

BYLAWS OF LAUGHING SQUARES, INC.

ARTICLE I NAME

The name of The Club shall be "Laughing Squares of Indianapolis, Incorporated" referred to as The Club throughout these bylaws.

ARTICLE II ORGANIZATION

Laughing Squares is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of Indiana for the purpose of encouraging the enjoyment of square and round dancing. Laughing Squares shall accomplish its purpose by:

- 1) Providing educational opportunities for people to learn to square dance, and
- 2) Providing opportunities for dancers to fellowship, recreate, and enjoy square and round dancing.

ARTICLE III BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall consist of all present officers.

Section 2: The Board will meet as deemed necessary by the Chairman of the Board.

Section 3: The President shall appoint an auditing committee at the annual meeting to audit the Treasurer's accounts. The Board of Directors requires that bills be presented for payment within 60 days

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership is open to all adult dancers who have completed basic and mainstream lessons.

Section 2: Dancers under the age of 18 who have completed basic and mainstream lessons and whose parent(s), grandparent(s), or guardian(s) are members in good standing may, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, join The Club as Honorary Members. Any dancer under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult to participate in a club function.

Section 3: Honorary Members are non-voting members.

Section 4: Nonmembers shall become members by applying for membership and paying the membership dues for the year in advance. The members in attendance at a business meeting shall vote on all applicants, and shall have the right to reject potential members by a majority vote. If an application is rejected, the applicant must be informed in writing of the reason for the rejection along with any remedial measures. Such writing must be signed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V DUES

Section 1: Dues for membership shall be determined by a majority vote of the members in attendance at a business meeting. Notification of a suggested change in dues shall be

presented to the members at least 30 days prior to the vote. Such annual dues include the portion payable to the Indiana Dancers Association and USDA Insurance.

Section 2: All members, including Officers, are required to pay membership dues.

Section 3: All members shall pay for the costs of their badges.

Section 4: Graduating class members will pay one-half the membership fee to the balance of the year. They will also pay full year IDA dues.

ARTICLE VI DANCES

Section 1: The intent of The Club is to dance 22 dances per year, weather and circumstances permitting.

Section 2: The Club will dance at a location selected by the members in attendance at a business meeting, keeping in mind the geographical location of the majority of The Club members.

Section 3: Admittance fees for dances shall be established by a majority vote of the members in attendance at a business meeting as deemed necessary. Member admittance fees for dances shall apply to all members, including Officers.

Section 4: Dancers under the age of 18 shall not be required to pay admittance fees.

Section 5: Students who are currently taking lessons shall not be required to pay admittance fees to the dance.

ARTICLE VII MEETINGS

Section 1: The Club will have at least eight business meetings each year to carry out the normal business activities. The annual meeting shall be the first meeting of the calendar year.

Section 2: All members are encouraged to attend meetings. Officers are expected to attend all meetings. Non-members may only attend meetings by invitation of the board.

Section 3: All members present at the business meeting shall have a vote. A simple majority rules; a majority being one more than half. Robert's Rules of Order are recommended as a guide to proper parliamentary procedure.

Section 4: At the first business meeting after election, a copy of the by-laws will be presented by the President to each officer.

ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS AND THEIR SELECTION

Section 1: a. The officers of The Club shall consist of no less than President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. All officers are members of the Board of Directors.

b. Officers may serve as individuals or as couples.

c. Officers shall be elected annually in the month of November at the first regular dance of the month. All active club members are eligible to vote. Each person is entitled to one vote.

d. A candidate must receive a majority of the eligible votes cast for a specific office in order to be elected to that office. A majority is one more than half of all eligible votes cast.

e. Officers shall assume their official duties after an installation ceremony at the first January business meeting and shall serve for a term of one year.

f. A member shall not be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 2: a. A nominating committee shall be formed annually to nominate club members for officer positions. The chairperson will be appointed by the president and may appoint additional members to serve with them as needed.

b. The nominating committee shall nominate at least one member(s) for each office to be filled. The committee shall present its nominees at the second regular dance in the month of October at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor.

c. Only those members who have signified their consent to serve if elected shall be nominated for or elected to such office.

d. Duties of a Nominating Committee.

(1) To select nominees who have the experience and qualities that meet the needs of the organization.

(2) To interview prospective nominees personally, by telephone or mail, and secure their consent to serve if elected.

(3) To present the slate of nominees at the October business meeting and no later than the last dance in October to the membership.

ARTICLE IX DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1: The President or a designated officer shall extend contracts to callers and cuers as directed by the Board of Directors; shall preside at all meetings; transact club business; create standing committees and appoint chairmen to those committees; shall make announcements at regular dances and shall chair the Board of Directors. The President is an ex officio member of all committees.

Section 2: The Vice-President assumes the duties of the President in the absence or inability of that officer to act. The Vice-President is responsible for coordination of special dances and the preparation and submission of IDA advertising and other duties as delegated by the President.

- Section 3: The Secretary keeps accurate records of business proceedings, official membership lists, lists of committees, and a copy of the by-laws, conducts correspondence necessary in arranging events, and publishes a monthly newsletter. The Secretary will maintain all original contracts (or copies) and fulfill all other duties as delegated by the President.
- Section 4: The Treasurer collects all monies due The Club; pays all authorized expenses; keeps the board and club members informed as to the financial condition of The Club by regular reports; keeps books in order at all times; handles guest lists; keeps records and distributes tickets for special events in which The Club participates; forwards the dues and mailing lists to IDA annually; files Federal - Tax Exempt Tax Form 990-N before May 15 annually; files the Indiana Not For Profit status with the Secretary of State during the month of October after a notice is received from the Secretary of State, and other duties as delegated by the President.
- Section 5: All members, especially officers, are expected to assist with lessons.
- Section 6: A vacancy occurring in any office shall be filled for the unexpired term by a member elected by a majority vote of club members at a business meeting, notice of such election having been given. In case a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice-President shall serve notice of the election.

ARTICLE X FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of The Club shall begin on January 1 and end on the following December 31.

ARTICLE XI STANDING COMMITTEES AND DELEGATES

- Section 1: The President may create such standing committees as deemed necessary to promote square dancing and carry on the work of The Club. The term of each chairperson shall be one year or until the selection of a successor.
- Section 2: No committee work shall be undertaken without the consent of the President.
- Section 3: The Board of Directors shall serve as delegates to the Indiana Dancers Association (IDA) and the Central Area IDA organization. At least one delegate shall attend the IDA meetings and keep The Club informed of IDA activities.

ARTICLE XII AMENDMENT PROCESS

- Section 1: These by-laws may be amended at any regular business meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided that notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given at least 30 days in advance to the entire membership.
- Section 2: A committee may be appointed to submit a revised set of bylaws as a substitute for the existing bylaws only by a two thirds vote of the members in attendance at a business meeting. The requirements for the revised set of bylaws shall be the same as in the case of an amendment.

Section 3: All adopted amendments will be effective immediately unless the amendment specifies otherwise.

ARTICLE XIII DISSOLVING THE CLUB

A two-thirds vote by the membership may dissolve The Club or reorganize it. In the event The Club has depleted its total assets or if the bylaws become inoperative and unable to govern the membership for the purpose of promulgating square and round dancing, then The Club shall be dissolved. If The Club is dissolved and there are funds remaining in the Treasury, the monies shall be divided equally among the members in good standing after all debts of The Club have been paid.

ARTICLE XIV CONTRACTS

Section 1: If an opening exists for the position of club caller or cuer, the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, will appoint a committee to seek qualified candidates.

Section 2: The determination of the initial contract of a club caller or cuer will be decided by a majority vote of the membership in attendance at a business meeting.

Section 3: The determination to offer renewal contracts will be voted by the members present at a regular business meeting as they become due.

Section 4: A 60-day notification will be given by the President or by the caller or cuer if a contract is not to be renewed.