



# CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

## PRIDE RIDES WISCONSIN LTD

### Article I. Preamble

Recognizing that many LGBTQ+ motorcycle riders don't feel welcome or accepted within traditional riding groups or clubs, **Pride Rides Wisconsin LTD** was founded to give LGBTQ+ bikers and their Allies a safe setting to be free, and ride proud. All people, and all bikes, are welcome to participate in group activities.

### Article II. Name

The name of the organization shall be **Pride Rides Wisconsin LTD**. The organization may also represent itself as **Pride Rides**, or **PRW**, in all correspondence, and hereafter within this document.

### Article III. Mission Statement

Pride Rides Wisconsin (PRW) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit social and educational organization that provides a safe and inclusive space for LGBTQ+ motorcycle riders and allies to participate in group rides together. Events organized by PRW typically benefit or raise awareness of other charitable causes within the LGBTQ+ community.

### Article IV. Membership

PRW is a non-membership corporation. The only membership shall consist of the Officers on the Executive Board. Events are generally open to the public, and do not require membership to attend. The term "Member" hereafter refers to an individual who regularly participates in PRW activities and owns a PRW Back Patch, but does not carry the statutory rights or fiduciary duties of a stakeholder or member in a member-owned corporation.

- a. **Pride Rides is committed to equal opportunity** for all people regardless of race, age, ancestry, religion, national origin, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other issue typically used to separate and disenfranchise us. All people are welcome, provided they support the LGBTQ-centered and inclusive environment Pride Rides is focused on creating.
- b. **All bikes are allowed** – there are no manufacturer, size, or style requirements to ride with us. The only restrictions shall be based on the safety requirements of each individual ride or event.
- c. **Safety first!** All participants are required to carry their own valid operating licenses, insurance, and satisfy any other legal requirements or restrictions of their own accord. All participants in events or rides do so at solely their own risk and liability.
- d. **Dues are not required**, but fees may be assessed for event registration or other items.

#### e. **Member Back Patch** (see Appendix A)

While PRW is **not** a motorcycle club (MC), we recognize that back patches inspire a powerful sense of community and pride. Wearing back patches helps to identify our riders to each other, and to the public, and supports our mission of raising awareness for LGBTQ+ motorcycle riders. Back patches are also intrinsic to the LGBTQ+ Leather Culture, which has its roots tied to Motorcycle Culture. We recognize the symbolic power of this aesthetic with our patch as follows:

1. The Back Patch shall be a one piece, circular, 9.5-inch diameter embroidered patch.
2. The design of the Back Patch shall be primarily black and white and will include:
  - White silhouette of motorcycle rider facing left, wearing a helmet, representing no specific gender, ethnicity, age, or characteristic besides riding motorcycles

- Trailing the rider is a rainbow streak in typical Pride Flag style, signifying motion and fading into black at the edge of the patch
  - The text "PRIDE" and "RIDES" form top and bottom rockers on the single piece
  - The text "WISCONSIN" positioned under the rainbow in a smaller type size
3. Only official Back Patches shall be allowed, and must be purchased directly from PRW with approval from the Executive Board.
  4. The patch may be worn centered on the back of any leather or denim vest or jacket, hooded sweatshirt, tee shirt, or any other garment where it will be the primary logo.
- f. Participation** - Members (owners of a Back Patch) are expected to participate in events and meetings regularly (as determined by the Executive Board), as well as show a strong understanding of the organization, by-laws, and history of PRW. While no one is expected to be able to attend every meeting or event, a good effort to participate should be demonstrated to retain active membership status.
- g. Meetings** - Members are welcome to attend organizational meetings. Matters of business or planning may be placed before the Members in attendance for a vote. In this way, the Members may advise and offer their input and feedback for the Officers on the Executive Board.
- h. Elections** - Members will meet to nominate and fill open Officer positions yearly. Officers serve for a two-year term. This meeting will occur after the end of the riding season for the year.
- i. Termination** - All participation as a Member may be waived or surrendered at any time. In the unfortunate event that the actions of a Member negatively represent Pride Rides Wisconsin, the Officers can vote to ban that individual – terminating their voting rights and ability to associate with the organization. That individual will be asked to return their Back Patch to PRW, they will no longer be welcome at PRW events, and their presence will be considered trespassing at the discretion of PRW management.

## **Article V. The Executive Board (Officers)**

- a. Officer positions shall include **President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Safety Officer, and Webmaster**. These six (6) positions constitute the Executive Board, and are the only members empowered to make business decisions or act on behalf of the organization.
- b. The Officers are elected annually by the Members and hold their positions for **2 years**. Elections take place in February, to prepare for the following year.
- c. Should any position, except the Presidency, become vacant during the year, the Executive Board shall appoint and fill the position until the next election.
- d. Should the office of President become vacant, the Vice President will assume the role of President.
- e. Officers are empowered to appoint Committee Chairs for a specific purpose, such as organizing an event. Committee Chairs are welcome to participate in organizational meetings in the same manner as Members, even if they do not own a Pride Rides Wisconsin Back Patch.
- f. The Executive Board may, at their discretion, determine that a Member does not meet the participation requirements to retain "active" status. In that event, the Member shall not be active and will not be entitled to the rights, privileges, or perks associated with active membership, and may no longer receive meeting minutes or other correspondence. A Member can be reinstated to active status by the Executive Board at any time.

## **Article VI. Officer's Duties**

All Officers are expected to maintain a professional demeanor when representing the organization. If an Officer is a member of multiple organizations, they should not hold offices for any organization other than PRW. Officers are expected to wear Pride Rides "colors" and represent Pride Rides Wisconsin and its interests while at PRW events.

### **a. President**

1. Acts as the primary point of contact between the organization and outside entities.
2. Schedules and runs meetings for the Executive Board and general membership, and coordinates the agenda.
3. Carries the deciding vote in case of a tie.
4. Follows up with the other Officers, and provides training and instruction as needed.
5. **Authorized Speaker** - Primary contact for all media, interviews, and press releases.
6. Signatory on PRW accounts and registered paperwork.

### **b. Vice President**

1. Works closely with the President to schedule and run meetings, and assists with coordinating an agenda for the meetings.
2. Acts as the secondary point of contact between the organization and outside entities.
3. Performs the duties of the President in the absence of the President.
4. **Authorized Speaker** – Acts as secondary spokesperson in the absence of the president for media outreach, interviews, and press releases.

### **c. Treasurer**

1. Reports on the status of the budget at meetings.
2. Coordinates and logs cash transactions. Manages organization funds and accounts.
3. Signatory on PRW banking accounts. Along with Webmaster, maintains secure access to PRW online cash accounts, such as Square, PayPal, etc.
4. Responsible for coordinating registration, sales, and transactions at PRW events.
5. Communicate with Webmaster and record online transactions.
6. **Authorized Speaker** - May speak for the organization in the absence of the President or Vice President for media outreach, interviews, and press releases.
7. Ensure that the organization's taxes are filed properly and on-time.

### **d. Secretary**

1. Records the minutes of the meetings, and reports the previous meeting's minutes.
2. Email recorded meeting minutes to the Webmaster for distribution.
3. Tracks active membership to help the Executive Board authorize privileges.
4. Responsible for organization filing and record keeping.
5. **Authorized Speaker** - May speak for the organization in the absence of the President or Vice President for media outreach, interviews, and press releases.

### **e. Safety Officer**

1. Ensure that rules and procedures are followed within the guidelines of this document.
2. Coordinates safety and security planning for events.
3. Work with event committee chairs to establish safe routes for riding events.
4. Primary point of contact for Members, participants, and the public regarding safety concerns and logistics or needs.

### **f. Webmaster**

1. Maintains the organization's website and makes all necessary updates and changes.
2. Acts as the primary Administrator on the organization's social media websites.
3. Coordinates all internet-based advertising and promotion.
4. Work with the Treasurer to coordinate and record online sales, and maintain secure access to PRW online cash accounts, such as Square, PayPal, etc.
5. Mail and distribute items ordered online.

## **Article VII. Meetings**

- a. **Frequency** - Meetings of the Officers and Members shall be held monthly, or as often as the Officers deem necessary to achieve organization goals.
- b. **Quorum** - the minimum number of voting members necessary to conduct business shall be five, consisting of **three Officers** and **two other** Members, which may include other Officers.
- c. **Procedure** - Meetings will follow **Robert's Rules of Order** for procedural decorum.
- d. **Approval** - Most matters shall be decided by a simple majority of voting members present. In situations of emergency or a divided vote, the Executive Board may consider and authorize executive approval.
- e. **Authority** - The Executive Board makes the final decision regarding organization business. Members vote to advise the Board, but do not carry stakeholder interest in the corporation. The Executive Board shall make every effort to respect and adhere to the advisory vote of its Members.
- f. **Major Decisions** - A two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board is required for significant financial matters (over \$1000), and for terminating an individual's right to associate with the organization (ban).
- g. **Appearance** - Members should strive to wear their back patches while in attendance at meetings.

## **Article VIII. Dissolution**

- a. When this corporation ceases to exist, all its assets will be donated to **Pathfinders Milwaukee, Inc.**
- b. A unanimous vote is required to dissolve the corporation.

## **Article IX. Amendments**

- a. **Amendments** - this document (the Constitution and Bylaws) may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board. Upon adoption, it shall become effective immediately and filed with the Secretary.
- b. **Adoption** - these Bylaws were adopted as written on January 24, 2026.
- c. **Changes** - Rev 3.0 (01-24-2026)
  - a. Clarified language throughout the entire document
  - b. Removed references to "patched-in members;" refined definition of membership
  - c. Back patches can now only be purchased with approval from the Executive Board
  - d. Changed title of "Road Captain" (formerly Sergeant at Arms) to "Safety Officer"
  - e. Added Appendix A – Member Back Patch
  - f. Added Appendix B – Starting New Charters (under construction)

Appendix A – Member Back Patch



9.5"

## **Appendix B - Starting New Charters**

1. This section is currently being developed. The following points under **Appendix B - Starting New Chapters** are not to be considered adopted until otherwise stated.
2. A group interested in starting their own charter of Pride Rides must meet the following requirements:
  - a. Must request written permission to start a charter from the Parent Organization, Pride Rides Wisconsin. Executive Board approves or denies requests.
  - b. Must have a minimum of 5 people interested in starting a charter and willing to take on the roles of an Executive Board.
  - c. Must submit to PRW a proposal for Constitution and Bylaws to be adopted by the new chapter. This document should follow most of the same guidelines as the parent organization, PRW, and must maintain the integrity of our brand and mission.
3. *(section still under development)*