terminate the Associate member's application for full membership, in which case the applicant retains his status as an Associate Member.

k) If the Associate Member is rejected as a full member, he may resubmit an application for full membership one (1) year from the date of the rejection.

VI. – Full Membership to Associate: If a Full member applies for an Associate Membership, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of attending full members, including absentee ballots shall be required to accept a Full Member application for Associate Membership. The full member's application must describe "special circumstances" in writing when applying for an Associate Membership.

a) If the application of the Full Member for Associate membership is accepted, the transition period of no less than one (1) month shall commence.

b) At the next Open General Meeting, the attending full members by a two-thirds (2/3) majority shall vote to either:

- extend Associate membership status to the full member or
- terminate the Full member's application for Associate membership, in which case the applicant retains his status as a Full Member.

VII - Emeritus Members: Active full members of ten (10) years or more in good standing, but who can no longer fulfill all the obligations of full membership may apply for Emeritus membership status either in writing to or in-person before the Executive Committee:

- a) Emeritus members retain all the privileges of full membership except the right to vote or present a motion at meeting, or hold a position on the Executive Board.
- b) Prior full members of ten (10) years or more who resigned in good standing may be nominated for Emeritus membership by any current member.
- c) Emeritus membership may only be extended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the full voting membership.
- d) Emeritus members are not required to present a valid motorcycle license, motorcycle registration or proof of insurance to the Road Captain

VIII. – Honorary Members: An honorary member is a non ECMC member who has been recommended to the Executive Board by a full member. The Executive Board must recommend all nominees for honorary member to the full ECMC membership. Honorary membership may only be extended by an unanimous vote of the full voting membership.

IX. – Limitations on Membership: The club shall limit its membership to:

- i. thirty (30) full and reserve members
- ii. fifty (50) associate members
- iii. twenty (20) emeritus Members, and
- iv. ten (10) honorary members

X. – Circumstances Affecting Status: If circumstances arise that may affect a person's status, such within the club, such as a change of residence, the member must inform the Membership Committee, if a prospect or pledge or the Executive Board if a member. If the member moves outside the fifty (50) mile radius of Columbus Circle, the person shall affirm his desired member status to Membership Committee or the Executive Board.

ARTICLE 2 – Rules & Conduct

I. – Motorcycle Riding & Safety: All pledges and all members who ride motorcycles with the club (referred to as Riders”), except Emeritus and Honorary members, are required:

- a) to keep their motorcycle license, registration and insurance in effect and comply with their state's legal requirements for inspections and the safe and legal operation of a motorcycle.
- b) to present proof of motorcycle license, registration, insurance and inspection to the Road Captain to record at the first official club ride of the year or by the Open General Meeting in the month of May for the year, whichever comes first
- c) Any Rider found to be non-compliant with the club's riding and safety requirements shall have (30) days to remedy the circumstance. If the circumstance cannot be remedied within thirty (30) day it shall constitute an automatic probationary period of no less than two (2) months unless the rider request a stay of action in writing to the Executive Board. During the probationary period the rider is no longer in good standing and forfeits his voting privileges for the extent of the probationary period or until the circumstance is

remedied. The Executive Board may override the automatic probationary period if the circumstances so warrant.

- d) If a rider demonstrates an inability to operate his motorcycle in safe and responsible manner, or is found to have been legally liable for an accident involving his motorcycle, the full voting members by a majority may require the rider to successfully complete a motorcycle safety course before the rider may continue (1) riding with the club and (2) wearing club colors. Failure to attend or complete the motorcycle safety course will automatically result immediate termination of membership privileges, including the right to wear club colors
- e) If a rider is without a operational, registered and insured motorcycle or is unable to ride for a period of more than thirty (30) days, the rider's membership status shall be changed to Reserved Member until the circumstance is remedied. If the circumstance remains unremedied for period of more than six (6) months, the rider will need to their membership intentions in writing to the Executive Board.

II. – Attending Meeting: Full members and pledges shall attend the monthly Open General Meeting. The monthly Open General Meetings are not considered official club events for the purpose of fulfilling participation requirements. A full member may be excused from attending a meeting for special circumstances (e.g. an emergency. Illness, work requirement et al. the Executive Board deems an appropriate reason or circumstance for not attending a meeting.

III. – Participation Requirements: Annual membership participation requirements vary based level and status of an individual's membership. There are two primary categories of participations: (1) official club rides and (2) official club events.. What constitutes an official club ride or an official Club event is defined in Article X of the By-laws. An individual's participation is only valid when the pledge or member is wearing official club colors, as defined by Article VII of the By-laws.

- a) In a riding year, as defined by Article VII, Section II of the ECMC constitution:
 - a.i. Full members are required to participate in at least three (3) official club events and in at least four (4) official club rides.
 - a.ii. Local Associate members are required to participate in no less than two (2) official club events and no less than two (2) official club rides.
 - a.iii. Associate members are required to participate in no less than one (1) official club event and no less than one (1) official club ride.

- b) The Secretary shall keep accurate records of member participations in the club's member participation journal, as provided by the Road Captain and Vice President.
- c) Failure of a member to meet annual membership participation requirements may result in action by the Executive Board, including suspension of individual's voting privileges, censure, probation or expulsion.

IV. – Precedence of Duty: A full member may join other motorcycle club or organization of similar composition or purpose as an Associate Member, but he cannot "pledge" or otherwise assume responsibilities or like dedication comparable to the full membership in another motorcycle club or organization of similar composition or purpose. Further, full members of ECMC cannot hold an executive office in any other motorcycle club or organization of similar composition or purpose. Internet or web-based clubs motorcycle ownership groups and riding association (e.g. Harley Owners Group, Good Times Owners Club and STAR Touring and Riding Association) are excluded from this prohibition.

a) When a full member attends any function, his primary responsibility will be to ECMC.

b) Full members of ECMC shall wear only the Empire City Motorcycle Club back patch, and no other club's back patch.

*(*For a full description of ECMC's insignia, patches and colors refer to Article VII of the By-Laws. For a definition of back patch refer to Article X, Section D of the By-Laws.)*