

THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY THE CAROLINAS BRANCH CONSTITUTION

I. NAME

The name of the Local Association shall be The Carolinas Branch - RSCDS (hereinafter called “the Local Association”)

II. ASSOCIATION WITH THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY

The Local Association is an autonomous body consisting of

- (a) members of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (hereinafter call “ the Society”)
- (b) associate members of the Local Association.

III. OBJECTS

The objects of the Local Association shall be to advance the education of the Public in the area of North Carolina and South Carolina and its neighborhood in traditional Scottish Country Dancing and in furtherance thereof:

- (a) To preserve and further the practice of traditional Scottish Country Dancing.
- (b) To provide or assist in providing instruction in the dancing of Scottish Country dances.
- (c) To promote the enjoyment and appreciation of Scottish Country Dancing and music by any suitable means.
- (d) Generally to do such other things as are or may be considered by the Local Association to further the foregoing objects of the Society in the district or area to which it relates.

IV. MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

1. Membership of the Local Association shall be open to all persons interested in the objects of the Local Association. Persons over the age of 16 may choose to become a member of the Society. Any member of the Local Association who has attained the age of 18 must be a member of the Society. Only such members as have attained the age of 18 shall have the power to vote.
2. Persons under the age of 18 may become associate members of the Local Association and the privileges accorded to such associate members shall be regulated from time to time by the Committee of Management of the Local Association.
3. The rates of subscription for the Members shall be such as may be determined from time to time by the Local Association in General Meeting.

V. OFFICE BEARERS

1. The Office Bearers of the Local Association shall consist of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the secretary and the Treasurer who shall all be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Local Association in the manner hereinafter provided.
2. The Office Bearer shall hold office for two years and on completion of his/her term of office shall be eligible for re-election.
4. The Secretary and Treasurer shall hold office for two year and shall be eligible for re-election.
5. The Committee of Management shall have power to appoint an Interim Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and/or Treasurer to fill these vacancies occurring between annual General Meetings but any office bearers so appointed shall serve only until the next Annual General Meeting when he/she shall be eligible for election.

VI. COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

(a) Memberships/Meetings

1. The affairs of the Local Association shall be administered by a Committee of Management, (hereinafter referred to as “the committee”) composed of the Chairman Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and any other office-bearers appointed, and ordinary members.
2. The ordinary members, selected by their regional groups, shall be installed at the Annual General Meeting of the Local Association. The Committee shall have the power to fill a vacancy among the ordinary members of Committee by co-option but any member so co-opted will serve only until the next following Annual General Meeting when he/she may stand for election. On completion of his/her year of office an ordinary member shall be eligible for re-election to the Committee.
3. All members of the Committee must be members of the Local Association and be at least 18 years old.

(b) Powers and Duties of Committee

1. A Quorum of the committee shall be three members, one of which is an elected office bearer.
2. The Committee shall have power to constitute Sub-Committees on an ad hoc basis **either** from its own membership or by co-opting other members of the Local Association and entrust them with such duties as it considers necessary for efficient working of Local Association affairs. Such co-opted members shall not have voting powers.

VII. DUTIES OF OFFICE-BEARERS

1. Chairman- The Local Association chairman is the executive officer of the Local Association.

He/She shall preside at Local Association Meetings and at meetings of the Committee. In the absence of the Chairman from a meeting a chairman shall be appointed from among those present. The chairman of any meeting, whether a Local Association or Committee Meeting, shall have a casting as well as a deliberative vote.

2. Vice Chairman – It shall be the duty of the Vice Chairman to assume the duties of the Chairman in his/her absence and to be available to give such assistance as the chairman may require.
3. Secretary – It shall be the duty of the Secretary to see that regular meetings are held, to conduct the correspondence of the Local Association and to keep proper minutes of such meetings. Additionally the Secretary shall:
 - (a) prepare an annual report of the activities of the Local Association during the preceding year.
 - (b) keep a register of Members of the Local Association.
 - (c) distribute the minutes of the meetings within two weeks to all members
 - (d) distribute Headquarters correspondence to Branch members
4. Treasurer – It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive, bank and account for all monies collected by whatever agency from members of the Local Association or from other sources. Additionally the Treasurer shall:
 - (a) cause proper account books to be kept and ensure that the annual accounts of the Local association are properly examined or audited as required by law.
 - (b) make the annual Local Association accounts available for inspection at reasonable times and present the accounts for adoption by the Local Association at the Annual General Meeting

VIII. LOCAL ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

1. (a) The Annual General Meeting of the members of the Local Association shall be held within six months after the end of its financial year at such place and at such time as may be determined by the Committee.
 - (b) All members shall be given 14 days written notice of a General Meeting. Every notice shall contain a statement of the business to be discussed at the meeting.
 - (c) Members under the age of 18 years may attend and, with the permission of the Chairman, speak at a General Meeting but may not vote.
2. The order of business at an Annual General Meeting shall, as nearly as may be, be the following:
 - (a) Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and of Special General Meetings, if any, held in the course of the year.
 - (b) Secretary's Report on year's working of the Local Association.
 - (c) Treasurer's Report and Accounts.
 - (d) Appointment of Office-Bearers and committee.
 - (e) Motions
 - (f) Any other competent business.
 - (g) Chairman's Report
3. A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman or shall be called on a

requisition signed by not less than one-tenth of the members of the Local Association entitled to vote when such membership does not exceed 500. Where the voting membership of the Local Association exceeds 500 a minimum of 50 or one sixteenth, whichever is greater, of the members entitled to vote must sign the requisition calling a Special General Meeting.

4. One-quarter of the members entitled to vote or twenty-five members of the Local Association entitled to vote whichever shall be lesser shall constitute a quorum.
5. The Local Association in General Meeting may enact such rules (hereinafter referred to as the Rules) as it may determine for proper working of the Local Association.

IX. FINANCE

All monies raised by, or on behalf of, the Local Association shall be applied to further the objects of the Local Association and for no other purpose; provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any employee of the Local Association and fees to professional and technical advisers; or the repayment to members of the Committee of reasonable out of pocket expenses.

X. SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF MEMBER

1. The Committee may suspend temporarily or terminate the membership of any person whose conduct is in their opinion prejudicial to the interests of the Local Association. Suspension or termination shall not alter the rights or status of the person concerned as a member of the Society.
2. Before suspending or terminating any person's membership, the Committee shall notify in writing the person concerned stating the reasons for the proposed suspension or termination and giving that person the opportunity of replying and of appearing before the Committee, if the member so wishes, to seek revocation of the suspension or termination.
3. The person whose membership has been suspended or terminated shall have the right of appeal at a Local Association General Meeting when a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote shall be necessary to confirm the suspension or termination.
4. Where suspension or termination has occurred or, where appropriate, has been confirmed as in 3 above, the matter shall be notified to the Society.

XI. DISBANDMENT

1. Notice of intention to disband the Local Association shall be given to the Secretary of the Society at least two months before the date proposed for such disbandment.
2. The balance of the funds, after all liabilities have been met, and all property belonging to the Local Association shall be transferred to a recognized charitable body or bodies having objects similar to those of the Local Association (excluding geographical limitations) as the members in General Meeting, whom failing, the Committee, shall decide.

XII. REPRESENTATION IN THE SOCIETY

1. Any member may stand for election to management posts within the Society. Nominations may be made by any other member, with a second and 10 additional supporters. Forms for nomination are available in April and should be submitted by the stated date, usually the first week in September. Voting is by Local Association delegates and voting papers are distributed to Local Associations in September. Results of the Elections shall be announced at the AGM.
2. Subject to any restrictions on numbers and any procedures contained in the Society's constitution, the Local Association in General Meeting, (which failing, the Committee), may appoint a delegate or delegates; all of whom shall have attained the age of 18 years, to attend a general meeting of the Society and represent the Local Association at such meeting. In the event of an appointed delegate being unable to attend such meeting, an accredited substitute, who shall also have attained the age of 18, shall be allowed.

XIII. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of the Local Association shall only be altered by Resolution passed by the Local Association in General Meeting and only after receiving the vote of no less than two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote. No alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Local Association to cease to be recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a charity.

XIV. GENERAL

The Local Association shall be governed in accordance with this constitution and with Rules made by the Local Association in General Meeting.