



**THE OFFICIAL RIDING CLUB
OF HARLEY-DAVIDSON**

**CHAPTER CHARTER
2024**

THIS CHARTER SUPERSEDES ALL PRIOR HOG® CHAPTER CHARTERS

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HARLEY OWNERS GROUP™

RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The HOG® Chapter Charter is the document that defines the relationships between the local Chapter, the sponsoring Dealer and the HOG® organization. The articles in the Charter are binding; you can count on the Charter as 'the final word' in any question you might have. It is the responsibility of sponsoring Dealers to ensure that their Chapter meets the requirements set by the HOG® organization in the Charter. The director and other officers shall uphold the HOG® Chapter Charter in all Chapter business and activities.

HOG® CHAPTER CHARTER

PREAMBLE

The Harley Owners Group™ (HOG®) organization was founded and sponsored by Harley-Davidson Motor Company. The Group was established to offer motorcycling benefits and services to Harley-Davidson® enthusiasts throughout the world, and to develop a close relationship between the Harley-Davidson® rider, the Harley-Davidson® Dealership, and the Harley-Davidson Motor Company.

The opportunity for an authorized Harley-Davidson® Dealership to start an independent Chapter affiliated with the Harley Owners Group™ organization is offered to bring members together for the common interest of promoting motorcycling activities. As a benefit of membership, a HOG® member may apply to join any chartered HOG® Chapter. The intent of the Chapter is to 'Ride and Have Fun' with like-minded individuals who have a passion for riding Harley-Davidson® motorcycles and the Harley-Davidson® brand. The Chapter shall be a family-oriented, non-political and non-religious organization.

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

1. The purpose of the local Chapter shall be to promote responsible Harley-Davidson® motorcycling activities for Harley Owners Group™ members by conducting Chapter activities and encouraging participation in other HOG® events.
2. Chapter activities and operations shall be conducted in a manner consistent with a family-oriented, non-political, non-religious philosophy; and shall be aligned with Harley-Davidson's valued behaviours: Fair, Honest, Creative and Positive.
3. The Chapter exists to develop a closer relationship between the Harley-Davidson® rider and the authorized Harley-Davidson® Dealership.

ARTICLE II – SPONSORSHIP

1. Each Chapter must be sponsored by an authorized Harley-Davidson® Dealership. The decision to sponsor a Chapter shall be undertaken solely at the Dealer's discretion.
2. An authorized Harley-Davidson® Dealership may sponsor only one HOG® Chapter, unless there is a valid reason to justify additional Chapter(s) per the HOG® Multiple Chapter Guidelines*.
3. The sponsoring Dealership shall have authority to require that the sponsored Chapter conducts its operations and activities in accordance with the vision or standards of the sponsoring Dealership. The sponsoring Dealership shall require the Chapter to operate and conduct activities in accordance with this Charter.
4. The sponsoring Dealership shall have authority over any and all matters pertaining to Chapter membership.
5. The sponsoring Dealership shall have authority over, and approval rights regarding the content of all Chapter communications.
6. The sponsoring Dealership may establish Chapter dues, which shall be used solely to pay or defray the cost cost of Chapter administration.
7. The Dealer may terminate sponsorship of its Chapter at any time, at which point the Chapter's HOG® affiliation shall cease.

8. **Termination of sponsorship:** In the event a sponsoring Dealer decides to terminate sponsorship of a Chartered Chapter:
- A. The sponsoring Dealer shall inform the HOG® organization of the sponsoring Dealer's intent to cancel or terminate sponsorship fifteen days prior to providing the Chapter with written notice of termination of sponsorship.
 - B. The sponsoring Dealer shall provide the Chapter with written notice that the sponsorship is terminated. The notice shall be effective fifteen days subsequent to the date of delivery of the notice. A copy of the sponsoring Dealer's written notice to the Chapter membership shall be sent to the HOG® organization.
 - C. After a Dealership terminates its Chapter, a proposal to sponsor a new Chapter shall not be considered for a minimum period of twelve months from the date of termination. A business case for new Chapter establishment must be provided, reviewed and approved by the HOG® organization.

***HOG Multiple Chapter Guidelines**

Within specific parameters, a Dealership may sponsor more than one HOG® Chapter. To do so the additional Chapter must be approved by the HOG® Manager, and Field Sales Manager. This team will work with the individual Dealership to determine if an additional Chapter is necessary and workable within the dealer territory, and then make a recommendation to the HOG® organization.

Additional Chapters will only be approved for opportunities where the geography of the dealer territory renders it difficult for a sizeable group of riders to participate in the Dealership's existing Chapter or to sponsor a displaced Chapter as a result of a Dealer location closing. In both cases, the additional Chapter must operate within the territory of the sponsoring Dealer.

Adding an additional Chapter is not an option to address issues with group dynamics or cliques. Dealers should work with their HOG® Manager, HOG® Regional Director, and field team to ensure HOG® Chapter leadership is focused on creating an inviting group focused on the principle of 'Ride and Have Fun'. A HOG®/Chapter Manager must be identified within the Dealership before an additional Chapter request will be considered.

ARTICLE III – APPLICATION AND TERM OF RELATIONSHIP

Chapter affiliation with the HOG® organization is based on a co-signed agreement between the sponsoring Dealer and Harley-Davidson Motor Company.

ARTICLE IV – NAME AND AFFILIATION

1. The Harley Owners Group™, a business unit of Harley-Davidson Motor Company, is the chartering body for all HOG® Chapters. Each Chapter affiliated with the Harley Owners Group™ shall be a separate and independent organization/group of individuals providing services to its Chapter members on a 'non-profit' basis.
2. Each affiliated Chapter must adhere to this Charter.
3. Affiliated Chapters' names shall be approved by the HOG® organization and Harley-Davidson and should include the word 'Chapter'. Chapter names may not include the trademarks of HOG® or Harley-Davidson®. Only approved HOG® chapters have the designation of "Chapter" in their name. Chapter names remain under the ownership of the HOG® organization and Harley-Davidson, and may be used only for authorized HOG Chapters and shall not be used in any other consideration.
4. Every new Chapter must be named after the city where its sponsoring dealer is located (e.g., Kingston Chapter). This rule doesn't apply to Chapters that were named before this clause was added in Canada

and any existing Chapter that is transferred to a new dealership after its original sponsoring Dealership permanently closes; however, a sponsoring Dealership, at its own discretion, can decide to change the Chapter name.

5. Should the HOG® organization determine, in its sole discretion, that a Chapter is not adhering to this Charter, the HOG® organization may terminate the Chapter as a HOG® affiliated organization.

ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

1. Affiliated Chapters shall have the following primary officers: Director, Assistant Director, Treasurer and Secretary; plus Sponsoring Dealer and HOG®/Chapter Manager.
2. The HOG®/Chapter Manager must be a Dealership employee designated by the sponsoring Dealer.
3. The sponsoring Dealer may hold any, or all, primary officer positions.
4. The sponsoring Dealer may determine how Chapter officers are selected and terms of service.
5. The sponsoring Dealer may remove any officer from office at the Dealer's sole discretion.
6. The sponsoring Dealer has the authority to require the Chapter to perform to the sponsoring Dealer's standards or vision.
7. The duties and responsibilities of the required Chapter officers shall be as follows:
 - A. **Director:** Shall uphold this Charter, conduct Chapter officer meetings and co-ordinate Chapter officer responsibilities.
 - B. **Assistant Director:** Shall be responsible for promoting membership, membership orientation, membership retention, and keeping the Chapter members informed of HOG® programmes.
 - C. **Treasurer:** Shall be responsible for collecting and disbursing Chapter funds, reporting financial transactions to sponsoring Dealer on a monthly basis, and compliance with all revenue recording and reporting requirements.
 - D. **Secretary:** Shall be responsible for administering and maintaining meeting minutes, annual reports, membership reports on the Chapter Officer Resources section on hog.com, insurance and legal documentation, event releases, and enrolment releases. These permanent records shall be kept at the sponsoring Dealership for a duration of seven years.
8. **Discretionary Officers:** These officer positions are optional and at the discretion of the sponsoring Dealership. The duties and responsibilities of the discretionary Chapter officers may include the following:
 - A. **Activities Officer:** Assisting in planning and administering Chapter events.
 - B. **Ladies of Harley Officer:** Encouraging women members to take an active part in Chapter activities.
 - C. **Road Captain:** Assisting in the planning of routes for Chapter rides and leading riders on the road.
 - D. **Editor:** Assembling and organizing all forms of Chapter communications. Ensures all forms of Chapter communications are approved by the sponsoring Dealer before publication or distribution.
 - E. **Safety Officer:** Providing Chapter members with information relating to the availability of rider training. Responsible for ride safety on the road.
 - F. **Photographer:** Obtaining and organizing Chapter images for use in Chapter communications and Chapter history.
 - G. **Historian:** Preparing and maintaining an account of the history of the Chapter.
 - H. **Membership Officer:** Assisting the Chapter Secretary in the Chapter membership duties.
 - I. **Webmaster:** Assembling and organizing material for the Chapter website, social media sites (if applicable), and obtaining approval from the sponsoring Dealer before publication. Chapter website and social media sites must comply with the HOG® Chapter Websites and Social Media Guidelines in the Chapter Handbook.

ARTICLE VI – MEMBERSHIP

1. As a benefit of being a HOG® member, a HOG® member may apply to join any chartered HOG® Chapter. An expired membership in HOG® automatically terminates local Chapter membership. It shall be the responsibility of each local Chapter to ensure that Chapter members are current HOG® members and to maintain on file in the Chapter records a signed copy of the annual Chapter Membership Enrolment Form and Release of each Chapter member. It shall be the responsibility of any person applying for, or renewing, membership in a local Chapter to provide proof of his or her HOG® membership as a condition of eligibility for membership.
2. The sponsoring Dealer may terminate a person's membership in the Chapter if the sponsoring Dealer, at their sole discretion, determines that a member's conduct is undesirable or contrary to the sponsoring Dealer's standards or vision.
3. In order to revoke a membership in the Chapter, the sponsoring Dealer must do the following:
 - A. Notify the member in writing of the termination of their Chapter membership.
 - B. Refund the member's Chapter dues for the year.
 - C. Send a copy of the termination letter to HOG®.
4. Chapter membership is a single-level membership. There are no life or associate Chapter memberships. All Chapter members are entitled to all Chapter membership benefits.
5. A sponsoring Dealership may refuse a chapter membership application.

ARTICLE VII – DUES / CHAPTER FUNDS

1. Chapters are to be non-profit organizations. They are not intended to be charities. The sponsoring Dealer may, at its sole discretion, establish Chapter dues to be utilized solely to pay or defray the cost of Chapter administration.
2. Chapters may conduct legitimate and legal fundraising activities to assist in paying or defraying Chapter operating expenses. All fundraising activity shall be subject to approval by the sponsoring Dealer.
3. The Chapter cannot pay Chapter members for their volunteer work.

ARTICLE VIII – RIDES AND ACTIVITIES

Chapter events and activities are the sole responsibility of the local Chapter and sponsoring Dealership. All Chapter activities shall have the sponsoring Dealer's approval. These events and activities may include any family-oriented, safe and legal activities that promote a positive image of the Harley-Davidson lifestyle and that appeal to the Chapter membership.

- A. Chapters should hold a minimum of four closed riding events per year.
- B. Closed events are Chapter events that are open to Chapter members and one guest per member.
- C. Member events are events that are open only to HOG® members.
- D. Open events are events open to everyone.
- E. Any event contracts should be read and approved by the sponsoring Dealership prior to being signed by a Chapter officer. A signed copy of any event contracts should be sent to the respective HOG® Regional Director.

ARTICLE IX – CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

1. All material published by the Chapter must include the official Chapter name and number.
2. All Chapter communications must be approved by the sponsoring Dealer.
3. Chapters must maintain a file at the sponsoring Dealership of all Chapter communication for a rolling period of 12 months.
4. Chapter must distribute a minimum of four communications per calendar year to maintain HOG® affiliation.
5. Chapter communications must include information on member activities. Activities listed in the communications must indicate whether it is an open event, member event or closed event.

ARTICLE X – TRADEMARK LICENCE

1. The trademarks HOG[®], HOG, HARLEY OWNERS GROUP[™], L.O.H., LADIES OF HARLEY[™] and the following HOG logos (the 'HOG Trademarks') are among the many trademarks of Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc. These HOG Trademarks may not be altered in any way and cannot be used in combination with any other words or graphics. Except for HOG Trademarks and as may be provided through Section 5 below, Chapters are not licensed to use any trademark, trade name, service mark, or logo of Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc., or any of its affiliates. Any use of HOG Trademarks shall inure to the benefit of Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc.
2. HOG Trademarks are for use on Chapter communications, web and signage.



3. The issuance or renewal of this HOG[®] Chapter Charter shall constitute a limited, revocable license to use the HOG Trademarks for the duration of the agreement with the sponsoring Dealer.
4. The Chartered HOG[®] Chapter's license to use the HOG Trademarks is limited to use in conjunction with the official Chapter name and use in conjunction with material relating to Chapter activities.
5. Other additional logos/artwork, including Heritage versions, may be offered/available through official licensees. Go to hog.com/shop for options.
6. Trademarked HOG logos shall be displayed only with the official Chapter name, which shall be displayed above the HOG eagle logo and within the official HOG[®] Chapter chevron as depicted below.



7. Chapters must obtain approval from the HOG[®] organization before using HOG Trademarks on any material other than Chapter publications/communications. T-shirts, pins and all other items using HOG Trademarks shall only be produced by authorized licensees of Harley-Davidson Motor Company and shall be subject to prior approval by the HOG[®] organization.
8. Chapter use of the HOG Trademarks may continue only so long as this HOG[®] Charter is in effect between HOG[®] and the sponsoring Dealership and the chartered Chapter operates in accordance with this HOG[®] Charter. HOG[®] may, at its sole discretion, terminate the Chapter's limited license to use the HOG Trademarks at any time upon thirty (30) days' notice in writing, and the Chapter will immediately be required to cease and desist all use of the marks when the notice becomes effective.
9. The Chapter shall provide such assistance as may reasonably be requested by Harley-Davidson Motor Company to protect the HOG Trademarks in the locality of the Chapter's operations.

ARTICLE XI – CHAPTER POLICIES / BY-LAWS

1. This Charter shall be adopted and serve as policy and by-laws for HOG® Chapters and must be available to all Chapter members.
2. Instituting additional by-laws or other regulations by a Chapter is discouraged.
3. Chapter by-laws, if needed as Chapter policies, may not replace, supersede or conflict with this Charter, or the sponsoring Dealer's standards or vision. The sponsoring Dealership and the HOG® organization must approve Chapter by-laws before publication or implementation. A copy of the approved Chapter by-laws shall be furnished to the sponsoring Dealership and HOG® office and shall be available to all Chapter members.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

The HOG® organization may amend this Charter at any time at its sole discretion based upon our review of Chapter developments and needs or because of conflicts with governing laws.

ARTICLE XIII – DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

In the event of dissolution or final liquidation of the Chapter, all of the remaining funds and property of the Chapter shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities and obligations of the Chapter and for necessary expenses thereof, be returned to the sponsoring Dealership. In no event shall any of such assets or property be distributed to any Chapter officer, member, private individual, or for-profit business.

ARTICLE XIV – DISCLAIMER

While the Chapter may be affiliated with the HOG® organization, it remains a separate, independent entity/group of individuals responsible for its actions. All Harley Owners Group™ members and their guest(s) participate voluntarily and at their own risk in HOG® and HOG® Chapter activities. The sponsoring Dealer, the HOG® organization and Harley-Davidson Motor Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries and distributors and local Chapter officers are and shall be released and held harmless by the member/guest for any injury or loss to the member/guest or to their property which may result from participation in HOG® and HOG® Chapter activities. This means that each and every member of the local Chapter and their guest(s) have no ground for legal action against the sponsoring Dealership, the HOG® organization, Harley-Davidson Motor Company, its affiliates, subsidiaries, distributors, the local Chapters and their respective agents and employees for any injury resulting to them or their property.

ARTICLE XV – APPLICABLE LAWS

If any part of this Charter should be invalid for any reason whatsoever under any applicable laws having jurisdiction over the subject matter of this Charter, then that part shall be considered deleted from this Charter and the rest of this Charter shall remain valid and in full force and effect.



NOTE:

All questions regarding the Charter should be directed to your HOG® Regional Director.