



# IMPERIAL COURT OF RHODE ISLAND AT PROVIDENCE

## BYLAWS

### **I. Mission Statement:**

- a. The purposes for which this Corporation has been organized are as follows:
  - i. To raise funds primarily for the LGBTQIA+ community and other organizations.
  - ii. To provide a safe, social environment for people with the same interests as those of the Corporation.
  - iii. To create and promote positive awareness of the LGBTQIA+ community.

### **II. Governance:**

- a. This organization is governed by these Bylaws and Policies & Procedures as adopted and by no other means.
- b. If there is any conflict between the provisions of the Certificate of the Incorporation and these Bylaws, the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation will govern.

### **III. Offices:**

- a. The principal address of the Corporation shall be 156 Leo Ave, Providence, RI 02904. The Corporation may also have offices within or out of the state as the Board of Directors (BoD) or the business of the Corporation may require. The mailing address of the Corporation will be 'Imperial Court of Rhode Island at Providence, PO Box 6583, Providence, RI 02904'.

### **IV. Zero Tolerance Policy**

- a. This Corporation has a Zero Tolerance Policy for misconduct in any of the following situations:
  - i. Harassing/Bullying Behavior:
    1. Harassment is defined as any unwanted behavior that any reasonable person ought to have known would be unwelcome, including but not limited to physical, verbal or electronic conduct that offends or humiliates the recipient, interferes with their ability to work and learn, or leads to adverse job-related consequences.
    2. Bullying is defined as abusive treatment, by means of force or coercion, to use browbeating language or behavior.
    3. Harassment and Bullying can be manifested in the forms of physical, verbal and electronic forms including, but not limited to, all social media and texting.
  - ii. Misappropriation of Corporation Finances

1. Misappropriation of finances will be defined as any form of embezzlement or inappropriate use of Corporation funds.
- b. No member; whether General, Board, Reigning or College, shall discriminate against another member, event participant, or event attendee based on age, race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, economical background, political affiliation, or Protocol line.
- c. Members are expected to promote and maintain respectful relationships with other members of the Court. Disruptive behavior or actions are not in the best interest of the Court, and may be grounds for revocation or suspension of membership.
- d. Disciplinary Action:
  - i. Any member suspected of a violation of this Zero Tolerance Policy will be brought before the BoD for a disciplinary hearing.
  - ii. Any member, Monarch or Officer of the Corporation suspected of a violation has the right to defend themselves at their hearing.
  - iii. The BoD may vote to suspend or remove any member, Monarch, or Officer of the Corporation with a 2/3 majority vote. All members of the Board must vote.
  - iv. The Board's decision for suspension or removal is final.
  - v. Any individual removed for misappropriation of finances will also be subject to prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.
  - vi. Any individual removed for violating the Zero Tolerance Policy will no longer have access to their former titles and cannot be awarded a lifetime title.
  - vii. Any individual removed for violating the Zero Tolerance Policy may petition the BoD to review their membership eligibility at a date no earlier than five (5) years from the date of removal.

**V. Membership:**

- a. In accordance with the Bylaws, the Imperial Court of Rhode Island shall have individual members. The BoD, at its discretion, is authorized to define rights and responsibilities of members.

**VI. Board of Directors:**

- a. The BoD is legally, morally, and ethically accountable for the health and effectiveness of the Corporation.
- b. Ensures that the Imperial Court of Rhode Island achieves its mission in a prudent and ethical way.
- c. The Board operates with one voice and acts as a group.
- d. No single individual Board member can make any decision related to Governance.

**VII. Monarchs:**

- a. The Reigning Monarch(s) are the fundraising figureheads of the Corporation and represent the Corporation at all official functions and interactions with the community in an official capacity.

b. Monarch Elections:

- i. The election of the Monarch(s) will occur at the Annual Coronation Ball.
- ii. Candidate(s) must receive a majority of the vote to be elected as a Monarch.
- iii. Where there is only one (1) candidate presented for position, the candidate must receive a simple majority [one half plus one (1)] vote of approval.
- iv. The candidates with the highest vote counts of two different lines will be elected as Monarch(s) with these situational stipulations:
  1. In the case that two (2) candidates from the same line are the only two candidates running and both candidates receive the requisite number of votes to be Monarch, the candidate with the higher number of votes may decide whether to reign alone, or reign with the other candidate.
  2. In the case that four (4) or more candidates are running for Monarch, and multiple candidates receive the requisite number of votes, the candidates with the two highest vote counts will be elected as Monarchs, regardless of their line.
  3. In the case that two (2) candidates want to run for Monarch together, as long as they receive College and Board approval, the two candidates will run together, on the same ticket. If they receive the highest number of votes together on the same ticket, they will be elected Monarchs, regardless of their line.
- v. Failure to receive a majority vote of approval will result in the position standing vacant. The College of Monarchs is then responsible for appointing Regent Monarch(s).
- vi. In case of a tie, the College of Monarchs who are present at Coronation will be asked to convene immediately to cast a vote as the College.
- vii. There can be up to two (2) Reigning Monarchs, whether elected or regent/appointed for each reign with the exception in the case when a Regent Council is established at the discretion of the BoD.

**VIII. Regent Monarchs**

a. Regent Monarch

- i. A Regent Monarch is elected from within the College of Monarchs by the College of Monarchs at the request of the BoD.

- ii. Is afforded all rights and responsibilities as a Reigning Monarch as indicated in Policies & Procedures.
    - iii. The College of Monarchs' decision is final.
  - b. Regent Council
    - i. A Regent Council is comprised of three (3) or more members of the College of Monarchs in the instance there are no available College members to act as an individual Regent Monarch.
    - ii. Collectively, the council will fulfill all the duties and responsibilities of a Reigning Monarch.
    - iii. Will be afforded the same rights as a Reigning Monarch.
  - c. Board Council
    - i. In the case there is no Reigning Monarch, Regent or Regent Council, the BoD will serve as Board Council and will fulfill all the duties and responsibilities of a Reigning Monarch.
- IX. **Imperial Crown Prince/Princess/Prin (ICPs)**
  - a. Individuals appointed by the Reigning Monarch to serve as the “right-hand” to the Monarch(s) for the duration of the Reign. The individuals return to their previous title at the completion of the Reign.
- X. **Coronation**
  - a. The BoD is responsible for assuring that Coronation adheres to the values and mission of ICRI.
  - b. Coronation is to be held by the end of the fiscal year, which is May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- XI. **Scholarship**
  - a. The Imperial Court of Rhode Island awards an Annual Scholarship to a deserving recipient.
    - i. The scholarship(s) will be awarded at the Annual Coronation.
    - ii. If there are no applicants for the scholarship, the money will be maintained by the Corporation.
- XII. **Dissolving the Corporation**
  - a. Should any member, Monarch, or Officer of the Corporation call for dissolution, the BoD will vote on the recommendation.
  - b. With a two-third (2/3) majority vote, the BoD will make a recommendation to the general membership for a vote.
  - c. Upon ratification from the general membership, the Corporation will be considered officially dissolved 90 days following the completion of the current reign.
  - d. In the event of the dissolution of the Corporation and after the payment of all debt and return of charitable contributions as appropriate, all assets will be distributed to an IRS 501c(3) organization, selected by the BoD, and reflective of the Corporation's mission.
- XIII. **Amendment**

- a. The Bylaws may be adopted, amended or repealed by the BoD with final ratification by the membership.
- b. Should any changes to these Bylaws impact regulation of an impending election of the BoD, or its Officers all members in good standing will be notified.
- c. These Bylaws may be reviewed for amendment every five (5) years from the date of adoption. During the interim, any member of the organization may submit proposed amendments/changes, including grammatical, to the Vice President for consideration.

\*Amended by BYLAWS Committee

Z. Adelstein, R. St. Pierre, R. Garr, D. Collins, A. Morris

09/17/2023

\*Ratified by General Membership

11/13/2023