

Bylaws of the
INTERNATIONAL ORDER of the BLUE GAVEL
Delta District 19

ARTICLE I

Name

The name shall be International Order of the Blue Gavel, Delta District 19.

ARTICLE II

Objects and Purposes

Section 1

The objectives and purposes of the International Order of the Blue Gavel, Delta District 19, are:

- (a) To selectively associate ladies and gentlemen of good character who have a common love and appreciation of yachting, social and outdoor activities of every kind, on the basis of background, character, personality, and social acceptability.
- (b) To provide Past Commodores with more extensive opportunity for worthwhile yachting activities for the purpose of cultivating, strengthening, perpetuating and preserving the ties of continued friendship, honor, benevolence, sportsmanship, fraternal and social relationships among Past Commodores of yacht clubs and yachting associations.
- (c) To subscribe to and stimulate interest in abiding by recognized yachting traditions, ceremonies, customs, ethics and etiquette. To provide with limitation, appropriate recognition of past and continued service on the part of Past Commodores to their clubs, the IOBG and yachting, in the form of suitable insignia, flags, activities, awards and honors.
- (d) To aid and promote by precept and example, the development of more able and knowledgeable yachting persons, that they may participate in yachting activities, marine events and ceremonies of every kind, as a result of high standards of honor, tradition, good sportsmanship, and the fraternal and social relationships experienced by and between Past Commodores.
- (e) To encourage and promote the continuing interest and service of qualified and proven Past Commodores to their own yacht clubs and its activities, without in any way usurping the authorities and responsibilities of the incumbent Officers, for the best interest of the Club.

- (f) To encourage and promote yachting and in all ways seek to provide through the yacht club Chapter a practical means to support, facilitate and augment the endeavors of the active Officers of the Club to the end of enhancing the pleasure and the well being of all members and the prestige of the Club.
- (g) To encourage Delta District 19 and its Auxiliary to continue their mutual support and respect in helping each other to facilitate their respective activities, charities and services.

ARTICLE III
Membership

Section 1

Individual membership in the International Order of the Blue Gavel shall be by invitation, and limited to Past Commodores of qualified Yacht Clubs of the world, as defined in ARTICLE III, Section 2, who have served their clubs credibly. Past Commodores shall be eligible for membership in the IOBG if:

- (a) Selected, recommended, invited and approved, by the IOBG chapter of the Yacht Club of which they are a Past Commodore.

Section 2

IOBG Delta District 19 may extend "At-Large" memberships to any Past Commodore of a qualified Yacht Club who is not affiliated with an IOBG chapter. The "At-Large" member shall pay District and International dues, may hold District office, and shall have voting privileges.

Section 3

Code of Conduct

- (a) Complaints: All complaints by any member(s) or any chapter(s) of the International Order of the Blue Gavel against another member or chapter of the International Order of the Blue Gavel for conduct in violation of organization rules or other misconduct bearing on a member or the chapter's suitability for continued membership in the organization shall be in writing, signed and dated by the complainant or Chapter, and delivered to the District President and the District Director with copies to the Area Vice President and the International Executive Committee.

1. The District Director, along with two (2) other members of the District Board of Directors he/she may appoint, shall investigate the complaint and at the District Director's discretion confer with the members or Chapter concerned.
- (b) Discipline: The District Board of Directors or the International Executive Committee on the complaint of a member or chapter or on its own initiative may expel any member or chapter for cause. Except as otherwise expressly provided in these Bylaws, no such action shall be taken before the Member and the Chapter have been furnished with a written statement of the charges preferred.
- (c) Expulsion: Any member or Chapter may be expelled from the organization by a 75% vote of the District Board of Directors present or a 75 % vote of the International Executive Committee present. Upon written request from any member or chapter or acting on its own discretion, the District Board of Directors or the International Executive Committee shall conduct an investigation to gather information pertaining to charges warranting expulsion made against an organization member or chapter. Such request should be accompanied by signed statements of witnesses, if any, pertaining to the incident.
1. The member or chapter shall be given a fourteen (14) day notice of the time, date and place where he/she may appear and present its defense before final Board action. The District Board of Directors or the International Executive Committee will vote on expulsion of the member or chapter within fifteen (15) days of the preceding meeting.
 2. If expelled, the member or chapter will be notified via certified mail by the District or the International Executive Committee Secretary and immediately lose all rights and privileges of membership.
- (d) Appeal Process: At any time within thirty (30) days after expulsion of a member or chapter by the District Board of Directors, the former member or chapter may challenge said action by presenting an appeal to his/her District Director and Area Vice President for ultimate review and action by the International Executive Committee. The former member or Chapter may challenge said action by presenting an appeal to an independent mediator mutually accepted by the interested parties.
- (e) Final Authority: All complaints initiated through the District Director that received no punitive action will be forward to the International Executive Committee for review and possible adjudication.

ARTICLE IV
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1

The affairs of the IOBG Delta District19 shall be managed by a Board of Directors duly elected by members of Delta District19 in accordance with these Bylaws. The Board of Directors shall have the power to adopt Rules and Regulations as deemed necessary and not inconsistent with these Bylaws for the administration and regulation of IOBG Delta District 19.

Section 2

The Board of Directors shall be composed of the following:

- (a) The duly elected Officers of the IOBG: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the immediate Past President.
- (b) The immediate Past President (if qualified) shall be elected to District Director. An Alternate District Director may be elected by Delta District 19 to serve in the absence of the District Director.

Section 3

In the event a vacancy occurs on the Board of Directors for any reason, it shall be filled in the following manner:

- (a) In the event the duly elected District Director is unable to complete a term for any reason, Delta District 19 Board of Directors shall appoint the Junior Past Director of Delta District 19 to serve out said District Director's term.
- (b) In the event a duly elected Officer of District 19 is unable to complete a term for any reason, District 19 Board of Directors by a majority vote shall appoint a successor for the unexpired term.

ARTICLE V
Officers

Section 1

To be eligible for election to the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, candidates must be active with Delta District 19's Blue Gavel functions.

Section 2

The duties of the President shall be to administer the affairs of the organization and preside over all regular meetings thereof and to appoint committees as are necessary for the functioning of the organization. The President shall have the authority to authorize expenditures for amounts exceeding the approved budget for unforeseeable items to an amount not exceeding two hundred fifty dollars (\$250).

Section 3

The duties of the Vice President shall be to assist the President, and in his/her absence to act in his place and stead.

- (a) The Vice President shall present a budget for approval at the Annual Meeting for the ensuing year

Section 4

The Secretary shall record and transcribe the minutes of meetings and keep all pertinent records of Delta District 19.

Section 5

The Treasurer shall receive all monies which may accrue to the organization and shall be responsible for the disbursement thereof, keep complete financial and membership records of the organization, and prepare any organization documents required for tax purposes. Subject to the approval of the Vice President, the Finance Committee shall present to the Board of Directors a budget for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE VI Meetings

Section 1

An Annual Meeting/Change of Watch of Delta District 19 shall be held each year at a time and place so designated by the incoming President and approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 2

Voting at all meetings of Delta District 19 shall be in person.

Section 3

A quorum shall be deemed present if three (3) officers are present and at least five (5) members are present.

Section 4

Prior to any meeting of Delta District 19's Board of Directors or general membership meeting, notice of such meeting shall be placed in the mail and/or emailed to each member authorized to vote at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the date set by the President or by a majority of the Board of Directors for such meeting.

Section 5

The District Director, Past Directors, and Past Presidents who are current dues paying members in good standing of Delta District 19 shall be notified of all District Board Meetings and regular meetings. If they attend they are entitled to vote for any issues that come before the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII

Elections

Section 1

Officers shall be elected at the fall meeting prior to the Annual Meeting of Delta District 19 by a vote of the members present at the Fall Meeting. Newly elected Officers shall assume their positions at the Annual Meeting after they have taken their oath of office and shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until their successors have been elected. Any Officer so elected shall be entitled to re-election.

ARTICLE VIII

Committees

Section 1

The Standing Committees of Delta District 19 shall consist of the Nominating Committee, Audit Committee, and the Finance Committee.

Section 2

At each Annual Meeting, the newly installed President shall present to the Board of Directors for their approval the Standing Committee's Chairs which the President intends to use during the ensuing year. Each Committee Chair so presented and approved shall have a term office until the next Annual Meeting. The President may present additional standing Committees as required to the Board of Directors for approval during the time between Annual Meetings, whose terms shall expire at the next Annual Meeting.

Section 3

The Nominating Committee shall consist of the President and three (3) District 19 members.

- (a) The President shall chair the committee.
- (b) The Nominating Committee shall select a slate of Officers for the ensuing year. With the approval of a majority of the Board of Directors, its selection shall be announced at the summer meeting.
- (c) Other nominations of a slate of officers may be made by petition, signed by members from no less than three (3) different Chapters. Such petition must be filed with the Secretary not more than fifteen (15) days from the adjournment of the Summer Meeting.
- (d) All nominations shall be with the written concurrence of the nominee that if elected the nominee will perform the duties and responsibilities of their Office throughout their term and will support the President and Board of Directors to manage Delta District 19 in accordance with the Bylaws, rules and regulations of District 19.

Sections 4

The Finance Committee shall consist of the Board of Directors.

The incoming President shall act as the Chairperson.

- (a) The Treasurer shall prepare a preliminary budget for the ensuing year for the Finance Committee.
- (b) The Finance Committee shall then finalize the budget for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE IX

Dues

The annual Delta District 19 dues for each member shall be set by the Board of Directors each year. If no action on dues is taken by the Board of Directors at their Annual Meeting, the dues will remain as set for the previous year. Dues are due on 1 January of each year and are considered delinquent after that date. Nonpayment of dues shall be grounds for suspension of benefits and privileges of membership in the IOBG, including participation in the IOBG functions, representation at different levels of governance, and the wearing/displaying of the IOBG insignia.

ARTICLE X

Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation and the Law of the Land.

ARTICLE XI

Amendment

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Delta District 19 called for that purpose, or if authorized, by circulating said amendments to the members of the Board of Directors authorized to vote. Amendments shall be passed by a simple majority of those present.