

# Bylaws of the Hampton Roads Polyamory

## I. Purposes and Objectives

The objectives of the Hampton Roads Polyamory (hereinafter known as "HaRP") shall be as follows:

- a. To provide a safe and supportive environment in which those choosing to live a polyamorous lifestyle may openly pursue that lifestyle.
- b. To educate the general public about the practice of polyamory.
- c. To provide information and support to those choosing a polyamorous lifestyle, and those considering such a lifestyle.
- d. To take any actions, not in conflict with any law or these Bylaws, which may be found by the Board of Directors to be consistent with, or in furtherance of, these purposes and objectives.

## II. Membership

### a. **Application for Membership; Eligibility; Approval; Appeals**

1. **Eligibility.** Any person at least 18 years of age may apply to join HaRP by completing an Application for Membership, paying dues for one year of membership (or a longer period if provided by the Board), attending an orientation meeting, and agreeing to abide by the HaRP Code of Ethics and other established rules of conduct.
2. **Unacceptable applications.** If the Board has knowledge that an applicant's prior actions are at variance with the Code of Ethics, the Board may, by a two-thirds vote, reject the application for provisional membership.
3. **Provisional membership.** Upon completing the actions specified in subsection (a)(1), a person shall become a provisional member of HaRP. During the six months after completing those actions, the provisional member must attend at least four additional HaRP events, of which at least three must be family or child-friendly. The Board, in its sole discretion, may extend the time period for attending the minimum number of HaRP events upon request of the member.
4. **Full membership.** A provisional member must attend the required number of events and obtain the sponsorship of two current full HaRP members who neither reside in the same household as the prospective member nor with each other. After at least 60 days have elapsed from the beginning of the provisional membership period, he or she may submit the completed event attendance forms to the Board. The Board, not later than its next regularly scheduled meeting, shall then vote, by secret ballot, on whether to accept the provisional member as a full member. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the Board members present shall be required for acceptance. Full membership is effective immediately upon Board approval. In the event that the Board does not approve full membership for a provisional member, provisional membership is immediately terminated, and the provisional member shall be notified immediately. The board may

accept said member, reject said member, or direct the provisional member to take such action as the board deems likely to satisfy any doubts about said member, and reschedule the final decision to a future date.

5. **Appeals.** A person whose application for provisional or full membership is rejected may appeal the decision of the Board by submitting a written request for a reexamination of the decision. The applicant may meet with the Board to offer his or her reasoning for appealing the denial, and to answer any questions the Board may pose. The Board shall then vote on the appeal, with the same two-thirds majority required for the granting of provisional or full membership status. The board may accept said member, reject said member, or direct the provisional member to take such action as the board deems likely to satisfy any doubts about said member, and reschedule the final decision to a future date. The Board's decision shall then become final.
  6. **Reapplication.** A provisional member whose petition for full membership is denied may reapply once for membership after a period of not less than 12 months by once again complying with all of the provisions of subsection (a)(1).
- b. **Courtesy membership.** Any person who is, or has previously been, a full member of Chesapeake Polyamory Network (CPN), and who has not been subject to involuntary revocation of CPN membership nor to other disciplinary action by CPN, may apply to become a full member of HaRP immediately upon attending an orientation and paying dues, without the necessity of a provisional membership period. Former members of HaRP currently living outside the area who are not able to attend meetings may apply to become a full member of HaRP immediately upon attending an orientation or being vouched for by current members and paying dues, without the necessity of a provisional membership period.
  - c. **Rights and privileges.** All members shall enjoy all rights, privileges and duties of membership; provided, however, that provisional members may not hold any office.
  - d. **Expiration and reinstatement.** A person's membership in HaRP expires if he or she fails to pay renewal dues timely. A person may reinstate his or her full membership status retroactively to the expiration date by paying the dues within three months of the expiration date. However, for purposes of voting and petitioning and for purposes of counting total membership in determining the required number of signatures on petitions, reinstated membership is effective on the date the dues are paid. An expired member who reestablishes full membership shall not be required to serve a new provisional period.

### III. The Board of Directors

- a. **Powers and duties.**
  1. **Governance.** HaRP shall be governed (consistent with these Bylaws) by a Board of Directors, selected from among the full members of HaRP, which shall consist of five Members at Large. For conducting any business, a quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the total membership of the Board.
  2. **Delegation.** The Board may delegate functions to any HaRP member or group of members, except those explicitly provided for in law or these Bylaws as Board responsibilities.
  3. **Open and closed sessions.** General meetings of the Board may be attended by any HaRP member, or by a nonmember by invitation of the Board. However, the Board may hold closed sessions at their discretion.

4. **Specific functions.** Functions normally pertaining to a given position may be performed by another Board member at the Board's discretion in the event of a vacancy or a Board member's temporary absence or incapacity.
  5. **Disciplinary actions.** The Board by a two-thirds vote may revoke a provisional or full member's membership for cause, to include, but not be limited to, a violation or series of violations of the Code of Ethics or other established rules of conduct. In its vote to revoke, the Board shall simultaneously decide whether the revocation of membership shall be permanent or whether the individual may reapply for membership after a specified period. The Board, by a majority vote, may also impose lesser sanctions as it deems appropriate, for example, a warning or a suspension of a member for a finite or indefinite period from participation in HaRP activities. Before taking any vote on a sanction against a current member under this provision, the Board shall allow that person and any other involved parties a full opportunity to explain their view of the circumstances before the Board (in closed session). The person being considered for disciplinary action may invite not more than two other persons to attend the closed Board session with him or her.
- b. **Selection of the Board; Term of Office; Removal.**
1. **Nominating Committee.** A Nominating Committee, selected by the Board from among eligible members, shall present to the membership at least one candidate for each position on the Board.
  2. **Selection of the Board.** Members of the Board once nominated and accepted shall serve at the discretion of the Board as a whole.
  3. **Removal of Directors.**
    - i. **By the Board.** The Board may, by a two-thirds vote, remove one of its own members for malfeasance.
    - ii. **By the membership.** Upon receipt of a petition to remove a Board member from office for serious malfeasance, signed by at least 20% of the membership eligible to vote, the Board shall hold a referendum, using a printed ballot, on the removal question within 30 days of receipt of the petition. It shall require a two-thirds majority of the votes cast to remove a Board member from office by this method. For purposes of this provision, a petition signature shall remain valid for 30 days from date of signing.
    - iii. **By nonperformance.** Any Board member who misses three consecutive meetings of the Board without sufficient cause, or who misses 40% or more of the Board meetings in a given electoral year, shall be deemed to have resigned his or her seat on the Board, and the Board shall act to fill the consequent vacancy as provided in these Bylaws.

## IV. Attendance at HaRP Events

- a. **Conditions for attendance.** Any full or provisional member may attend any HaRP event, unless that person has been suspended or expelled by the Board, subject to restrictions on specific events that may be limited explicitly to either gender or to singles, couples, etc., and subject also to any requirements of event hosts regarding maximum attendance, prior registration, and/or admission fee. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Bylaws, the host of any HaRP event held in the host's home may preclude any specific member or nonmember from attending.

- b. **Guests.** Any full or provisional member may invite one or more guests over age 18 to any HaRP event, subject to the same restrictions as in subsection (a). An otherwise eligible guest may not attend more than three HaRP events in any calendar year without applying to join HaRP.
- c. **Reciprocity.** The Board may establish a reciprocal agreement with another organization or organizations providing for visits by members of one organization to the events of the other.
- d. **Rejected applicants, suspended or expelled members.** A person who has been rejected for membership, or has been suspended or expelled from HaRP membership, may not attend a HaRP event as the guest of another member.
- e. **Underage child or spouse.** A member or guest may bring his or her child or spouse under age 18 to any family or child-friendly event sponsored by HaRP, subject to the same restrictions as in subsection (a). A child or spouse under age 18 is not subject to the three-visit limit specified in subsection (b).
- f. **Underage restrictions.** No person under age 18 may attend a permissive event sponsored by HaRP. No person under age 21 may be served alcohol at any HaRP event.
- g. **NoDrugs.** Illegal drugs and their use shall not be permitted, sanctioned or condoned in connection with any HaRP event.
- h. **Alcohol.** At designated events, with the permission of the host and the Board, alcohol may be permitted for those members over the age of 21.

## V. Amendments

- a. **Proposals.** A proposal to amend these Bylaws may be presented either by the Board or upon the petition of at least 20% of the membership entitled to vote. For purposes of this provision, a petition signature remains valid for 30 days.
- b. **Referenda.** Upon notification to the membership of an amendment proposal by the Board, or upon receipt by the Board of an amendment petition signed by the requisite number of members, the Board shall within 60 days hold a referendum on the amendment question. Approval of the amendment shall require a three-fourths majority vote of the eligible members voting.

## VI. Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of HaRP, whether voluntary or involuntary, all remaining assets, after the satisfaction of all outstanding indebtedness or other obligations, shall be transferred to Loving More, or, in the discretion of the Board, to another similar organization.