

Bylaws of the USS *Bismarck*, NCC 1797-E

I. Preface

- A. The ship's name is the USS *Bismarck*, NCC 1797-E, as stated on our ship's charter.
- B. The USS *Bismarck* is a unit of Starfleet Command (SFC) and is governed by SFC's Articles of Federation (AFED), other SFC regulations, and these bylaws.

II. Membership

A. Definitions

1. A member is one who has enrolled with the USS *Bismarck* and who has local and SFC dues paid to date. Membership dues are detailed in the ship's handbook.
2. A member must meet all of the qualifications listed below to be considered a member in good standing and therefore entitled to vote on ship's business.
 - a) Have served 6 months on-board the USS *Bismarck*.
 - b) Have a rank of Ensign or higher.
 - c) Have attended one of the last three General Meetings or one of the last three Senior Staff Meetings.
 - d) Be present at the time of the vote.
3. A simple majority vote shall pass ship's business unless the Captain requires a specific vote must be passed at a level higher than simple majority.

B. General Conduct

1. All guests are to be treated as potential crewmembers.
2. Conduct unbecoming an officer (including illegal use or illegal possession of any controlled substance) at any ship function or while representing the USS *Bismarck* in any fashion is strictly prohibited. Any violation of this regulation may result in reduction of rank as per the guidelines in the AFED, loss of position, and/or loss of all privileges thereof. It may also result in expulsion from the USS *Bismarck* and/or SFC.

C. Midshipmen

1. All members under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older when attending any ship's function. This adult will be responsible for the conduct of the person under his or her charge.
2. All members under the age of 18 must have a parent's or guardian's written consent to attend any non-meeting event, or must have a parent or guardian present at all times during the event.

III. Command Staff

- A. The Command Staff Officers shall consist of the Captain, the First Officer, and the Second Officer.

B. The Captain

1. The Captain is the presiding officer and is ultimately responsible to Starfleet Command for the actions of the ship and crew.
2. The Captain shall serve a term of no more than two (2) years, but may serve sequential terms.
3. Nominations for Captain shall be made from the general membership at the specified General Meeting. There shall be at least three members in good standing accepting nominations.

4. Nominees must have served at least three (3) years on-board the USS *Bismarck* and meet all Starfleet Command qualifications.
5. The nominee receiving 2/3rds of the votes cast at a General Meeting shall be recommended for the position of Starship Captain.
6. The Captain-elect, if approved by Starfleet Command, shall assume command within sixty (60) days of the election.
7. All other Command Staff and Senior Staff terms of office expire when a new Captain assumes command.

C. The First Officer

1. The First Officer assists the Captain in the running of the ship.
2. The First Officer shall serve a term of no more than two (2) years, concurrent with the Captain's term of office.
3. The Captain shall nominate at least two members in good standing for the position of First Officer by the first General Meeting after assuming command.
4. The nominee receiving a majority of the votes cast at a General Meeting shall be declared First Officer.
5. Should the Captain be unable to complete his or her term of office, the First Officer shall become Acting Captain until a permanent Captain shall be elected.

D. The Second Officer

1. The Second Officer shall assist the Captain and the First Officer in their duties.
2. The Second Officer position is optional and may remain vacant.
3. The Command Staff may nominate officers for the position of Second Officer. The nominee receiving a majority of votes cast shall be declared Second Officer.
4. The Second Officer shall serve a term of no more than one (1) year or until the Captain's term expires, whichever comes first.

E. Elections

1. Elections for Command Staff and elected Senior Staff officers shall be overseen by an impartial Elections Board.
2. The Elections Board shall have the power to ensure that the elections process is conducted fairly.
3. Notification by mail or newsletter must be made to all members at least ten (10) days before a vote for Captain or First Officer.

IV. Senior Staff

A. The Senior Staff Officers shall consist of the Command Staff, the Captains Emeritus, the Department Heads, the Ship's Counselor, and the Finance Officer. The Senior Staff Officers may add additional positions as they see fit.

B. Department Heads

1. The duties of the Departments and the Department Heads are detailed in the ship's handbook.
2. All department heads are appointed by the Captain and shall serve until replaced by the Captain or until the Captain's term expires.
3. Departments without Department Heads shall be lead by the First Officer.

C. Ship's Counselor

1. The Ship's Counselor mediates disputes between crew members and provides non-professional confidential support as detailed in the ship's handbook.
2. Any member in good standing may nominate any non-Command Staff member who is in good standing for the position of Ship's Counselor at a general meeting. The nomination must be approved by a majority vote.
3. The Ship's Counselor shall serve a term of not more than two (2) years or until the Captain's term expires.

D. Captain Emeritus

1. The position of Captain Emeritus may be bestowed upon a respected, former commanding officer of the USS *Bismarck* by a majority vote at a General Meeting.
2. The position of Captain Emeritus is permanent as long as the Captain Emeritus maintains his or her membership.
3. There may exist more than one Captain Emeritus aboard the ship at any one given time.

E. The Financial Officer

1. The Financial Officer is responsible for maintaining the ship's financial records. Only the Financial Officer may make any notation in the ship's financial log.
2. This officer is appointed by the Captain and shall serve until replaced by the Captain or until the Captain's term expires.

F. The Chain of Command

1. The Chain of Command shall be the Captain, then First Officer, then Second Officer, then Captains Emeritus in order of time served as a Captain Emeritus, then Department Heads in order of rank.

V. Finances

A. Check-writing privileges

1. Checks must be signed by two of the officers entitled to do so. One of the signers must be either the Captain or the First Officer.
2. The Captain, the First Officer, and the Finance Officer shall have the authority to sign checks. The Captain may appoint additional check-signers if necessary.

B. Expenditures

1. All expenditures from the ship's treasury must be approved by a simple majority vote at a General Meeting
2. Should potential expenditure need approval prior to the next General Meeting, the Command Staff shall approve or disapprove the expenditure.
3. Starfleet Command gives the Captain complete financial responsibility for the ship. Therefore the Captain shall have the power to block any expenditure.

VI. Conflicts between Bylaws and AFED

- A. If a section of the bylaws is found to differ with a section of the AFED, the more restrictive section applies.

B. If there is a direct conflict between the bylaws and the AFED, the bylaw in question will be stricken as null and void, and the remaining bylaws will remain in effect as written.

VII. Changes and Amendments

A. All proposed changes and amendments to these bylaws shall be presented at a General Meeting for discussion.

B. Notification by mail or newsletter of the proposed bylaw changes must be made to all members at least ten (10) days before the scheduled vote.

C. Each change in these bylaws must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote.

D. Spelling and grammar corrections may be made without the need for a two-thirds majority vote.