

Bylaws of the Friends of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps (FOC)

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be Friends of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps, hereinafter referred to as “FOC” or “Friends of the Corps.”

Article II. Purpose

The FOC is a VLSC-managed program. The purpose of the FOC is to support the mission and operations of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps (VLSC). This support may include: 1) Payment of membership dues, 2) Participation in fundraising events, 3) Volunteering time or expertise on committees as needed.

The Board of Directors (BOD) of the VLSC reserves the right to expand or limit the scope of responsibilities assigned to the FOC as it deems necessary.

Article III. Use of FOC Funds

Section 1. Allocation of Funds

All funds raised through FOC membership dues and related activities shall be directed to a line item in the VLSC budget called “Friends of the Corps”. The VLSC BOD shall have full discretion over the use of these funds in alignment with organizational priorities.

Priority use of FOC funds may include 1) Scholarships for current VLSC members, 2) Recruitment and training of new VLSC members, 3) Support for VLSC subcommittees (e.g., Competition Team, Equipment, Education, Truck, etc.), 4) Social events aimed at growing FOC membership.

Article IV. Membership

Section 1. Eligibility

Membership in the FOC is open to any individual or business who supports the mission of the organization. The FOC is committed to inclusivity and prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, genetic information, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Section 2. Meeting Participation

Only registered members of the FOC may participate in FOC meetings or serve on its committees. FOC members may not attend general or staff meetings of the VLSC. Attendance at VLSC Board meetings by FOC members requires prior approval from the VLSC BOD President and will be as guests only.

Section 3. Enrollment

Bylaws of the Friends of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps (FOC)

Annual enrollment of members shall occur-any time throughout the year. Membership enrollment and information will be tracked.

Section 4. Membership Term

The membership term runs for one (1) year from the date of enrollment. Membership is valid for 30 days after expiration to provide a 1-month grace period for dues payment.

Section 5. Membership Levels

Annual dues and benefits for FOC membership shall be determined by the VLSC BOD. Members may contribute additional donations if they choose. Annual dues may be increased with majority vote of the VLSC BOD. Annual dues are non-refundable.

For each individual/corporate membership level listed in the below grids, only one (1) individual may be associated with the membership.

<u>Individual Membership Levels</u>	Recruit \$25	Recruit Surfman \$50	Surfman \$100	Mate \$200
Friends of the Corps Sticker	X	X	X	X
'Beach Watch Report' Digital Newsletter	X	X	X	X
Invitation to Friends of the Corps in-person meeting	X	X	X	X
Invitation to attend VLSC Events (i.e. Swim Meets, Banquet, etc. not including ticket price)	X	X	X	X
Invitation to a behind the scenes lifeguard station tour		X	X	X
An exclusive Friends of the Corps gift		X	X	X
A personalized Thank You letter from a Corps representative			X	X
Free Entry for 1 person to an exclusive Corps Alumni Social (Extra tickets for purchase)			X	X
An Annual Report of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps				X

Individual / Corporate Membership Levels include all of the perks of the Individual Membership Levels as well as the ones listed below.

<u>Individual / Corporate Membership Levels</u>	Instructor \$500	Lieutenant \$1,000	Captain \$5,000	Commodore Longfellow's Crew \$10,000

Bylaws of the Friends of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps (FOC)

Large Friends of the Corps decal/sign to display at your business	X	X	X	X
Free Entry to an exclusive Corps Alumni Social	2	4	6	8
Entry Fee to the Annual VLSC Banquet (Extra ticket for purchase)	1	2	4	8
Recognition in the 'Beach Watch Report' digital newsletter	Name	Small Logo	Medium Logo	Large Logo
Recognition on the Web Site	Name	Small Logo	Medium Logo	Large Logo
Recognition in the VLSC Annual Report	Name	Small Logo	Medium Logo	Large Logo
Private Meet & Greet with Corps Leadership		X	X	X
Entry Fee for either the Golf Tournament (Spring) or Clay Shoot (Fall)		1	2	4 Both events
Individual or Company Name engraved on a plaque for display at home or business				X

Section 6. Voting Rights

FOC members do not have voting privileges on any VLSC business at either the General, Staff or BOD level. However, FOC committees may submit recommendations for consideration and voting by the appropriate VLSC body.

FOC members may vote on business brought up in the FOC meetings, including but not limited to FOC leadership and any items to be brought to the appropriate VLSC body.

Each membership level comes with only one vote. Topics open for a vote will pass with a majority of FOC members in attendance. Any tie will be broken by the VLSC officer or BOD member presiding over the meeting.

Only FOC members who are physically present at the meeting may vote.

Section 7. Station Privileges

FOC members do not have access to or use of the Jacksonville Beach Life Saving Station unless granted specific authorization by a VLSC Staff Officer or BOD member.

Section 8. FOC Insignia

Last Updated: 2/13/2026

Bylaws of the Friends of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps (FOC)

FOC members may use and display the FOC logo on personal items, including apparel. However, use of the FOC insignia for political purposes or in any way deemed inappropriate by the VLSC is strictly prohibited.

The FOC logo may also be displayed by corporate members at their place of business. Further commercial use (i.e. ads, marketing, sales, etc.) required approval of the VLSC BOD.

Section 9. VLSC Insignia

FOC members are strictly prohibited from wearing or using official VLSC gear or insignia, including but not limited to the: 1) "Corps Suit", 2) "Corps Jacket", 3) "Corps Buoy".

These items are reserved for VLSC BOD members and active, retired or alumni VLSC members who have completed recruit training and are in good standing.

Commemorative bricks in front of the Life Saving Station shall be reserved for VLSC members and alumni only.

Section 11. VLSC Events

FOC members are invited to attend VLSC events including but not limited to Inter-crew Swim Meets, the Meninak Ocean Marathon, Opening of the Beaches VLSC events, the annual Banquet, fundraising events and more. The invite to the event will clearly state if the FOC member can sign up to participate in the event or if the event is attendance only.

Section 11. Conduct

The VLSC BOD reserves the right to revoke the membership of any individual whose behavior or actions bring discredit to the VLSC. Maintaining the integrity and reputation of the VLSC is paramount.

If an incident occurs, an Incident Report must be completed and given to the VLSC commissioned officer or BOD member who is the liaison between the FOC and the VLSC. A meeting will be held with the individual to discuss the incident and determine the appropriate action which may include the revocation of FOC membership.

Article V. FOC Meetings

Section 1. General Meetings

The FOC shall hold at least one (1) general meeting per year. -Any FOC meeting held at the station must receive prior BOD approval, have at least one active VLSC commissioned officer or

Bylaws of the Friends of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps (FOC)

BOD member present, and comply with existing agreements between the VLSC and the City of Jacksonville Beach (COJB).

At least fourteen (14) days' notice will be given via email before any FOC meeting.

Section 2. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called for specific subcommittees as necessary.

Section 3. Leadership

Leadership of the FOC will consist of a BOD member or commissioned officer of the VLSC plus a member of the FOC who is elected by the FOC membership. The FOC member must be nominated at the FOC meeting prior to the vote. If more than one FOC member is nominated, an election will be held at the next meeting, with the winner determined by a majority vote. If only one FOC member is nominated, no vote is required. The leadership vote will take place during the last meeting of the calendar year. Leadership term will be one (1) year or until a successor is appointed.

Article VI. Subcommittees

Section 1. Participation and Leadership

FOC members may join VLSC or BOD subcommittees to support various initiatives, as requested. The VLSC BOD may appoint an FOC member to serve as a subcommittee chair. Any FOC members on VLSC or BOD subcommittee in any capacity shall operate under the direction of the respective VLSC or BOD subcommittee chair. Terms shall last one year or until a successor is appointed.

Section 2. Work Plans and Oversight

Each subcommittee head must present a proposed work plan to the FOC membership, including any proposed contracts or purchases. No committee shall incur debt or undertake activities without prior approval from the VLSC BOD.

Section 3. Formation and Appointments

The VLSC BOD retains exclusive authority to form special committees and appoint their members.

Article VII. Amendments

Amendments can be made to these bylaws with approval of the VLSC BOD. The amendments must first be voted on and approved by the FOC membership. At that point, the VLSC commissioned officer, BOD member or FOC chair may submit the changes to the VLSC BOD for

Bylaws of the Friends of the Volunteer Life Saving Corps (FOC)

presentation and discussion at the next BOD meeting. The vote by the BOD may take place in the same meeting or may be pushed to the following BOD meeting if deemed necessary.