



**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 the Code.
- 2. Amendments.** The Constitution and Bylaws may be amended only by the Congress of the AAU under the following procedure(s) only:
  - 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 Biennial meeting.
    2. An elected Officer of the National AAU.
    3. The Board of Directors.
    4. The Chair of a National Sports or Administrative Committee.
    5. Governor

- c. Time and Form of Publication.** A proposed amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws must

be received by the Secretary of the AAU in writing. The proposed amendment must be received at least forty-five (45) days before the next held Meeting of the Congress 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 by the Secretary 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 meeting of Congress.

- d. **Consideration.** Proposed amendments to the Constitution and/or Bylaws must be submitted to the Legislation Committee for review. Upon completion of such review, the Legislation Committee shall present its 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. Congress shall be informed in writing, of the proposed changes after which it shall either accept or reject the revisions.

**B. Membership.** Membership in the AAU is a privilege granted by the AAU. It is not a right. The AAU at its sole discretion reserves the right to accept or reject any applicant(s) for membership.

**1. Conditions for Membership.** Membership in any category 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 AAU Code, including its Constitution, Bylaws, Policies, procedures, regulations, and rules of the AAU.

**2. Categories.** Categories of membership in the AAU are as follows:

- a. **District Member.** A District member is an organization chartered by the Congress to provide administrative services within a designated geographic area.
- b. **Club Member.** A Club member is an organization or group that has been approved for membership after meeting the registration requirements of the Code.
- c. **Individual Member.** An individual member is 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. **Allied 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. **Composition.** The members of Congress shall be at least 18 years of age and shall consist of:
  - a. **District Representatives.** Each chartered district shall automatically have the Governor, Secretary, and Treasurer as members of Congress. In addition, the District shall elect from members of its Board of Managers at its Biennial meeting the number of members to the Congress as it is entitled based upon the formula established in the Bylaws. Members elected to represent the District to Congress must be CURRENT AAU members in good standing at the time of election. Districts that are NOT in good financial standing with the AAU, and have not made arrangements with the majority of the Officers for repayment, may have a voice, but NO vote in Congress.
  - 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 approved by a majority of the AAU Officers 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. **Allied Member Organization Representatives.** Each Allied member may appoint one representative to Congress. Pre-registration and non-athlete membership are required.
  - f. **Members-at-Large.** The President may appoint up to two (2) Members-at-Large to the Congress.
2. **Powers.** The powers of Congress are to:
  - a. Amend the Code of the AAU.
  - b. Elect the Officers of the AAU and the Zone Members of the AAU Board of Review. The Officers will be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Congress casting ballots at the Biennial Meeting. Elections for all officers will be conducted by 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 or moved by acclamation.
  - c. Establish dues and fees and to approve the budgets of the AAU.

- d. Establish AAU Districts.
- e. Grant, withhold, suspend, or revoke charters for 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 of the AAU by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of those present and voting.
- h. Establish and approve regular meetings of Congress.
- i. Assume original jurisdiction in any matter or matters.
- j. Impose and enforce penalties for any violation of the Code.
- k. Call for special meetings in accordance to New York Not-for-Profit law.

**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. Composition.** The composition of the Board of Directors shall be established in Bylaw 10.

**2. 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, or ratification of its actions by Congress, except that it cannot amend the Constitution or Bylaws. Board actions must be presented, in writing, and approved by Congress at the next scheduled meeting.
- b. Establish by majority vote, national policies and procedures for the AAU which shall 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 check signing authority.
- g. Audit Treasurer's records.
- h. Review the budget of the AAU and submit it to Congress for approval.
- i. Elect members of the Nominations and Elections Committee.
- j. In the event of a vacancy in the office of National Secretary, Treasurer, or Second Vice-President, elect a successor to hold office until the next meeting of Congress at which time Congress will fill the office for the remainder of any unexpired term. [Effective after 2022 Congress]

**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 votes at every other Biennial meeting. Elections for all officers will be conducted by written ballot, or electronic vote, 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 nomination and election to an office.
4. **Term of Office.** Each Officer shall serve for a term of four (4) years following election and/or until a successor is elected.
  - a. **Term Limits.** Each Officer may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms of four (4) years in the same office.
5. **Duties.** The duties of the Officers are:
  - a. **President**
    1. The President orders meetings of the AAU as provided in the Constitution and Bylaws and presides at all meetings of the AAU.
    2. The President may appoint Special Committees.
    3. The President appoints a member of each Committee or Council to serve as its chair, except where provided otherwise in this constitution.
    4. 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.
    5. The President, along with the National Secretary, signs all contracts and agreements of the AAU, with prior approval of the National Treasurer. If the approval is withheld by

the Treasurer, the majority of all Officers shall decide. For any reason that a majority of the Officers cannot be attained, the Board of Directors shall rule on approval.

6. The President, with the approval of the majority of the AAU Officers, will name AAU representatives to organizations in which the AAU is a member.
7. The President may call special meetings of Congress and/or the Board of Directors.
8. 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, the Board of Directors, and by Congress.

**c. Secretary.** The Secretary has the responsibility to:

1. Keep the official records of the AAU including but not limited to Congress and the Board of Directors.
2. Conduct official correspondence of the AAU.
3. Issue official notices of all meetings of the AAU.
4. Sign, along with the President, all contracts and agreements of the AAU, with prior approval of the National Treasurer. If the approval is withheld by the Treasurer, the majority of the Officers cannot be attained, the Board of Directors shall rule on approval.

**d. Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall have the duty and responsibility 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 Code.
3. Payment of all bills approved by an authorized AAU Officer or by the Congress provided such bills are within the authorized current budget of the AAU.
4. Furnishing to the Finance Committee, Audit Committee, and/or Board of Directors when requested all monies, accounts, books, papers, vouchers and records pertaining to his office for audit or other purposes.
5. The Treasurer shall prepare the budget and submit it to the Board of Directors and Finance Committee for review.
6. Review and approve all contracts for signature by the President and Secretary in accordance with AAU guidelines and policies. If the approval is withheld by the Treasurer, the majority of all Officers cannot be attained, the Board of Directors shall rule on approval.

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

**a. President.** The First Vice-President becomes the President.

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

**c. Second Vice-President.** The Board of Directors elects a successor to hold office until the next meeting of the Congress at which time Congress will fill the office for the remainder of any unexpired term. [Effective after 2022 Congress]

- d. **Secretary.** The Board of Directors elects a successor to hold office until the next meeting of Congress 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 meeting of Congress 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 National Officers shall convene an emergency meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall determine whether there is an emergency situation that requires timely action. If the Board of Directors so determines an emergency situation exists, the BOD shall authorize emergency powers to the Officers. Emergency Powers shall be exercised by a majority vote of the National Officers. **These Emergency Powers include:**
- a. Suspend any rule, regulation or section of the AAU Code, required to mitigate the Emergency.
  - b. Assume original jurisdiction in any matter relating to the emergency affecting the AAU.
  - c. All emergency actions exercised shall be reported in writing in full detail by the Officers to the Board of Directors within 30 days. Within 60 days of the Officers receiving Emergency Powers, the Board shall ratify, modify, rescind, suspend, or revoke any such action(s) during emergency or regularly scheduled Board of Directors Meeting.
  - d. Emergency Powers authorization, granted to the Officers, ends after 60 days, but may be renewed.
  - e. All Emergency actions will be reported in full to the Board of Directors and Congress within 30 days.

**F. Committees.** The types of Committees of the AAU are Administrative, Sport and Special (Ad Hoc).

1. **Administrative Committees.** The Administrative Committees of the AAU are :

a. **Finance Committee.**

- 1. **Composition.** The majority of the Officers shall select five (5) members. 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 majority of the Officers shall select five (5) members. The Chairs of the Legislation 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 to the President insurance programs.

**c. Legislation Committee**

1. **Composition.** The Committee will consist of a representative appointed by each District and up to two (2) at-large members appointed by the President.

**2. Duties:**

- a. To receive, review and/or modify and/or initiate proposals for amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws consider and evaluate those proposals and present its recommendations to Congress.
- b. To consider and recommend to Congress all proposals on changes to Districts and Zones.

**d. Nominations and Elections Committee**

1. **Composition.** The Committee will consist of up to five (5) members who are elected to a four (4) year term in odd-numbered years by the Board of Directors.

**2. Duties.**

- a. To develop procedures for elections which upon approval by the Board of Directors shall become National Policy.
- b. To oversee and conduct all elections and matters which require a ballot.
- c. To review and approve or disapprove all campaign materials (including but not limited to eblasts, flyers, handouts, t-shirts, etc.).

**e. Redistricting Committee**

1. **Composition.** The majority of the Officers shall select five (5) members.

**2. Duties.**

- a. Develop procedures for redistricting which upon approval by the Board of Directors shall become National Policy.
- b. Consider and recommend to the Legislation Committee 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, plus the National Registration Chair and in addition thereto up to two (2) at-large members appointed by the President.

2. **Duties.** To develop, review, and coordinate membership registration procedures and issue event licenses as provided by Bylaws and Policies.



3. **Executive Committee.** The Registration Chair and four (4) committee members elected by the Committee shall serve a two (2) year term. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Chair.

**g. Administrative 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, such observers shall have no voice unless recognized by the Committee Chair. This shall not affect the Committee's right to meet in executive session whereupon observers may be excluded at the sole discretion of the Chair.
  - 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. At least ten (10) days' notice shall be provided along with the purpose of the meeting.
  - 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 national policy.

- a. **Chair.** National Sport Chairs shall be elected by their National Sport Committee at the committee meeting during National Conventions in which National Officers are elected.

1. Terms are four (4) years.
2. National election policies shall apply.
3. National Sport Chairs may be removed for cause by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, subject to the Right of Appeal to the National Board of Review.
4. The President, with the approval of a majority of the Officers may appoint a person to fill a vacant National Sport Chair position. The appointees will serve until the next regular or special meeting of the Sport Committee, at which time an election shall be held to complete the term.
5. Duties of the Chair:
  - a. Preside at meetings of the Committee.
  - b. Conduct the business of the Committee, subject to the Committee's operating rules.
  - c. Prepare the budget which shall be reviewed and approved by the National Treasurer.
  - d. Select delegates to Congress by the required deadline.

- b. **Composition.** The National Sport Committee will consist of the following all of whom must be at least 18 years of age:

1. The elected or appointed Sports Director of each District or a representative designated by the District Governor;
  2. National Sports Chair;
  3. Members of the Executive Committee who are elected as provided by the sport operating rules;
  4. One (1) appointed representative from each Allied member that registers members in the sport.
- c. Meetings.**
1. **Regular.** Regular sports committee meetings shall be held in conjunction with the AAU Convention, and may be held as provided by National Policy.
  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. Ten (10) days' notice is required and the notice shall state the purpose of the meeting.
- d. 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. Only representatives from Districts, and Allied members, 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.
- e. Quorum.** A quorum consists of the voting members of the Committee that are present at the meeting.
- f. Duties.** A National Sport Committee has the duty to:
1. Adopt rules, procedures and operating policies relative to the conduct of the sport to include competition rules, National Championship qualification criteria, and Committee governance, and submits them to the Board of Directors for approval. If the Committee has established an Executive Committee, that Committee may review and approve competition rules for the sport between meetings of the Committee.
  - a. The National Sport Committee operating rules and procedures may only be amended by the National Sport Committee under the following procedure:
    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 Sport Committee after approval at its Biennial District Sport Committee meeting. Such approval must be reflected in the District Sport Committee meeting minutes).
      - b. The applicable National Sport Chair.
      - c. The National Sport Committee Executive Committee. Such approval must be reflected in the National Sport Executive 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 at the direction of the Secretary 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. Other/Floor Amendment. Amendments may be presented to the National Sport Committee for consideration at the time of the meeting. Approval of these amendments requires an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of those members of the National Sport Committee voting.
2. Conduct National Championships and other activities of the National Committee.
  3. 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.
  4. 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.
- g. 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/Ad Hoc Committees.** The President, the Board of Directors, or Congress, by majority vote, may appoint Special Committees or Ad Hoc Committees and designate the responsibilities to further the interests of the AAU. The President shall appoint the Chair with a majority consent of the National Officers.