## **Dominae of the Carolinas**

# **Membership Manual**

#### <u>Date of Formation:</u> November 2017

### **Board of Directors:**

<u>Position Title</u>	FetLife Contact
Chair	Master-PG
Communications Director	Tessa-Grey
Community Relations Director	Shihyukuo
Contributorship Director	Lady_Lynnia
Events Director	Vacant
Financial Director	EvilSparkleBunny
Submissive Liaison	acmath

Email: Info@dominaeofthecarolinas.us

## <u>Dominae Of the Carolinas (DoC) Mission:</u>

To promote a non-profit group with a robust assortment of educational and social events to foster understanding of and support to individuals who are interested in or already in a Female Led/Female Dominant relationship dynamic. To ensure a safe, sane, consensual, judgment-free atmosphere for the individual, relationship, and collective growth opportunities specific to this type of dynamic. To encourage networking and foster solid long-term friendships within this dynamic while expanding the organization and maintain a positive reputation within the overall community.

## **Dominae Of the Carolinas' Purpose:**

To offer Female Led and Female Dominant Relationship Support through:

- Educational Opportunities
- Discussion Groups
- Mentorships
- Monthly Meetings
- Special Events
- Leadership Opportunities
- Positive Greater Community Representation
- Networking through Social Media
- Self-Development
- Relationship Development
- Skills Development
- Resources (Physical and Media Libraries)

## **Contributorship Requirements**

- Members must be current on their Annual Membership Fees
- Members must remit payments for events prior to the event itself. There will be no payment accepted at the time of the events.
- Members must maintain an appropriate email address specifically for receiving kink-related information, invitations, and communications.
- Dominants must identify as female 24/7 and can be any sexual orientation.
- Submissives may be any gender identity and sexual orientation.
- Members must be 21 years of age or older.
- Members must be in or striving for a Female-led dynamic or relationship.
- Members must remain active in the group.
  - Attending meetings
  - Attending Events
  - o Active in social media discussions
- Members must notify the Membership Director of any issues or complications which would prevent remaining active in the group.
  - o Inability to attend 3 (three) or more consecutive meetings/events.
  - Any member who has not notified the Membership Director and has not been active for 3 (three) or more months will be considered a "Suspended Member" will be removed from all communications and unable to attend any events until membership can be reevaluated.
- Volunteerism. When open calls for assistance for event planning, set up, break down are announced, please do volunteer, and honor your promises.
- Members must maintain an open mind toward others' dynamics and seek to learn rather than render judgements.
- Members must be respectful, and a positive representation of the Female-Led lifestyle within the group in addition to the overall kink community.
- Professional Dominants and Professional Submissives may not solicit for clients nor payments for any activities within the group and/or events.
- Members must adhere to all proper expectations and etiquettes within all platforms and activities.
- Members will be required to have tape over their phone's photography sections throughout all events
- Members who are married must have their spouse in full knowledge and approval of their kink pursuits.

## **Membership Benefits**

- All Members go through a rigorous Vetting Process, this is to ensure the members, hosts, guests, venues, and others can maintain a sense of privacy, security, protection, and safety for all our Private Events.
- Members enjoy a collective environment which promotes growth and learning which is free from negative judgements and/or drama.
- Members will be provided a Membership Identification Number and Card
- Members can attend all monthly Munch, topical, support meetings.
- Members have the opportunity to attend the Annual Formal Event
- Members may have the opportunity to attend any Weekend Retreats that are planned.
- Members will have the opportunity to attend larger community events (such as LLC, Self, FemDommeCon, Folicon, etc.) in coordination with other members.
- Members have the first information about all events via our email distribution lists prior to public postings of the events.
- Members have the ability to converse with other members within the same roles about topics of interest to them through social media outlets, social gatherings, and support group meetings.
- Members have the ability to intermingle with all genders, sexual orientations, sexual identifications, and role designations throughout all our activities, online and in person.
- Members have the ability to begin and contribute to forum discussions within the group on FetLife.
- Members have the opportunity for personal investment in the group and its members through ongoing interactions and relationship building activities.
- Members have the opportunity to form Mentorship relationships based on common ground and/or skills/experience/educational needs sets.
- Members have the opportunity for self, relationship, community involvement growth through educational topics, discussions, training, demonstrations, presentations, and other related activities.
- Members have the opportunity for leadership within the group and the wider community through service learning and networking.
- Members have the opportunity to learn new play techniques, implements, equipment and safety guidelines through demonstration events.
- Members will have the opportunity to purchase DoC merchandise as made available.
- Members will have the opportunity to have access to a media and physical library of materials for education and information.
- Members have the opportunity to sponsor and be sponsored by other members when needed.
- Members have the opportunity to volunteer services and materials as needed/requested by members and the group as a whole.
- Members have the opportunity to donate time, resources, and/or money to local causes.
- Members have the opportunity to vote in position elections.
- Members have the opportunity to run for leadership positions.
- Members have the opportunity to vote on any Bylaw amendments or changes.
- Members' preferences are kept in a Butler Book and referenced while organizing events so events are more accessible and customized to the needs and wants of our members.
- Exclusive access to our Discord Channels.

## **Contributorship Vetting Process**

- All interested parties may initiate contact with the Membership Director or other Board Member via FetLife and/or through email to inquire about possible membership and the process. If the contact is through FetLife, it is recommended to leave your email in the message for further correspondence.
- The Membership Director will read the correspondence and review the applicant's FetLife profile for appropriateness to DoC's Policies.
  - If there isn't sufficient evidence that the applicant may be a match for this group, the Membership Director will contact them to inform them of such and offer other, more appropriate alternative groups for their activities and interests.
  - If there seems to be an appropriate match to DoC's Membership Requirements, the Membership Director will contact the applicant via their correctly provided email address and provide further instructions in addition to documents and forms.
- The applicant will read and follow all the instructions provided and return the appropriate forms completed, signed, and dated.
- The applicant will attend the following Munch event and present their application and valid driver's license or appropriate identification card.
- Once the forms have been received, the Membership Director will confirm receipt and begin the vetting process which includes but is not limited to:
  - o A Public Criminal Background Check
  - A thorough review of the FetLife Profile (if membership forms are completed at a munch event)
  - Contacting three References
  - Reports findings to the Board via group email and brings Applicant up for discussion and voting. A majority vote is final and will not be altered.
  - Following the Board Vote the Membership Director will record and redact appropriate information, as specified on the Membership Application Form, and secure it in a lock box.

#### Applicant Approved:

- If approved by the Board, the Membership Director will contact the applicant again via email and provide some Questionnaires to complete and link to make their annual membership fee.
- Approved Applicant must complete and return the Questionnaires to the Membership Director to complete the Application Process.
- The applicant is not deemed a member in good standing until the Questionnaires and membership fees have been received.

#### • Membership Completed:

- Once the Questionnaires have been returned to the Membership Director, the new Member will be issued a Membership Identification Number which will be clearly indicated on their Membership Card.
- The Membership Director will send a "Welcome" email with the ID number, a copy of the Rules and Etiquette Document and the Bylaws, as well as the information for the next DoC Event to the New Member.
- The Membership Card will be presented at the next shared attended event to the New Member.
- The Membership Director will then appropriately label the new Member's email within the distribution lists to ensure they will be automatically contacted for all appropriate correspondence in the future.
- The Membership Director will fold in the information from the Questionnaires into the main database, so information is recorded and complete to ensure future successful events.

#### **Contributorship Denial:**

- Possible reasons for Denial:
  - The applicant's role is not in line with DoC's requirements.
  - The applicant did not complete, sign and date the Membership Application
  - The applicant's Criminal Background check presents a felony sex, child related anything, physical abuse to anyone, theft, and/or fraud conviction.
  - o The applicant's Criminal Background check is unable to be processed.
  - The applicant submits false information on the Membership Application
  - The applicant's references provide sufficient reason for concern based on trustworthiness and/or safety related issues.
  - The applicant has presented cause for concern based on past interactions at other kink-related events directly or indirectly with any current members.
  - o The applicant is unable to invest the time toward being active within the group.
  - The applicant is insufficiently responsive to email correspondence with the Membership Director.
  - The applicant seems to have ulterior motives such as profiting from others within the group, using the group as a stepping stone toward their own ends, including but not limited to their reputation, gaining a casual sex partnership, solicitation for services, infiltration and intentionally causing disharmony within and/or about the group and/or its members.
- If the applicant is seen as unfit to be a member of Dominae of the Carolinas, they will be issued the reason for their denial of membership via an appropriate email and be reminded of their inability to:
  - Appeal the decision of the Board.
  - Attend DoC public Munches.
  - Attend DoC private Events.
  - Correspond within DoC sanctioned social media (FetLife, Email, Website, Chat Rooms, etc.)
  - o Discuss DoC, its events, organization, and members with anyone else.
  - Any of the attempts to do the above will be considered harassment and may be pursued legally.
- Since all decisions of the Board are final during the voting process, the Membership Director is required to take the following steps:
  - Send the applicant an email explaining the reasons for denial of membership.
  - Delete the applicant's email address from any email lists and block so no further correspondence can be initiated by the denied applicant.
  - Remove and block the denied applicant from any social media outlets so they may not participate in any correspondence within the DoC's responsibility.
  - o If the reason is due to results from the Criminal Background Check, inform all members of the findings to ensure their awareness and safety in possible further interactions with them.
  - Keep a record of the person's general information in the event they may need to be removed from a Munch by the venue owners to ensure the safety of our members during and after the event.

## **Contributorship Expectations**

- Safe Sane and Consensual (SSC) negotiations, participation, and locations.
- Respect, honor, integrity, discretion is to be displayed at all times.
- No drama, disruptive, or destructive behaviors allowed.
- Behaviors suitable to the location and event.
- This is not a group for casual sexual activities or casual pursuits of others.
- Desire to learn, experience, grow and share is expected.
- An attitude of pride in yourself and the group and displaying positive reflection of both.
- Mentorship activities are highly expected. If you are one in need or want of mentors, feel free to
  pursue such a relationship and those with expertise in different areas of skills and relationship
  topics please offer to enter into such a relationship.
- Invitations for Socials and Demos are privately distributed to members only. Members may not
  forward or otherwise disseminate that information to anyone (not even other members or
  perceived members) ever. Should someone request the information or claim not to have
  received the invitation, please refer them to the Events Director. Violation of this will result in
  expulsion as the safety and privacy of our members is crucial.
- No Photography, videography, voice recordings allowed at any events.

### **Online Etiquette**

- Honest discussion participation without personal attacks (flaming) must be engaged in.
- Solicitation of other groups and/or activities not related to DoC must be posted only after approval of the Board.
- No solicitation of services requested or offered regarding ProDomme or ProSub.
- Be respectful of others' viewpoints although you may not agree with them.
- Engage in productive discussion as opposed to outright debates.
- Remain discreet regarding others' individual experiences and information.
- Express your personality with awareness of readers' perceptions. Certain comments may not translate well in the typed version as it would if it were spoken.
- Take personal banter, non FemDom discussions, and/or disagreements to Private Messaging.
- Do try to attain resolution to issues prior to contacting the Board unless there is a safety or discretion violation.
- For issues that can or will affect the entire group, please contact the Board for advice or action.
- All members can begin topics in the group threads.
- The Communications Director will monitor all social media activities and has every right and permission to delete anything that is not germane to a topic and/or is inciting or inflammatory.
- Members should not use "reply all" for any email communications within the group.

#### **Event Etiquette**

#### Both Munches and Private Events:

- o Cancellations must be received two hours before the event.
- o Be respectful of other members, guests, the host, presenters, safety monitors, and venue representatives.
- o Cover the photography portion of your phone and turn off all sounds and notifications.
- Adhere to all smoking policies and smoke only in designated areas. Clean up your butts outside, do not bring them into a venue as it will still create unwanted odors.
- o If a donation is requested for causes, we request you make every effort to contribute.
- Submissives must bring an attitude of servitude and submissiveness to all events.

#### Munch Events:

o All Munches are "vanilla" attire.

## **Dominae of the Carolinas**

# **Membership Manual**

- o Members should seek to interact with non-members and/or new people in an effort to be hospitable and friendly.
- o RSVPs are required to ensure accurate booking and seating numbers at the venue.
- Be respectful of and tip wait staff appropriately.
- o Ensure the use of screen names only (even if you know a person's real name)
- o No kinky or even suggestive activities at Munches.
- o No mentions of locations of private events during the Munch.
- o Do not bring kink implements to events.
- o If you are a hugger, ask for permission prior to doing so.
- Anyone who drinks or is taking driving limited medications should arrange for someone else to drive or order a paid driver (taxi, uber, Lyft) to do so for their and others' safety.
- o Do not invite new people to your home or another private location following the Munch. This is for your and their safety. Instead arrange for a separate meet up if desired.

#### Private Events:

- o Adhere to the proper dress code for each event.
- o Strive to be at the venue 15 minutes ahead of time.
- **o** If you bring a shareable item, please check the RSVP list to ensure there is enough for all in attendance.
- RSVPs are required for all private events for proper planning of food, seating, and materials for the event.
- o Bring the proper kink implements for play to the events as necessary or called for.
- o Do not touch others' belongings (including but not limited to persons, body parts, kink toys, clothing, equipment, etc.) without prior verbal permission to do so.
- o Do not distract group conversations with private conversations as all should have the ability to listen without distractions.
- o Do not speak out of turn, raise your hand, and wait to be acknowledged by the Host or Presenter before contributing to the conversation.
- o Be respectful of the venue itself and clean up after you and/or your sub(s), this includes the use of equipment as well as after meals (throwing away cups, plates, etc.)
- Please limit equipment use to 20 minutes and clean/sanitize after you are finished.
- o When submissives are naked or without bottom clothing on, please ensure there is a proper barrier between them and where they are seated or kneeling. Towels and/or puppy pads may be used for this purpose and should be supplied by themselves or their Dominant.
- Submissives must show deference to all identified Female Dominants throughout the duration of the event.
- Although it is encouraged, there is no requirement to engage in any play or interactions during Socials and Demos.
- Dominants and Submissives must not be overly solicitous for activity with others. If someone says "no", it means just that. Asking more than once is considered solicitous.
- Body to body penetration is prohibited. This includes fingers, penises, tongues, etc.
   Toys/equipment penetrations may be acceptable.
- Anyone under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol will not be permitted to play for theirs and the safety of others, the equipment, the venue, and its host.
- Switch Females must establish their role and remain therein for the duration of the event to avoid confusion.
- No male dominants will be invited or allowed during any event. All male switches must be submissive for the duration of the event attended.
- Negotiation and safe words are required prior to scenes.

### • Any safety concerns MUST be reported to the Board as soon as noticed.

### **Contributorship Revocations**

We at the Dominae of the Carolinas take our members, guests, hosts, venues, vendors, and other's health, wellbeing, safety, privacy, security, property, and reputations extremely seriously. It is for this reason our vetting process is so thorough and our judgements absolute and swift. If there is a violation which would put anyone or anything in jeopardy and/or at risk personally, professionally, domestically, spiritually, environmentally, fiscally and/or besmirched in any way there is immediate action from the Board.

To that end, if anyone is found to be in violation of the policies, bylaws, rules and etiquette infractions, the Board is to be notified immediately, and an emergency Board Meeting will commence investigating the accusations and the severity of the infraction. During the investigation, all direct parties involved will have suspended memberships to protect themselves and other members.

- Investigation will include but not limited to:
  - Speaking to all parties directly involved in the incident(s)
  - Speaking to all witnesses of the incident(s)
  - Evaluating possible extenuating circumstances
  - o Evaluating instigating circumstances
  - o Thorough discussion with all Board Members
  - A final vote and judgment regarding the status of all parties directly involved in the incident.
- Notification of Decision
  - The parties directly involved will be notified of their membership status and any resulting actions of suspension or outright revocation of their memberships.
  - Entire Membership will be informed of the decision and further actions being taken so they
    are fully aware of the situation and may take their own appropriate actions to ensure their
    safety, privacy, security, etc.
- Revocation of membership strips any member of all rights and benefits of their membership immediately upon the email with the decision being sent to them. That includes:
  - Refunds of Annual Membership Fees and any pre-paid events fees
  - o Removal and blocking their email from all email distribution lists.
  - Removal and blocking of their social media activities within the group (FetLife, Kik, Chat, Website, etc.)
  - Being barred from any future public Munches and Private Events hosted by DoC. Munch venues will be notified of potential issues so if security is needed to remove the person from the premises they may do so.
  - Any contact with our members, defamation of character of our members and/or the group as a whole will be considered harassment and pursued by legal action.
- Additional Actions by the Board:
  - Evaluate any possibilities of errors and/or misunderstanding within the DoC documents which could have prevented the issue.
  - o Taking corrective steps as a Board to ensure no repetition of the incident will occur.
  - Possible amendments to the Bylaws and subsequent vote by the membership.
  - o Implement any changes voted on by the Board and/or membership.