

# **CANONS OF SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL SABLES (February 2020)**

## **Article I The Sables**

- Section 1. The Sables. The Sables is a constituent part of Safari Club International (SCI) having the status of a committee, pursuant to the Bylaws of SCI. The Sables has an autonomous Board of Directors, membership, and a set of Canons and a set of Policies and Procedures that govern its members. Sables also function as volunteers for the Education Committee of Safari Club International Foundation (SCIF).
- Section 2. SCI Membership Privileges. Sables members are considered to be SCI members for purposes of entry into the annual SCI convention and entry of trophies into the SCI Record Book. If Sables members desire to have additional SCI rights, they must also become SCI members.
- Section 3. SCI Chapter Sables Committees. As provided further in Article X, below, any SCI Chapter may have a Sables Committee. A person can be a member of a SCI Chapter Sables Committee without also becoming a member of the SCI Chapter. A Sables Committee is not considered a Sister Organization under any definition of such organization in the SCI Policies and Procedures.

## **Article II Mission**

The mission of the Sables is to further the understanding of our outdoor heritage, including the positive role of hunting, through the creation and support of wildlife and conservation educational programs that are consistent with the educational mission and purposes of SCI and SCIF.

## **Article III Members and Voting Rights**

- Section 1. Classes of Members. There shall be two classes of Sables members: Regular Members and Life Members. The number of members in each class shall be unlimited.
- Section 2. Member Qualifications. A person who is a member in good standing of an active SCI Chapter, or who has demonstrated an active interest in promoting the conservation, education, and/or humanitarian service programs of SCI or SCIF shall be eligible to become a member of the Sables. No person shall be eligible for membership on a Sables Committee unless such person is a Sables member.
- Section 3. Good Standing. A member remains in good standing as a Sables member as long as: (i) all amounts due to SCI, Sables and/or SCIF are paid prior to going to delinquent, (ii) he or she abides by the bylaws, policies, and procedures of SCI and SCIF, and (iii) he or she abides by the bylaws, policies and procedures of the SCI Chapter(s) of which he or she may be a member.
- Section 4. Application for Membership. All applications for Sables membership are subject to approval by the Steering Committee. Committee Chairs have approval rights for members of their committees.
- Section 5. Voting Rights. Each Sables member in good standing shall be entitled to cast one vote on matters submitted to a vote of the members at any Sables general membership meeting.
- Section 6. Proxy and Cumulative Voting. No proxy or cumulative voting is allowed.
- Section 7. Membership Fee and Dues. Membership fees, dues, special assessments, and other charges for Sables members shall be set and/or approved by the Governing Board from time to time.
- Section 8. Delinquent Dues and Assessments. Dues shall be assessed on an annual basis and become delinquent if not paid ninety (90) days after the date of the invoice. Any additional assessment or amount due becomes delinquent if not paid sixty (60) days after the date of invoice.
- Section 9. Removal of a Member. A member who ceases to meet the qualifications for membership shall be removed as a member. A member who makes false statements on the membership application or

whose conduct is in violation of the SCI Bylaws, SCI Policies and Procedures, or these Canons may be removed as a member by a majority vote of the Governing Board at any meeting of such Board. The member has no right to counsel, but may be given an opportunity to be heard by the Governing Board. Any member who is suspended by, or has his or her SCI membership revoked, is deemed to be simultaneously removed as a Sables member.

- Section 10. Resignation. Any member may resign by sending a written notice of resignation to the Secretary of Sables. No dues or assessment shall be refunded or prorated. Such resignation shall not relieve the resigning member of the obligation to pay dues, fees and special assessments which have accrued up to date of resignation.
- Section 11. Reinstatement. A former Sables member may apply for reinstatement of membership in the same manner as making an application for initial membership; provided, however, a requirement of reinstatement is that such applicant must pay all unpaid dues, fees and assessments that were owed at the time of prior resignation or removal.

#### **Article IV Meetings of Members**

- Section 1. Annual Meeting. An annual meeting of members of the Sables may be held each year at such time as set by the Governing Board, preferably during the annual SCI convention or the SCI spring meeting. The annual meeting shall include a financial report, a report on recent activities, and such other business as properly brought before the members.
- Section 2. Special Meetings. Special meetings of the members may be held at any time and place for any purpose or purposes on call of the President or the Secretary, and must be called by either the President or the Secretary on the written request of twenty-five percent (25%) of the Governing Board.
- Section 3. Notice of Meetings. Notification of meeting of members shall be published in the Official Journal of SCI no later than the monthly edition prior to the meeting and published in the Sables e-Newsletter at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of the meeting.
- Section 4. Quorum. Twenty (20) members shall constitute a quorum.
- Section 5. Conduct of Meetings. The President, and in his or her absence, the Vice President, and in their absence any person chosen by a majority of the members present shall call the meeting of the members to order and shall act as chair of the meeting. The Secretary shall act as Secretary of all meetings of the members, but, in the absence of the Secretary, the presiding officer may appoint any other person to act as Secretary of the meeting.
- Section 6. Meetings of Members By Telephone or Other Communication Technology. Any or all members may participate in the annual or a special meeting by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, telephone or any other means of communication by which all participating members may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. If a meeting will be conducted through the use of any means described in the previous sentence, all participating members shall be informed that a meeting is taking place at which official business may be transacted. A member participating in a meeting by any means described herein is deemed to be present in person at the meeting.

#### **Article V Electors**

- Section 1. Electors Defined. Those members eligible to vote for the Sables officers and directors at the spring meeting shall be called the "Electors".
- Section 2. Elector Members and Qualifications. All Electors must be Sables members and SCI members in good standing in both organizations. The Electors are comprised of the following members:
- i. The Sables Governing Board
  - ii. The Sables Steering Committee
  - iii. The Sub-chairs of the Education Committee
  - iv. Four (4) USA District Electors, elected one (1) from each of the following regions: Eastern, Central, Mountain and Pacific Regions. Each Region will elect its District Elector to serve a one-year term.

- v. One (1) Canadian Elector elected from the Canadian Education Sables Committee to serve a one-year term.
- vi. Two (2) Elector-At-Large elected by the Electors each year based upon their service to Sables, SCIF education programs, and/or SCI Chapter education activities, each to serve a one-year term.

Section 3. Voting. No Elector may cast more than a single vote, irrespective of the number of positions the individual may hold. No proxies or cumulative voting permitted.

### **Article VI Governing Board**

Section 1. Governing Board. The Sables Governing Board shall consist of those members in good standing, who are not on inactive status and who are Safari Club Lionesses Past Chairmen, Sables Past Presidents, and the current Sables Officers and Directors. The Governing Board shall establish the policies of and manage the property, affairs and business of the Sables. Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- i. Setting the policies and direction of Sables;
- ii. Recommending to the members amendments to the Canons;
- iii. Adopting, amending, or repealing any official statement of policy, including procedures and policies for the election of officers and directors;
- iv. Reviewing the Annual Budget prepared by SCI and/or SCIF staff and providing comment on proposed expenditures; and
- v. Naming an interim Officer or Director to fill a vacancy occurring due to the removal, resignation or incapacity of an individual otherwise elected to such position.

Section 2. Action by the Governing Board.

- a. At A Meeting. The vote of a majority of the Governing Board members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be an act of the Governing Board.
- b. Without A Meeting. Any action which may be taken by the Governing Board at a meeting, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing setting forth the action so taken shall be signed by all of the members of the Governing Board eligible to vote on such action. Such consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of the Board taken at a meeting.

Section 3. Meetings of the Governing Board. Meetings of the Governing Board may be called by the President, and must be called at the request of any three (3) Governing Board members. Meetings may be held on any date and at any time or place with due notice. Notice of meetings of the Governing Board shall be given by the Secretary to each member of the Governing Board, orally or in writing, at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time fixed for the meeting.

Section 4. Quorum. A quorum of the members of the Governing Board shall consist of a majority of the members of the Governing Board who are not inactive; provided that at least four (4) of those in attendance are current Sables Officers or Directors.

Section 5. Inactive Status. Any members of the Governing Board, including a Safari Club International Lionesses Past Chairman or a Sables Past President, shall be considered inactive if: (a) the member elects such status, (b) fails to attend at least one (1) Governing Board meeting during a year, (c) fails to serve on a Sables committee during the year and actively participate on the committee selected, or (d) fails to participate on at least three (3) Sables Governing Board conference calls during a year. The inactive member shall be removed from the Governing Board and will not be placed back on the Governing Board until a request is made for such in writing to the President. Inactive members are not counted for quorum purposes and do not received notices of Governing Board meetings or conference calls.

**Article VII**  
**Steering Committee, Elections Committee and Governance Committee**

Section 1. Steering Committee.

- a. Purpose. The Steering Committee shall have the authority to act for the Governing Board in determining general matters of business except for those responsibilities reserved in Article VI, Section 1 for the Governing Board; however, such Committee shall not have the authority to:
  - i. Amend or repeal these Canons or adopt new Canons;
  - ii. Amend or repeal any Resolution of the Governing Board;
  - iii. Fill vacancies on the Governing Board;
  - iv. Adopt and disseminate a fundamental change of view or basic policy of the Sables;
  - v. Bypass the Governing Board by approving the submission of matters to the members, whether or not such approval might be required under any applicable law.
- b. Meetings of the Committee. A majority of the members of the Steering Committee, at least four (4) of whom are current Officers or Directors, shall constitute a quorum. Notice of meetings of the Steering Committee shall be given to all members of the Committee, orally or in writing, at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time fixed for the meeting.
- c. Membership of Committee. The Steering Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Directors, immediate Past President and Chairs of Standing Committees as determined by the Governing Board.

Section 2. Elections Committee.

- a. Purpose. The Elections Committee shall verify eligibility for all applicants and ensure all requirements are met for a candidate for officer or director to be on the ballot. The Committee shall also oversee the elections process. Details of the eligibility requirements, policies and procedures for the election and related topics for the Elections Committee shall be as set forth in the Sables Policies and Procedures Manual. Prior to each annual election, the Elections Committee shall review the ongoing qualification of each Officer and Director who is either continuing in a two-year term or up for re-election for continued eligibility to serve in order to ensure each remains qualified to serve. The Election Committee shall make all determinations as to a candidate's, Officer's or Director's eligibility.
- b. Membership of Committee. The Elections Committee shall consist of a chair appointed by the President and ratified by the Governing Board at its spring meeting. The chair shall serve a term of two-years and must have been an active member of the Governing Board and/or the Steering Committee within the four years prior to his or her appointment. The remaining members of the Elections Committee will be the current Sables Immediate Past President and three (3) members of both Sables and SCI in good standing who are selected by the chair, but who will be ratified by the Governing Board at its first meeting of the fiscal year. If for any reason the current Sables Immediate Past President is unwilling or unable to serve on the Elections Committee, the Governing Board shall select a candidate to replace such individual on the Committee.
- c. Disqualification. No member seeking election to an Officer or Director's position on the Sables Governing Board shall also serve on the Elections Committee.

Section 3. Governance Committee.

- a. Purpose. The Governance Committee shall review all proposed amendments to these Canons as to form, language and compatibility with the SCI Bylaws, SCI Policies and Procedures, SCIF Bylaws, and the existing Canons, and submit its report and recommendations to the Governing Board. The Governance Committee may also propose and recommend on its own motion, amendments to the Canons for approval by the Governing Board. The Governance Committee shall also review and comment on, and may propose, amendments to the Sables Policies and Procedures Manual.
- b. Membership of Committee. The Governance Committee chair shall be appointed by the President and ratified by the Governing Board at its first meeting of the fiscal year. The chair shall serve a term of one-year and must have been an active member of the Governing Board and/or the Steering Committee within the four years prior to his or her appointment. The

remaining members of the Governance Committee shall be selected by the chair and ratified by the Governing Board at its first meeting of the fiscal year.

Section 4. Actions A Committee.

- a. At A Meeting. The vote of a majority of the committee present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be an act of the committee.
- b. Without A Meeting. Any action which may be taken by a committee at a meeting, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing setting forth the action so taken shall be signed by all of the members of the committee eligible to vote on such action. Such consent shall have the same force and effect as a unanimous vote of the committee taken at a meeting.

**Article VIII  
Officers**

Section 1. Officers. The Officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Qualifications of Officers. To be eligible to hold office, an individual must be a member in good standing of both SCI and Sables. In order to run for office, a member must meet all eligibility requirements set forth in the Sables Policies and Procedures Manual, including completing all necessary petitions for office and questionnaires establishing, among other things, no employment conflicts or conflicts of interest with SCI or SCIF, and no conviction for any wildlife offense or any felony.

Section 3. Election. Officers are elected from among candidates confirmed as eligible by the Elections Committee by majority vote of the Electors at the spring meeting of the Governing Board, which shall be held during the timeframe of the SCI spring meeting activities.

Section 4. Terms of Office; Term Limits.

- a. Taking Office. Each Officer elected at such meeting shall take the Oath of Office immediately following the end of the elections; provided, however, Officers' terms do not commence until July 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of election, unless the officer is elected to fill a vacancy due to death, resignation, or removal and in such case the term begins immediately following election. The time from the spring meeting through June 30<sup>th</sup> shall be time spent learning the Canons, Policies and Procedures, and other information relevant to the Officer's position. Each new Officer will transition with the previous Officer through June 30<sup>th</sup> to provide continuity in the organization.
- b. Term and Term Limits. Officers terms of office are as follows:
  - i. President. The President shall serve a one-year term and is eligible to be elected for one additional, consecutive one-year term.
  - ii. Vice President – The Vice President shall serve a one-year term and is eligible to be elected for one additional, consecutive one-year term.
  - iii. Treasurer – The Treasurer shall serve a two-year term and is eligible to be elected for one additional, consecutive two-year term; provided, however, the Treasurer is elected in even numbered years.
  - iv. Secretary – The Secretary shall serve a two-year term and is eligible to be elected for one additional, consecutive two-year term; provided, however, the Secretary is elected in odd numbered years.

Section 5. Removal of Officers. Any Officer may be removed with or without cause by a two-thirds vote of the Electors; provided, however, any Officer who ceases to be a member in good standing shall be deemed to have resigned as an Officer without the need for removal. An Officer who, following election, thereafter fails to continue to meet all of the qualifications to be an Officer shall be removed immediately from office.

Section 6. Duties of Officers. The Officers shall perform all duties as assigned to them by the Governing Board.

- a. The President shall:

- (1) Perform all duties incident to the office of the President and other duties assigned by the Governing Board.
- (2) Serve as a Vice President of SCI on its Executive Committee, as provided by the Bylaws of SCI, as amended, and attend all the meetings of the SCI Executive Committee and SCI Board of Directors.
- (3) Preside at all meetings of the members, Governing Board, and Steering Committee.
- (4) Sign such documents as may be authorized by the Governing Board.
- (5) Create ad hoc committees and appoint chairs to such committees as are necessary to assist the President in accomplishing the mission of the Sables.

b. The Vice President Shall:

- (1) Perform such duties as may be assigned by the President and the Governing Board.
- (2) Perform the duties of the President in the absence or inability of the President to act.

c. The Secretary shall:

- (1) Perform such duties as may be assigned by the President and the Governing Board.
- (2) Record the minutes of the meetings of the Governing Board, Steering Committee, and members.
- (3) Assure that notices of meetings are sent as required to members, the Governing Board, and the Steering Committee stating the date, time and place of meeting as directed by the President.
- (4) Assure notices of removal of members have been sent, set agenda items as needed, and handle meeting materials as necessary.

d. The Treasurer shall:

- (1) Perform such duties as may be assigned by the President and the Governing Board.
- (2) Review all records relating to the income and expenses of the Sables, both of dues and membership fulfillment, as well as education projects.
- (3) Make financial reports at each meeting of the Governing Board, as well as at the annual meeting of members.

Section 7. Annual Reports of Sables' activities to the SCI and SCIF Boards of Directors. At least once a year, the Sables President, or his or her designee, shall submit a written report through the President of SCI for presentation at a meeting of the SCI Board of Directors and to the President of SCIF for presentation at a meeting of the SCIF Board of Directors, or at such other times as requested by the SCI President and the SCIF President. The Sables may make other written reports or recommendations through the SCI President and SCIF President.

## **Article IX Directors**

Section 1. Number of Directors. There shall be not more than three (3) Directors.

Section 2. Qualifications of Directors. To be eligible to be a Director, an individual must be a member in good standing of both SCI and Sables. In order to run for the position of Director, a Sables member must meet all eligibility requirements set forth in the Sables Policies and Procedures Manual, including completing all necessary petitions for office and questionnaires establishing, among other things, no employment conflicts or conflicts of interest with SCI or SCIF, and no conviction for any wildlife offense or any felony.

- Section 3. Election. Directors are elected from among candidates confirmed as eligible by the Elections Committee by majority vote of the Electors at the spring meeting of the Governing Board, which shall be held during the timeframe of the SCI spring meeting activities.
- Section 4. Terms of Office; Term Limits.
- a. Taking Office. Each Director elected at the spring meeting shall take the Oath of Office immediately following the end of the elections; provided, however, Directors' terms do not commence until July 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of election, unless the Director is elected to fill a vacancy due to death, resignation, or removal and in such case the term begins immediately following election. The time from the spring meeting through June 30<sup>th</sup> shall be time spent learning the Sables' Canons, Policies and Procedures, and other information relevant to the Director's position. Each new Director will transition with the previous Directors through June 30<sup>th</sup> to provide continuity in the organization.
  - b. Term and Term Limits. Directors shall serve a one year term and are eligible to be elected for one additional one-year term.
- Section 5. Removal of Directors. Any Director may be removed with or without cause by a two-thirds vote of the Electors; provided, however, any Director who ceases to be a member in good standing shall be deemed to have resigned as a Director without the need for removal. A Director who, following election, thereafter fails to continue to meet all of the qualifications to be a Director shall be removed immediately from office.
- Section 6. Duties of Directors. The Directors shall support the Officers through membership and active participation on committees; promotion of the education and humanitarian work of Sables, and being an ambassador to SCI members advancing the mission of Sables at the national and chapter levels. Directors shall perform such other work as is assigned to them by the Governing Board.

#### **Article X SCI Chapter Sables Committees**

- Section 1. SCI Chapters and Sables Committees. Any Chapter holding an SCI charter may have a Sables Committee within such Chapter; provided, however, such Sables Committee shall be led by a Sables representative who is a member in good standing of the Chapter, SCI and Sables. Each SCI Chapter Sables Committee should abide by the Sables Canons, Sables Policies and Procedures, SCI Bylaws and SCI Policies and Procedures applicable to Chapters.
- Section 2. Annual Contribution to Sables. Each SCI Chapter Sables Committee may set dues for its local Sables Committee and use such dues and any funds raised by the Committee for the benefit of the Chapter's local education service project. Sables requests each SCI Chapter Sables Committee hold at least one annual fundraiser and make a contribution of at least thirty percent (30%) of the proceeds from such fundraiser to SCIF specifically for the benefit of Sables' education programs. Sables encourages SCI Chapter Sables Committees to be dynamic, active and engaged groups within their communities furthering the Sables' mission and raising funds to conduct educational activities.

#### **Article XI Parliamentary Rules of Order**

The latest revision of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised Edition shall govern all meetings of the members, the Governing Board, and the Steering Committee in so far as they are applicable and not inconsistent with these Canons.

#### **Article XII Relationship of Canons to SCI and SCIF Bylaws**

In the event these Canons are inconsistent with or contrary to the Bylaws of SCI or SCIF, as amended from time to time, the provisions of such SCI or SCIF Bylaws shall prevail.

**Article XIII  
Amendments**

Proposed amendments to these Canons may be adopted at any meeting of members by a two-thirds vote of the members only after the proposed amendments have been first approved by the Governing Board following recommendation by the Governance Committee; provided, however, the proposed amendments must first have been published in the Sables e-Newsletter and the SCI Official Journal not less than twenty (20) nor more than ninety (90) days prior to the meeting at which the Canons are to be considered.

**Article XIV  
Dissolution**

Upon dissolution of the Sables, all of the property and assets of the Sables, such as cash and deposits made into SCI's accounts that represent Sables Life Memberships or other funds not expended to pay liabilities of the Sables, shall be contributed to SCIF's American Wilderness Leadership School Endowment Fund or such other education program as designated by the Governing Board.

**Article XV  
Miscellaneous**

- Section 1.            Compensation. Members of the Governing Board, Steering Committee, Officers, Directors, and Committee members shall not be compensated for their service as such; provided, however, they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred for the benefit of Sables as approved by the Governing Board from time to time. Any Sables member who provides services to the organization in addition to the foregoing may be considered for compensation for such personal services rendered if such individual follows the SCI Conflicts of Interest Rules and Procedures in section 6 of the SCI Policies and Procedures with materials submitted to the Governing Board rather than SCI or its Executive Committee.
- Section 2.            Sables Dues and Membership Administration. Sables dues are collected and its memberships administered by and through SCI.
- Section 3.            Sables Charitable Contributions. Sables members are volunteer members of the SCIF Education Committee and raise funds for SCIF's education programs and activities, including the American Wilderness Leadership School. SCIF is an organization qualified for tax-exemption under Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code and all funds raised for its programs that are directly deposited with SCIF qualify for charitable contribution deductions to the extent allowed by law.

Revisions 10/6/2016 Sables Governance Committee Drafting  
Revisions approved by Governing Board 11/2016  
Adopted 2/2017 General Membership Meeting  
Revisions approved by the Governing Board 10/2017  
Adopted 1/2019 General Membership Meeting  
Revisions approved by the Governing Board 10/29/2019  
Adopted 2/2020 General Member Meeting