

Forged Alliance Riding Club Bylaws

Effective Date: 08/01/2019 (Amended 12/15/2021)



Forged Alliance Riding Club (hereinafter referred to as FARC) strives to promote a positive image of motorcyclists, safety, and camaraderie wherever we go. We obey all traffic laws and protect our members by adhering to safe riding practices. We consider ourselves to be ambassadors to the public for all motorcyclists and conduct ourselves accordingly.

FARC is not territorial and do not condone illegal activities by our members. We ask all our members to wear their patch proudly and to always show respect for all other clubs, and riders. FARC does not take sides or involve ourselves when it comes to other club politics.

FARC is open to any motorcycle enthusiast who wants to be part of a Riding Club, and has a motorcycle that will be Registered Inspected, and Insured as required by law.

FARC does not discriminate against applicants or members on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, disability that can be reasonably accommodated without undue hardship or danger, sex, sexual orientation, age, citizenship, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status.

It is the purpose of these Bylaws to preserve and protect the integrity and character of the Club for its membership, and to promote the ideals this Club was founded for;
Unity, Friendship and Fidelity.

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National Framework:

The National President shall preside over all officers and general membership requirements for all FARC Chapters. He/She will oversee all affairs of the Club and may appoint persons or committees as may be required for Club business. If any officer in a Chapter is unable to, or fails to perform his/her duties, it is the responsibility of the National President to appoint a replacement.

National President responsibilities include, and may not necessarily be limited to:

- ◆ Manage the Chapters according to the National FARC Standards
- ◆ Set dates for membership, special, and executive meetings
- ◆ Appoint committee members for special projects
- ◆ Appoint members to fill elected officer positions as necessary until a special meeting can be scheduled for an election for a vacant position.
- ◆ Chair the Executive Committee

National Vice President, responsibilities:

- ◆ Assume all duties of National President in his/her absence
- ◆ Serve as member of Executive Committee
- ◆ Provide administrative support
- ◆ Assist the National President in the execution of his/her duties as necessary

National Treasurer / Secretary, responsibilities:

- ◆ Record the minutes of meetings and take attendance
- ◆ Maintain correspondence files
- ◆ Serve as member of Executive Committee
- ◆ Provide administrative support
- ◆ Collect and keep a log of any funds used
- ◆ Collect any and all Dues or Fees required

National Membership Director, responsibilities:

- ◆ Serve as member of Executive Committee
- ◆ Provide administrative support
- ◆ Maintain a list of all members (e-mail, phone numbers, etc.)
- ◆ Processes all FARC member applications and forms
- ◆ Collect and distribute FARC back patches
- ◆ Liaison between the Chapters & National Executive Committee

National Event Director, responsibilities:

- ◆ Serve as member of Executive Committee.
- ◆ Provides administrative oversight and approval in conjunction with the National Executive Committee for all Chapter events, including charitable, national, regional events and events open to the general public.
- ◆ Report status on events to National Executive Committee as necessary or as requested
- ◆ Maintains a National event calendar

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State Director:

The State Director will be appointed by the National Executive Committee to serve an unlimited term and may be removed by the same. The State Director will report directly to the National Executive Committee and is the absolute top of the chain of command within their assigned state, and should be treated as such.

State Director, responsibilities:

- ◆ Responsible for the operations of all chapters within their assigned state.
- ◆ Provide guidance and leadership of all chapter presidents within their state.
- ◆ Settle any or all disputes within and/or among chapters, within their state.
- ◆ Meet with all CHAPTERS PRESIDENTS, at least twice a year (mandatory). More so if needed, or requested.
- ◆ Assisting the National Executive Committee in opening Chapters and determining if a new chapter should open when another chapter exists in close proximity.
- ◆ Assisting the National President in replacement of Chapter Officers in his state, whether they resign or are removed from office.

Chapter Framework:

All FARC Chapters will be governed by three (3) officer positions, President, Vice President, and Treasurer/Secretary. The Chapter officers will be elected by the majority of active Members in Good Standing. Any FARC member holding an office within the Club will wear a patch or pin designating their office. This patch or pin will be worn on the front of the vest. The 3 governing officers will meet no less than once every month (30 days).

The rules of succession between offices will not be practiced within FARC. If an officer does not, or is unable to perform his duties, or quits his office, it will be the responsibility of the National President to appoint someone to that position until the Chapter has an election to replace the officer. Example: If the Chapter Vice President were to quit, or not be able to perform his duties, the Treasurer would not automatically move up into that position because he might not be qualified for or want that position. Regular elections will take place annually usually in the last quarter of the calendar year.

The Chapter President shall preside over all officer and general membership meetings. He/She will oversee all affairs of the Chapter and may appoint persons or committees as may be required for Chapter business.

Chapter President responsibilities include, and may not necessarily be limited to:

- ◆ Manage the Chapter according to the National FARC Standards
- ◆ Preside at all membership, executive and special meetings
- ◆ Set dates for membership, executive and special meetings
- ◆ Appoint committee members for special projects
- ◆ Distribute a tentative agenda for meetings
- ◆ Chair the Executive Committee

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Chapter Vice President, Responsibilities:

- ◆ Assume all duties of Chapter President in his/her absence
- ◆ Serve as member of Executive Committee
- ◆ Assist Chapter President in execution of his/her duties as necessary

Chapter Treasurer/Secretary, Responsibilities:

- ◆ Record the minutes of membership meetings and take attendance.
- ◆ Maintain correspondence files.
- ◆ Serve as member of Executive Committee.
- ◆ Provide administrative support
- ◆ Maintain social (e-mail, phone numbers, etc.)
- ◆ Collect and keep a log of any funds used, if any
- ◆ Collect and keep a log of any moneys gained during fundraisers
- ◆ Collect any and all Dues or Fees required by the Chapter and National

The Chapter Treasurer/Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings and shall keep the minutes at all monthly meetings. Within one week of the monthly meetings He/She will distribute the minutes to the Chapter membership, either in writing or by email.

The Chapter Treasurer/Secretary must account for all income and expenditures of the Chapter. He/She will maintain an accounting journal and log all transactions by the Chapter He/She will give a financial report at each monthly meeting showing the current wealth of the Chapter. He/She must insure that all disbursements of Chapter money are approved as follows:

- ◆ Disbursements under \$100 must be with the knowledge & approval of the Chapter President and Vice President
- ◆ Disbursements of \$100 and under \$500 must be approved by majority vote of the three (3) Chapter officers.
- ◆ Disbursements of \$500 or more must have unanimous approval by the officers.

Dues & Fees:

Upon joining FARC a non refundable first year membership fee of \$55.00 will be paid to the Chapter Treasurer/Secretary at the first meeting or event attended. This covers the cost of the back patch, the smaller FARC patch and American Flag for the front of the vest. The fee and member application will then be forwarded to FARC National.

Monthly dues of \$10 will be paid by the FARC Chapters no later than the First (1st) Monday of the month and will be paid to FARC National for the day to day operating costs of the FARC National.

Any other fees needed for the day to day operation of the Chapter will be dealt with on an individual basis and voted on by the Chapter membership and approved by the Chapter Executive Committee.

Failure to pay Dues & Fees will result in the automatic suspension of the Member in Good Standing until all outstanding Dues & Fees have been satisfied.

Termination from the FARC is at the sole discretion the National Executive Committee.

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Correspondence:

All official communication with FARC National must be sent to a National Officer by letter or e-mail. Such as anything pertaining to chapter membership would be sent to the National Membership Director as they are the liaison between the Chapters & National Executive Committee. Correspondence by phone, text, messenger, or other means will not be considered official communication and will not be considered or acted upon.

Member in Good Standing:

A Member in Good Standing MUST own a motorcycle and have a motorcycle endorsed driver's license or be the spouse of and ride with a Member in Good Standing. A full member must make every effort to attend all meetings, events, and functions, and be dedicated to maintaining the principals for which FARC is based upon. The Member must help out other members in any way possible, whenever possible. They must show appropriate respect to fellow members, and other clubs. Members must be a mentor to prospective new Members, showing them the ways of the group. Members must always remember that when wearing the patches of FARC, that they represent the whole Club, and must never act in a manner that would bring discredit or dishonor to the Club. It is advised that all Members in Good Standing MUST wear Club vest or logo item at all Club functions and events.

Any Member in Good Standing that has not attended any Chapter rides, events, functions, or meetings for 90 days (three months), will lose their Good Standing designation and will no longer have a vote in the Chapter. The exception to this rule would be if the member has military service, out of town work or the member (or immediate family) has a medical emergency that would prevent him/her from being active in the Chapter for the 90 day period. The Chapter Executive Committee will discuss these situations on an individual basis, and will make decisions accordingly.

New Member Sponsor:

Sponsoring a new member will be approved upon request to any Chapter officer. A sponsor must be a mentor to the new member and guide them through the process of becoming a member of the club. It is the Sponsor's responsibility to make sure that the new member knows the requirements to become a member, and to keep track of their progress. New members wishing to become a Member in Good Standing must engage in a minimum of three (3) Chapter rides, events, functions or meetings in 90 days (three months) in addition to having a Member in Good Standing sponsor them.

Once the new member has completed all the requirements to become a Member in Good Standing, it is the sponsor's responsibility to bring this to the attention of the Chapter President. At the next general meeting, the President will call for a vote of membership on the new member.

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New Member Voting:

The new member will be voted on by the Members in Good Standing during the next scheduled meeting. To become a member, the new member must receive a majority vote of the voting membership present. Any negative votes must be explained to the membership. If the new member does not receive a majority vote, the decision will be made by the Chapter officers whether to extend the new members association time, or to dismiss the individual.

The new member will not be present in the room during the voting process. If they receive a majority vote for full membership, they are eligible to wear the FARC patch.

FARC Back Patch:

Upon becoming a Member in Good Standing and becoming eligible to wear the FARC patch the FARC National Membership Director will issue an FARC back patch to the Chapter President to be presented to the new member. The first years membership fee and the signed membership agreement form must be received by FARC National prior to the new member being issued an FARC back patch. The Forged Alliance Riding Club (FARC) back patch remains the property of FARC National. Upon termination or retirement from the FARC the back patch will be returned to FARC National.

Never wear a Bottom Rocker which shows the name or a location (especially the full name of a state) Wearing that Rocker tells everyone that you are claiming control of that territory. **Never** wear a Top Rocker which shows the name of the club. That is reserved for an MC (motorcycle club) name. **Never** wear any kind of support patch for any MC (motorcycle club).

If a dominant MC (motorcycle club) in your area asks you to take off your patch (cut or vest), do not resist or take a stand for the sake of the patch. Comply. Remove your vest and put it in your saddle bags.

Do not hang your back patch (vest) on your motorcycle or display it in a public place when at an event with other clubs, groups, or other riding organizations. The MC's (motorcycle clubs) could consider the display as claiming territory. If your not wearing your vest secure it in your saddle bags or give to an FARC Chapter officer.

The following is the mandatory FARC vest layout for all new Forged Alliance Riding Club Members. To assure uniformity and consistency between FARC chapters all members are requested to change to the new vest layout.

Approved FARC Back Of Vest Layout:

The FARC back patch must be centered on the back of the members vest with no top or bottom rockers. It is a one piece patch that identifies members belonging to the Forged Alliance Riding Club. Two and three piece patches are reserved for Motorcycle Clubs. Nothing should be placed directly above the FARC back patch. Nothing should be placed directly below the FARC back patch other than an "In Memoriam" patch placed ½ inch above the bottom of the vest.

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Approved FARC Front Of Vest Layout:

The American Flag is to be placed on the left side (heart side) upper breast area. Nothing should be placed higher than the American Flag on either side of the vest except for a cross or religious symbol.

The Chapter (or FARC) patch is to be worn on the upper right breast. Note this patch should be in line with or just below the American Flag on the opposite side.

Should you hold an Officers Position in the FARC the officer patch should be placed under the Chapter (or FARC) patch on the right breast.

Your name tag should be placed below the American Flag. This can of course be either your real name or road name (nickname).

The rest of the lower front of the vest is for other patches and pins of your liking. Make sure your vest represents the Forged Alliance Riding Club respectfully.

Associate Member:

An Associate Member is an individual who does not meet the definition of a Member in Good Standing. An individual who is a relative, life partner, child, sibling, or friend of a Member in Good Standing may participate in Club activities such as Rides, Parties and Events.

An Associate Members may not wear the FARC patch. They may wear an approved logo item such as Chapter or FARC T shirt.

If the Associate Member has their own motorcycle, it must meet all the requirements of the Member in Good Standing requirements, including a motorcycle endorsed driver's license.

Honorary / Retired Member:

An Honorary / Retired Member is eligible to wear the FARC patch, participate in all club events, and will not be required to pay annual dues to the Chapter. The Honorary / Retired Member designation must be voted on by the Chapter Officers and approved by the National Executive Committee. An Honorary / Retired Member will not be permitted to vote in any Chapter election or take part in any decisions concerning the day-to-day operation of the Chapter or its business. A patch, of the size and color of a chapter officer's patch will be purchased through chapter treasury funds, and presented to that member with the title HONORARY MEMBER or RETIRED as appropriate.

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New FARC chapter:

All new FARC Chapters must have three (3) officer positions and a minimum of three (3) members. Officers will be President, Vice President, and Treasurer/Secretary.

All three officers must join the Forged Alliance Riding Club, completed membership forms turned in, all dues and fees paid and meet all the requirements of a Member in Good Standing. Upon receipt of the applications and membership fees the three officers will be issued the FARC back patch and a new probationary chapter name and number.

Within 30 days the chapter officers must sponsor a minimum of three (3) members and on completion of sponsorship they will be voted on for membership. When approved by the chapter officers, membership forms turned in, with all dues and fees paid they are eligible to wear the FARC patch. (Please refer to the New Member Sponsor and New Member Voting on page 5)

The request to start a new chapter must be sent the National Membership Director and after a 30 day probationary period the New Chapter will be decided and implemented by the National Executive Committee.

Approving and Terminating chapters from the FARC is at the sole discretion the National Executive Committee.

Disciplinary Action:

If any member within the Club should do anything that causes dissension among the members, does anything that goes against the FARC values, bylaws, missuses the FARC registered trademark or copyrighted property, the matter will be brought to the attention of the National Membership Director and the National Executive Committee.

Termination for cause from the FARC is at the sole discretion of the National Executive Committee.

The three governing officers of the chapter must vote unanimously to remove a member of their chapter. A written notification must be sent to the National Membership Director, and that notification **MUST** contain all facts and circumstances leading up to that action. The termination of membership will be decided and implemented by the National Executive Committee.

Upon termination the FARC back patch will be surrendered to the Chapter President and then returned to the National Membership Director. Membership fee's and dues paid will not be refunded.

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CHARITY EVENTS

The FARC will not discourage any member from attending a charity event or any chapter from conducting one. If the FARC is to sponsor or its name is to be used in the promoting of such event, a request for approval of the event must be submitted to the National Event Director. Application can be sent to the National Event Director for approval.

The National Executive Committee must review all event logos, pins, banners, patches and shirts as well as any homemade items using the FARC name and or logo.

Registered Trademark & Copyright:

Forged Alliance Riding Club (FARC) logo, name, and any intellectual property maintain both Trademark and Copyright protection. Any unauthorized use of a trademark in connection with goods and/or services which appear to be in a manner that is likely to cause confusion, deception, or mistake about the source of the goods and/or services, is a violation of law.

The National Executive Committee must review all event logos, pins, banners, patches and shirts as well as any homemade items using the FARC logo for auction items, and approved by the National Executive Committee. If the name, Forged Alliance Riding Club, FARC, or the Club Emblem is to be used in the promotion of a charitable event, by a chapter or member, then the beneficiary (Charitable Organization) of the event must be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Chapter Officers and Members may not use, distribute, reproduce any protected property (FARC logo, name, and any intellectual property) without written permission, from the National Executive Committee. No vendor or service provider may not use, distribute, reproduce any protected property without written permission, from the National Executive Committee.

- ◆ Vendors or service providers must be approved and vetted by the National Executive Committee
- ◆ Vendors or service providers may only use Trademarked or Copyright protected items with written permission from the National Executive Committee
- ◆ When a vendor or service provider is terminated, the National Executive Committee will rescind the permission to use Trademarked or Copyrighted protected items in writing
- ◆ Any person or vendor using the Forged Alliance R. C. (FARC) logo without approval from the National Executive Committee will result in disciplinary and or legal action

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Amendments made to bylaws 09/01/2019:

Page 4 added Correspondence
Page 7 added Honorary / Retired Member
Page 7 added New FARC chapter
Page 8 amended Disciplinary Action

Amendments made to bylaws 12/15/2021

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