



**CONSTITUTION OF THE
AMATEUR ATHLETIC UNION OF THE UNITED STATES INC.
(AAU)**

PREAMBLE

The AAU, being established to promote the benefits of participation in athletics and sports-related activities, hereby adopts this Constitution and Bylaws for the advancement of that purpose.

ARTICLE I

GOVERNANCE OF THE UNION

A. Adoption and Amendments.

- 1. Adoption.** This Constitution and Bylaws shall be effective immediately when approved at the Regular Meeting of Congress in accordance with legislative procedures in effect at the time of adoption. Persons holding any National or local office in the AAU organization at the time this Constitution is adopted shall remain in office for the term elected or until removed or replaced according to the provisions of this Constitution.
- 2. Amendments.** The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended only by the Congress of the AAU under the following procedure :
 - a.** Amendments to the Constitution may be approved only upon the affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those members of Congress voting. The Bylaws may be amended upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those members of Congress voting. Amendments become effective immediately upon approval unless otherwise specified at the time of adoption.
 - b. Presentation.** A proposed amendment may be submitted only by :
 1. A District member, after approval at its Annual meeting.

2. An elected Officer of the National AAU.
3. The Board of Directors.
4. The Chair of a National Sports or Administrative Committee.

- c. Time and Form of Publication.** A proposed amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws must be received by the Secretary in writing. The proposed amendment must be received at least forty-five (45) days before the Annual Meeting of the AAU at which it is to be submitted. The proposed amendment must be submitted in such a form to show the entire section, subsection or paragraph as it will read if adopted. The proposed amendment shall be forwarded immediately to the Chair of the Legislation Committee. A report of all proposed amendments must be mailed by the Secretary to each delegate to Congress at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting.
- d. Consideration.** Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Legislation Committee for review. The Legislation Committee shall present their recommendations to Congress.
- e. Urgent Amendment.** If considered urgent and necessary, the Legislation Committee may, by a majority vote, present amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws for consideration at any time during a meeting of Congress. Approval of an urgent amendment requires an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those members of Congress voting.
- f. Language, Stylistic, Housekeeping Changes.** The Chair of the Legislation Committee is authorized to make language and stylistic changes to the Constitution and Bylaws to avoid inconsistencies of wording and conflicting provisions, to improve syntax, and correct grammatical and typographical errors. The Congress shall be notified of any changes and shall be presumed to have approved them unless it votes disapproval at its next meeting following notification.

B. Membership. Membership in the AAU is a privilege granted by the AAU. The AAU at its sole discretion reserves the right to accept or reject applicants for membership.

- 1. Conditions for Membership.** Membership in any class may be granted only after an application is submitted and approved. By submitting an application, the applicant agrees to comply with all the provisions of the Constitution, Bylaws, policies, procedures and rules of the AAU.
- 2. Classes.** Classes of membership in the AAU are as follows :

 - a. District Member.** The organization chartered by the Congress to provide administrative services within a designated geographic area.

- b. **Club Member.** An organization or group that has been approved for membership after meeting the registration requirements of the Code.
 - c. **Individual Member.** A person who has been approved for membership after meeting the registration requirements of the Code. Individual membership categories are :
 - 1. Youth Athlete.
 - 2. Adult Athlete
 - 3. Non-Athlete
 - d. **Affiliate Member.** An organization or group approved by Congress which is engaged in athletics or sports-related activities.
- C. **Congress.** Congress is the legislative body of the AAU.
- 1. **Powers.** The powers of Congress are to:
 - a. Amend the Constitution and Bylaws.
 - b. Elect the Officers of the AAU and the Zone Members of the AAU Board of Review.
 - c. Establish dues and fees and to approve the budgets of the AAU.
 - d. Establish the territory of the AAU Districts.
 - e. Grant charters to District members.
 - f. Approve AAU National Sport Committees, the National Sport Committee budgets and National Championship events.
 - g. Remove Officers, Members of Congress, or members of the Board of Review or any other member by three-fourths (3/4) majority of those present and voting.
 - h. Call Regular and special meetings of the AAU.
 - i. Assume original jurisdiction in any matter or matters.
 - j. Impose and enforce penalties for any violation of the Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, rules and regulations.
 - k. Assume appellate jurisdiction to review any decision of the Board of Appeals.

2. Composition. The members of Congress shall consist of :

- a. District Representatives.** Each chartered District shall automatically have as members of Congress three of its Officers of its own designation. In addition, the District shall elect from members of its Board of Managers at its annual meeting the number of members to the Congress as it is entitled based upon the formula established in the Bylaws.
- b. Sport Committee Representatives.** Each National Sport Committee which holds a National Championship shall have as members of Congress such representatives as are appointed by the Chair. The number of members to the Congress is calculated using the formula established in the Bylaws. Sport Committees which have a negative fund balance and have not made satisfactory arrangements with the Officers of the Union for payment, may have a voice but no vote in the proceedings of Congress.
- c. The National Officers**
- d. Past Officers of the AAU.** Each Past President, Past Vice-President, Past Secretary, and Past Treasurer shall be members of Congress.
- e. Affiliate Member Representatives.** Each Affiliate may appoint one representative to Congress.
- f. Members-at-Large.** The President may appoint five (5) Members-at-Large to the Congress.

3. Vote(s) in Congress.

- a.** A member of Congress must be present to vote.
- b.** A member of Congress may simultaneously represent more than one category of membership but may not represent more than one entity in any category. A member of Congress may not have more than two (2) votes.

D. Board of Directors.

1. Powers. The Board of Directors has the power to :

- a.** Act for the AAU and on behalf of the Congress, subject to the approval of Congress, except that it cannot amend the Constitution or Bylaws.
- b.** Establish by majority vote, national policies and procedures for the AAU which remain in effect until modified, amended, or deleted by the Board or Congress.

- c. Approve National Sport Committee operating rules and National Championship events.
 - d. Nominate candidates from the Zones for the Board of Review.
 - e. Approve the General Counsel of the AAU.
 - f. Establish the check signing authority.
 - g. Establish the deadline date by which representatives to Congress are calculated.
 - h. Audit Treasurer's records.
 - i. Review the budget of the AAU and submit it to Congress for approval.
2. **Composition.** The composition of the Board of Directors shall be established in the Bylaws.

E. Officers.

- 1. **Titles.** The titles of the Officers of the AAU are : President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- 2. **Elections.** The Officers will be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Congress casting ballots at the annual meeting. Elections for all officers will be conducted by written ballot under the supervision of the Nominations and Elections Committee. If there is only one candidate for a particular office, the vote for that office may be taken by a voice vote.
- 3. **Qualifications.** Only members of Congress are eligible for election to an office.
- 4. **Term of Office.** Each Officer shall serve for a term of four (4) years following election or until a successor is elected.
- 5. **Duties.** The duties of the Officers are:
 - a. **President**
 - 1. The President is the chief executive officer of the AAU.
 - 2. The President orders meetings of the AAU as provided in the Consitution and Bylaws and presides at all meetings of the AAU.
 - 3. The President may appoint Special Committees.
 - 4. The President appoints all Committee Chairs, except where provided in this Constitution.

5. The President, is an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominations and Elections Committee, the Board of Review and the Board of Appeals.
6. The President, along with the National Secretary, signs all contracts and agreements of the AAU.
7. The President may appoint at-large members to Congress, the Sport Committees, and Administrative Committees as provided in this Constitution.
8. The President names AAU representatives to organizations in which the AAU is a member.
9. The President may call special meetings of Congress.
10. The President has the right to exercise all the duties pertaining to his office in accordance with the AAU Code.

b. Vice-Presidents. The Vice-Presidents have such duties as assigned to them by the President.

c. Secretary. The Secretary has the responsibility to:

1. Keep the official records of the AAU, Congress and the Board of Directors.
2. Conduct official correspondence of the AAU.
3. Issue official notices of all meetings of the AAU and the Board of Directors.
4. Sign, along with the President, all contracts and agreements of the AAU.

d. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible to oversee the following :

1. Receipt and deposit of all monies of the AAU in to accounts in the name of the AAU.
2. Execution of all checks, notes and drafts together with dual signatures when required by the Constitution or Bylaws.
3. Payment of all bills approved by an authorized officer or by the Congress, provided they are within the authorized current budget of the AAU.
4. Furnishing to the Finance Committee or Board of Directors when requested all monies, accounts, books, papers, vouchers and records pertaining to his office for audit or other purposes.

6. Vacancies. In the event of the death, resignation, removal or incapacity of an officer, the offices shall be filled as follows :

a. President. The First Vice-President succeeds to this office.

b. First Vice-President. The Second Vice-President becomes the First Vice-President.

- c. **Second Vice-President.** The office remains vacant until the next annual meeting of the AAU, at which time Congress will fill the office for the remainder of any unexpired term.
 - d. **Secretary.** The Board of Directors elects a successor to hold office until the next annual meeting at which time Congress will fill the office for the remainder of any unexpired term.
 - e. **Treasurer.** The Board of Directors elects a successor to hold office until the next annual meeting at which time Congress will fill the office for the remainder of any unexpired term.
7. **Emergency Powers of Officers.** In the event of actual or potential emergency situations that require timely action, the Officers may by majority agreement assume emergency powers to act in the best interest of the AAU in any manner necessary, which includes but is not limited to:
- a. Modify or suspend any rule, regulation or section of the AAU Code.
 - b. Assume original jurisdiction in any matter materially affecting the AAU.
 - c. Any action taken under this emergency provision will be effective until the next meeting of the Board of Directors. All emergency actions exercised shall be reported in writing in full detail by the Officers to the Board of Directors.
- F. **Committees.** The types of Committees of the AAU are Administrative, Sport and Special.
1. **Administrative Committees.** The Administrative Committees of the AAU are :
- a. **Finance Committee.**
 - 1. **Composition.** The Committee will consist of members appointed by the President. The National Officers are Ex-Officio members of the Committee.
 - 2. **Duties.** To ensure the financial integrity of the Union by overseeing the financial matters of the AAU.
 - b. **Insurance Committee.**
 - 1. **Composition.** The Committee will consist of members appointed by the President. The Chairs of the Legislative Committee, Finance Committee, and the Registration Committee shall be members.
 - 2. **Duties.** The Committee shall assess the insurance needs of the AAU and evaluate and recommend insurance programs.

c. Legislation Committee

1. **Composition.** The Committee will consist of a representative appointed by each District and at-large members appointed by the President.
2. **Duties.** The Committee shall receive or initiate proposals for amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, consider and evaluate those proposals and present its recommendations to Congress.

d. Nominations and Elections Committee

1. **Composition.** The Committee will consist of members appointed by the President.
2. **Duties :**
 - a. Develop procedures for elections which upon approval by the Board of Directors shall become National Policy.
 - b. Oversee and conduct all elections and matters which require a ballot.

e. Redistricting Committee

1. **Composition.** The Committee will consist of members appointed by the President.
2. **Duties:**
 - a. Develop procedures for re-districting which upon approval by the Board of Directors shall become National Policy.
 - b. Consider and recommend to Congress all proposals on territorial changes for Districts and Zones.

f. Registration Committee.

1. **Composition.** The Committee will consist of the elected Registrar of each District or a representative designated by the District Governor, the National Legislation Chair and at-large members appointed by the President.
2. **Duties.** The Committee develops, reviews and coordinates membership registration procedures and issues sanctions as provided by Bylaws and Policies.

g. Committee Structure and Procedures.

1. **Chairs.** The President of the AAU, upon approval by a majority of the National Officers, appoints the Chairs.
2. **Meetings.**
 - a. Regular committee meetings are held in conjunction with the AAU Convention. They may be observed by any person registered for the Convention, however, they shall have no voice unless recognized by

the Committee Chair. This shall not affect the Committee's right to meet in executive session.

- b. Special meetings of a Committee are scheduled at the request of the Chair or upon the written request of at least one-half (1/2) of the committee members.
- c. **Voting.** At all meetings, only members of the Committee are permitted to vote. There shall be no voting by proxy. Each member of the Committee will have one vote.
- d. **Quorum.** A quorum consists of those voting members of the Committee that are present at the meeting.
- e. **Vacancies.** Vacancies occurring on any committee may be filled with the same procedure as provided for in the original appointment.

2. National Sport Committees. A Committee may be established to conduct the program in each sport approved by Congress. Criteria for the formation of a National Sport Committee shall be established by policy.

- a. **Chair.** The President appoints the Chairs from the recommendation of the National Sport Committee after approval of a majority of the National Officers.
- b. **Composition.** The Committee will consist of the National Sports Chair, the elected or appointed officers or committee chairs as defined by the sport's operating rules, the elected or appointed Sport Director of each District, or a representative designated by the District Governor and one appointed representative from each Affiliated member that registers members in the sport. The President may appoint up to five (5) members-at-large. [Rev. 10/07]
- c. **Removal/Replacement.** A member of a Committee may be removed or replaced by the same procedure as provided in the original selection.
- d. **Meetings.**
 - 1. **Regular.** Regular sports committee meetings shall be held in conjunction with the AAU Convention in even years and as the Committee determines in odd years. They may be observed by any person registered for the meeting, however, the observers shall have no voice unless recognized by the Committee Chair. This shall not affect the Committee's right to meet in executive session.
 - 2. **Special.** Special meetings of a Committee are scheduled at the request of the Chair or upon the written request of at least one half (1/2) of the Committee members.
- e. **Voting.** Voting in the Committee shall be the National Sports Chair, elected or appointed officers, chairs of Committees as defined by the sport's

operating rules, the elected or appointed District sports director or a representative designated by the District, one appointed representative from each Affiliated member that registers members in the sport, and any members-at-large. Only representatives from Districts which registered a minimum of .5% (a half percent) of the total number of athletes in that sport, in the previous year, shall be allowed to vote in the National Sport Committee meeting. [Rev. 10/07]

f. **Quorum.** A quorum consists of the voting members of the Committee that are present at the meeting.

g. **Duties.** A National Sport Committee has the duty to :

1. Adopt rules, procedures and operating policies relative to the conduct of the sport (including but not limited to competition rules, establishing National Championship qualification criteria, Committee governance, disciplinary procedures) and submits them to the Board of Directors for approval.

a. The National Sport Committee operating rules and procedures may only be amended by the National Sport Committee under the following procedure : [added 10/08]

1. Amendments may be approved only upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of those members of the National Sport Committee voting. Amendments become effective immediately upon approval unless otherwise specified at the time of adoption.

2. Presentation. A proposed amendment may be submitted only by:

a. A District member, after approval at its Annual District Sport Committee meeting. (Must be reflected in the District Sport Committee meeting minutes).

b. The National Sport Chair.

c. The National Sport Committee Executive Committee. (Must be reflected in the National Sport Committee meeting minutes.)

3. Time and Form. A proposed amendment must be received by the National Secretary in writing. The proposed amendment must be received at least forty-five (45) days before the meeting of the National Sport Committee at which it is to be submitted. The proposed amendment must be submitted in such form to show the entire section, subsection or paragraph as it will read if adopted. The proposed amendment shall be forwarded immediately to the National Sport Chair. A report of all proposed amendments must be mailed by the Secretary to each

member of the National Sport Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

- 4. Urgent Amendment. If considered and urgent and necessary, amendments may be presented to the National Sport Committee for consideration at the time of the meeting. Approval of an urgent amendment requires an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those members of the National Sport Committee voting.**
2. Prepare an annual budget to be reviewed by the Finance Committee and President and approved by Congress.
3. Conduct National Championships and other activities of the National Committee.
- 4. Establish an Executive Committee, the composition of which shall be established in the Committee Operating Rules. The Executive Committee shall act in behalf of the National Sport Committee between National Sport Committee meetings subject to the approval of the Committee except that it may not amend Sections of the National Sport Committee handbook that are incorporated from the Code.**
- 5. Shall create and maintain a National Sport Committee handbook in which the operating rules, procedures and policies of the committee are set out. Handbooks shall be standardized for all sport committees.**

h. Dissolution. Upon the dissolution of any National Sport Committee, the net assets of the Committee shall be transferred to the general fund of the AAU.

- 3. Special Committees.** The President or Congress may appoint Special Committees and designate the responsibilities to further the interests of the AAU. The President shall appoint the Chair.
- 4. Ad Hoc Committees.** The President or Congress may appoint Ad Hoc Committees and designate the responsibilities to further the interests of the AAU. The President shall appoint the Chair.