

# **MAST: Colorado Springs Bylaws**

As Amended by a vote of the membership September 5, 2018

## **1. Original Intent.**

These bylaws are voted into effect September 27, 2013 by the MAsT: Colorado Springs chapter with the intention that they illuminate, ease and facilitate chapter workings; specifically, these bylaws are to be interpreted in such a way as to best *minimize* cumbersome political processes.

## **2. Chapter Vision.**

MAsT: Colorado Springs identifies its purpose in being a support, education and social organization for those living and interested in living the Master/slave lifestyle. MAsT: Colorado Spring's goal is neither to remain small, nor to grow large but rather to provide a safe space in which Masters and slaves can come together to share and receive support on Their Ms path. MAsT: Colorado Springs has no desire to be an exclusive organization, but instead endeavors to be as inclusive as practicable without compromising its stated purpose and goals and acting within its Bylaws.

## **3. Chapter Guidelines.**

These guidelines are to be read by the Secretary or other board member before each meeting so that the Chapter rules are clear to members, regular and new attendees.

This is a community-inclusive *support* group for Those who identify as Master and slave or participate in Authority Based Power Exchange Relationships. We welcome all genders and orientations in this lifestyle to attend and participate in Our monthly discussions.

Certainly, each person may use Their Own language in reference to Themselves or Another's known choice in reference to Them, but to simplify, 'Master/slave' or 'M/s' is to be used in a comprehensive and inclusive way.

Everyone must sign the confidentiality statement and agree to hold confidential any personal information revealed at MAsT meetings. General ideas may certainly be shared and discussed elsewhere.

There is no generic Master/slave protocol expected during MAsT meetings. Individual Masters may, of course, enforce Their Own rules and protocols on Their Own slave(s). However, Masters are emphatically encouraged to support Their slave(s)' full participation during the meetings.

Each person is deemed to have valid views. Sharing viewpoints is of value to this group even though consensus is not our goal. You are all encouraged to share your diverse ideas and opinions with the group in ways that are personal and not simply philosophical or theoretical. We look to support one another on our individual paths through sharing deeply personal views, experiences, questions, problems, fears and desires.

Our discussion may be run with the aid of a Facilitator, who keeps conversation positive, moving, and on-topic. If the conversation has increased participation which may limit the ability of all members to share, any participant may ask for a stacker to ensure full participation of members. Please do not engage in 'cross talk'.

For those new to MAsT, we divide into separate Master and slave groups for a portion of Our discussion time. We request that You join the group with which You primarily identify. If You would prefer not to join either group, please respect the solidarity of each group by leaving and returning when the groups rejoin.

Our discussion topics are announced ahead of time here, on the Fetlife group, Facebook, and email lists. However, if someone has a personal issue they need the group's help in solving or discussing, that issue may take precedence. Does anyone have a personal issue they want to bring to the group today? Please contact the Director or another Officer *before* the meeting or during social time just prior to discussion, if you have such an issue in the future.

Please check your cell phone and silence the ringer. Before Our Facilitator announces today's topic, all participants are asked to give a name and state whether You primarily identify as either Master/Dominant/Owner or slave/submissive/property (or other).

#### **4. Monthly Meetings.**

MAsT: Colorado Springs shall have meetings on a monthly basis per the MAsT International guidelines and these Bylaws. Meetings will be run according to the chapter guidelines, which are read each month before discussion.

Signatures/marks/names on the monthly confidentiality statement are used to update the official attendance record, indicating voting and election eligibility.

Meetings will be divided roughly into social time, discussion time or class/education, business meeting (and further socializing, as time permits).

A general guideline is provided for reference but is not a mandatory timeline by which meetings should be run.

30 minutes social time (to be time prior to the meeting start time)

30 minutes introductions and chapter business

45 minutes joint discussion or presentation

15 minutes break and social time

30 minutes separate discussion or presentation

30 minutes wrap up, next meeting plans, social time

If the Chapter decides to meet in a private venue, locations to be chosen based on willing host Households, location convenience for travel, etc. The host Household is responsible for coordinating beverage selection as well as set-up and clean-up (though members/attendees are expected to take their own dishes/left-overs with them).

Any changes to or cancellation of the customary meeting time/place/format must be changed via a vote at least one (1) month prior to any such meeting and announced on the Fetlife group, Facebook page, and Email List as well as communicated to the community at large via list posting, announcements at meetings, etc.

Protocols for service at meetings will be determined by the group.

## **5. Business Meetings.**

Members in good standing shall be defined as those individuals with current paid memberships who have attended at least three (3) meetings in the past twelve (12) months.

The Chapter will make best efforts to hold the business portion of the meeting during the first fifteen (15) to thirty (30) minutes of each monthly meeting. Where necessary, Business meetings will usurp/preclude social time. However, Business meetings are to be conducted efficiently; taking as little time as possible away from monthly discussion and socializing.

Business meetings will be divided roughly into chapter announcements/news, community announcements/news, old business items and new business items (including a financial report).

New business items may be brought up during the business meeting, but where possible, the Director or Assistant Director is to be notified of an issue requiring a vote not less than one week prior to the meeting so that members may be alerted. If this is not possible, the vote *may* be held open, allowing absent members in good standing to comment/vote.

In general, business will be decided by those members in good standing *present* at a meeting.

## **6. Membership.**

Founding members of MAsT: Colorado Springs are: Master Allen, Master John, Master Paul, Mistress C, slave jenn, slave melissa. The Founding Members shall have lifetime membership in the Chapter and annual dues are forever waived.

Fees:

The MAsT: Colorado Springs group believes that education and support is free. However, we also wish to maintain the ability to pursue financially supporting events which align with our members values. Towards this end the membership fees for the group consist of the following:

Annual member will be 24 dollars per year, or prorated 2 dollars a month for members joining during the year.

This fee shall be paid all at once unless payment arrangements are made with the Treasurer. Voting privileges are provided to those members who have paid for membership and attended at least three out of the last six MAsT: Colorado Springs meetings.

Any person wishing to attend the MAsT Monthly meetings, the first meeting is free with a three dollar per person donation thereafter.

Membership will continue to be open until at such time as our members determine it would be beneficial to move to a closed group.

### **7: Community Politics.**

MAsT: Colorado Springs specifically states that its position is to remain neutral on any conflicts not directly affecting MAsT: Colorado Springs or the larger MAsT or Ms community. Individual members may certainly be involved in such conflicts but do so as individuals and not as representatives or even representative members of MAsT: Colorado Springs.

### **8. Elected Officers.**

*Director* (office required by MAsT International)

*Assistant Director* (office required by MAsT International)

*Secretary*

*Treasurer*

### **9. Other Roles.**

A member may volunteer or be selected by an elected Officer to provide assistance with a variety of positions both during a monthly meeting and for events that MAsT: Colorado Springs supports.

**10. Officer Duties. All MAsT: Colorado Springs Officers:** Diligently and honorably represent MAsT: Colorado Springs; Moderate Fetlife Group; Promote MAsT at other leather venues/organizations/events as necessary; Be willing to fill in and otherwise assume duties of other Officers in their absence; Attend and actively participate in at least eight (8) out of twelve (12) meetings each office year; Alert other Officers as well as chapter members and delegate officer(s) to fulfill duties in case of absence.

*Director:* Act as the primary contact with MAsT International; Coordinate with other MAsT chapters as it is useful/etc. to MAsT: Colorado Springs; Prepare agendas for monthly meetings; Take participant issues that may usurp topical discussion and decide if they will and, if so, for how much meeting time; Coordinate votes at meetings; Take secondary responsibility for meetings staying on schedule and following chapter guidelines; Take primary responsibility for Officer duties/requirements being fulfilled according to Bylaws and report any errors/omissions to the membership; Subscribe to and participate as necessary in MAsT Chapters Yahoo! Group;

*Assistant Director:* Act as secondary contact with MAsT International; Take secondary responsibility for Officer duties/requirements being fulfilled according to Bylaws and report any errors/omissions to the membership; Fill in with Director duties when the Director is unavailable.

*Secretary:* Answer chapter Email and inquiries; Compose and send required reports to MAsT International: Quarterly Reviews on 4/30, 7/31, 10/31 and 1/31; Complete renewal and other required MAsT International paperwork; Maintain possession of Chapter charter (when applicable), official documentation, etc.; Read chapter guidelines at each meeting; Maintain possession of one (1) copy of all advertising material and chapter documentation (originals) in chronological order (the chapter's equivalent of a scrapbook); Retain meeting notes (Meeting Note Template); Post relevant information from meeting notes to MAsT International website;

Treasurer: Keep and maintain all chapter funds and provide a monthly financial report to the Chapter. Disburse funds as voted and directed by the membership in accordance with Article 16. Each Chapter must pay annual dues to MAsT International. Other expenditures may include but are not limited to donations to approved projects and organizations, purchase of MAsT pins and patches, advertising and informational brochures.

### **11. Terms of Office.**

The Term of Office shall be ongoing and indefinite until the officer resigns, steps aside, or is removed by a vote of the membership. Officer resignation shall be submitted to Director and/or Assistant Director two (2) months prior to leaving office. An officer may be removed from office for cause or by member vote. In the case of an Officer resignation, the Director may appoint a member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. If the Director resigns, the Assistant Director becomes Director and appoints a new Assistant Director.

Term may be extended by Officer's re-election or re-appointment, with no term limits.

### **12. Requirements for Office.**

All Officers must be MAsT: Colorado Springs full members.

All Officers must be present at at least six (6) out of twelve (12) of the last meetings prior to election *and* present at at least eight (8) out of twelve (12) meetings during any year in office. If no candidates meet the eligibility criteria, then the eligibility criteria may be waived allowing, in essence, new members to run for election.

All Officers are to be mindful to honorably represent MAsT: Colorado Springs and the Master/slave lifestyle.

All Officers are to carry out the duties required of their office with honor, integrity and the utmost diligence.

Holding a MAsT: Colorado Springs Officer position is an honor and yet should be carried out in a way that carefully walks the line of pride in a job well-done; not simply prideful or egoic. To be an Officer is to be in a position of service to the Colorado Springs Ms community.

### **13. Voting.**

Any person present at a business meeting may bring up an issue, idea, or proposal. However, *only* full members may vote on any chapter business.

Elections (for contested offices) and removal of Officers will be by written ballot. All other voting will be verbal or by show of hands at the time the issue is brought before the membership. Allowance for absentees will be provided when determined by bylaws or Director discretion.

At any time, any member in good standing can request that a vote be taken by written ballot.

### **14. Officer Elections.**

If there is more than one member interested in an executive position, an election will be held. One month prior to the elections the executive committee will determine the guidelines for elections.

### **15. Exclusionary Procedures.**

Anyone wishing to attend MAsT: Colorado Springs meetings must be “approved” to do so by the host for that meeting. As such, this approval can also be withheld by any member who feels that the new attendee would endanger/end their active participation in the group. These processes may be handled via the email list or by any other expedient means. These approvals are not meant to be an exclusionary bar per se, but rather a filter providing for the continued safe space MAsT meetings provide the membership. This process notwithstanding, MAsT: Colorado Springs endeavors to provide as open a space as practicable for all identifying, living or interested in living as Master/slave.

Any member’s membership may be suspended or revoked for cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members in good standing. The cause must be stated and the member in question will be given an opportunity to represent their action(s)/inaction(s) before a vote is held. This representation should be in writing not less than one week prior to the monthly meeting. The member, if present, will be given five (5) minutes to verbally represent their actions(s)/inaction(s). Members in good standing who are unable to attend the meeting may submit their vote electronically to the Director or Associate Director. A revocation of membership is to be preceded by a suspension of membership except in extraordinary circumstances. A suspension of membership will generally be for a three (3) month period.

Members who are not in good standing, on suspension, or have had their membership revoked may be barred from attending meetings by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the current members in good standing. The cause must be stated and the former member in question should submit a written response to the cause not less than one week prior to the monthly meeting. The member, if present, will be given five (5) minutes to verbally defend their privilege to attend and participate in meetings before a vote is held. Members in good standing who are unable to attend the monthly meeting may cast their vote to the Director or Assistant Director.

Any participant at any MAsT: Colorado Springs discussion may be asked to leave or removed from a meeting for cause. Attempts to otherwise handle unacceptable behavior will be made before removal of a participant.

### **16. MAsT: Colorado Springs Monies.**

The meeting fees and membership dues as well as any other monies accumulated by MAsT shall be spent generally for the good of the membership, furthering the goals of the chapter and MAsT as a whole.

### **17. Adoption of Information from MAsT International.**

MAsT: Colorado Springs adopts and agrees to give best efforts in abiding by all guidelines provided by MAsT International.

### **18. Bylaw Amendments.**

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote at any Chapter business meeting. Where possible, any changes are to be brought up on the email list two (2) weeks prior to the meeting at which they are decided.