

**UNITED STATES LAWN BOWLS ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
(Initially adopted October 13, 2000)**

1. NAME:

The controlling body for the game of lawn bowls in the United States of America shall be called "United States Lawn Bowls Association, (A non-profit corporation in the state of Washington). The name may be abbreviated where desirable to USLBA. Hereinafter, it may also referred to as the Association.

2. JURISDICTION:

The territorial jurisdiction of the Association is the United States of America and its territories, possessions and trust possessions.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Association is to promote, foster and govern the game of bowls, and in furtherance of that objective is shall:

- A. Establish, alter and revise the laws and rules governing the game. International bowling rules will be used where/whenever possible.
- B. Establish rules and specifications governing bowls, shoes and other equipment used in playing the game.
- C. Promote the game to individuals and lawn bowling clubs, and assist in establishing additional clubs.
- D. Develop coaching programs.
- E. Make available information relating to the construction and maintenance of lawn bowling Greens.
- F. Publish a periodical pertaining to all aspects of the Association.
- G. Authorize tournaments, including the National Open and the United States Championships.
- H. Control all official tours and matches by and with foreign bowls teams visiting the United States.
- I. Control and manage official overseas and international tours and matches in which the Association is represented and establish procedures for selecting players for such events.
- J. Consider, and deal with, and adjudicate all matters and disputes; decide appeals from decisions made within a Division. Adjudication shall be final and conclusive.
- K. Establish rules, conditions and regulations for such bodies that may apply, and be affiliated with the Association.
- L. Cooperate with and maintain membership in international bowls organizations, select and provide USLBA representation therein and abide by the ruling affecting the Association.

MEMBERSHIP:

- A. Membership shall be open to all regularly organized lawn bowling clubs, resorts and other organizations which play the game of bowls on level Greens of their own, or on which they are authorized to play, in accordance with the rules of the Association.**
- B. Each affiliated club in the 48 contiguous states of the United States shall by reason of its membership in one of the established Divisions, be a member of the Association.**
- C. *Each affiliated club active member shall, by reason of his or her membership in one of the affiliated clubs be a member of the Association. ****
- D. Members in good standing, of any club in the states of Alaska and Hawaii and the territories of America Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, trust territories of the Pacific and Virgin Islands, are entitled to membership “At Large” in the Association, but may choose to affiliate with a Division.**

5. DUES:

- A: *Dues from all affiliated clubs, based on a rate per capita of active members, shall be annually remitted to the appropriate Division, any by the Division to the Association. ****
- B. The funds to carry on the activities of the Association shall be obtained from:**
 - (1.) Annual dues received from each Division.**
 - (2.) Other sources as authorized by the Association.**
- C. The rate per capita of the National Association dues shall be established by the Council at its annual meeting. Any change from the current year shall become effective, with respect to dues payable by each Division, on and after January 1 of the following year, provided notice of change has been mailed to Division Secretaries as soon as practical after the change is approved.**
- C. Any member who belongs to more than one club shall choose a home club and only the home club need pay National Association dues for such members.**

6. DIVISIONS:

- A. The territory under the jurisdiction of the Association is, for administrative purposes, divided into Divisions as follows:**
 - 1. *CENTRAL DIVISION: Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, West Virginia and Arkansas. (1)***
 - 2. *NORTHEAST DIVISION: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia and the District of Columbia. (1)***
 - a. *NORTHWEST DIVISION: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.***
 - b. *PACIFIC INTER MOUNTAIN DIVISION: Colorado, Utah, that part of Nevada south of the Oregon/Idaho border to the south boundary of Douglas, Lyon, Churchill, Landers, Eureka, and White Pine counties, that part of northern California south of Oregon border to the southern boundary of Monterey, Kings, Tulare and Inyo counties.***

- c. **SOUTH CENTRAL DIVISION:** Arizona, Nevada north of the Arizona and California border to the northern boundary of Mineral, Nye and Lincoln counties, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.
- d. **SOUTHEAST DIVISION:** North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee.
- e. **SOUTHWEST DIVISION:** California from the Mexican border to the northern boundary of San Obispo, Kern and San Bernadino counties.

- A. No Division shall take any action that infringes upon the rights and powers of the Association as specified in the Constitution.
- B. Rights and powers not specifically reserved for the Association in the Constitution may be exercised by the Divisions. Actions taken by the Divisions need not be uniform among Divisions.
- C. Among the powers specifically delegated to the Divisions are control of:
 - 1. The procedures and requirements to become an affiliated club.
 - 2. The sponsorship, control, regulations and governance of leagues, tournaments and matches at the divisional level.
 - 3. The regulations and control of local rounds and matches and of unofficial visits by foreign bowlers.
 - 4. Levy of dues to support the Division activities and functions.

7. COUNCIL:

- A. The business and affairs of the Association shall be conducted by the President, the Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and the Council made up of one male and one female member elected from each of the seven Divisions. All members of the Council shall be citizens of the United States of America. The Council shall formulate rules, policies and regulations consistent with the provisions of this Constitution. Only elected Councilors, their proxies, or duly authorized alternates shall have voting privileges.
- B. A Division President, Division Secretary or absent elected Councilor of the same Division may give the attending Councilor a proxy authorizing such Councilor to act for the elected Councilor of such Division who is unable to attend a meeting of the Council. If an elected Councilor is absent, a duly elected alternate or an alternate appointed by the Division of the same gender may act for the elected Councilor.
- C. The primary responsibility of each Councilor shall be to present the position of his/her Division and after due consideration of all the arguments, discussions and factors involved, to make such decisions and cast such votes as will be his/her final considered opinion, best serve and further the interests of the Association as a whole.
- D. Any member of the Association has the privilege of attending any meeting of the Council. However, (s)he shall remain silent unless specifically requested to speak by the presiding officer. The Council may declare a meeting closed to discuss a specific subject by an

affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the elected Councilors present.

8. OFFICERS:

- A. The Council shall, at the annual meeting, elect *for two-year terms effective January 1* a President and Vice President of the Association. These officers shall be of the opposite gender. (*)
- B. At each annual meeting the Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by the Council from either within or without the membership of the Council. The Secretary and Treasurer do not have voting privileges unless they are also Councilors of one of the Divisions.
- C. Only the Association members with Council experience may be elected to the offices of President or Vice President. No individual may serve more than two consecutive full terms as President or Vice President. Council members elected to the Presidency shall, upon taking office, no longer serve, as Councilors and their Division shall elect a replacement. (*)
- D. All elected officers shall take office on the January 1 following their election and hold office until the next January 1. In the event of the resignation, death or inability to serve of the President, the Vice President shall become President. In the event of the resignation, death or inability to serve of the Vice President, the Nominating Committee will provide candidates for consideration with a mail in vote for the Councilors.
- E. The President of the Association shall, when (s)he ceases to be President, become known as the Immediate Past President and (s)he, together the Honorary Life Presidents, shall be entitled to attend all Council meetings and participate in the deliberations, but none of them shall have voting privileges unless they are then as elected Councilor.
- F. The Council shall have the power to bestow the title of Honorary Life President or Honorary Life Member of the Association to anyone whose services to the Association has been particularly outstanding.
- G. All officers shall serve without compensation except as otherwise authorized by this Council.
- H. Any officer or employee handling money or securities of the Association may be bonded at the National Association's expense in such amount as may be determined by the Council.

9. MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL:

- A. The Council shall conduct the business of the Association consistent with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws. On all other points, the latest edition of "Robert's Rules of Order" shall be the Council guide on procedures.
- B. The annual meeting of the Council shall be not less than two (2) days prior to the National Open Tournament, but in no event after December 1. Other meetings of the Council may be held at the call of the President or, in case of the incapacity of the President, the Vice President, provided in any case that fourteen (14) days notice is given.
- C. At all meetings and elected Councilor may be represented by proxy (see 7-B) or authorized alternate.
- D. A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Council.
- E. If a Division or an elected Councilor submits a matter for consideration by the Council as an emergency matter, the President shall determine if it is, in fact, an emergency matter. If it is so determined, the Council will act on it in a manner similar to that of a special meeting called for

that purpose provided it is discussed with each available Councilor by telephone, email, FAX or mail. Any action taken must be approved in writing by email, FAX or mail, by a majority of the elected Councilors unless the matter involves amending this Constitution, in which case an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the elected Councilors is required. Minutes of such deliberations and discussions must be kept and the action taken confirmed at the next formal meeting.

- F. Only elected Councilors and their proxies may vote. In the case of a tie vote, the President or presiding officer may cast one vote in order to break such tie.

10. COMMITTEES:

- A. The Association shall establish Standing Committees, the personnel of which shall be chosen by the Council or, if the Council so orders, shall be appointed by the President wither from within or without the Council.

Standing Committees include but are not limited to:

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| *Laws of the Game | *US Championships |
| *Instruction | *National Team Selection |
| *Marketing/Promotion | *Membership |
| *Constitution/Bylaws | *Hall of Fame |
| *Historian | *Chief Umpire |

- B. The Council, or the President may appoint special committees as may be required from time to time.
- C. All committees will be of mixed gender unless otherwise approved by the Council.
- D. The duties of the Standing and Special Committees shall be such as are appropriate to their assignments or as may be determined by the Council or President.
- E. In the absence of specific authority from the Council to take action, the duty of each committee is to advise and recommend to the Council.
- F. The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three (3) Association members, to prepare a list of proposed officers. This list must be submitted to the Secretary I sufficient time for the Secretary to mail copies of such list to the Councilors and to the Secretaries of each Division at least sixty days (60) prior to the annual meeting. In proposing members for office, the Nominating Committee shall, to the best of its ability, endeavor to rotate the Divisions from which nominees are chosen and shall ensure that nominees for President and Vice President are members of different Divisions.

11. DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

- A. The President represents and is an advocate for lawn bowls and the Association. The President is the chief spokesperson for the Association. The President shall preside at meetings of the Council with no voting privilege except to cast a tie-breaking vote on any matter before the Council. The President shall act as ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating and National Team Selection committees. In the President's absence, the Vice President shall perform the duties of that office.
- B. The Immediate Past President shall serve with the Council in an advisory capacity with no voting privilege. Upon succession of the next retiring President, the current Immediate Past

President's Council membership shall cease.

- C. The Secretary will keep a record of all business transacted, and shall submit a report of the activities of the Association when requested by the Council. The Secretary will:
 - (1.) Maintain and distribute a current roster of the Council, Committees and Division Officers with addresses, email, FAX and telephone numbers; to be supplied to all Council members, International Delegates, Division Secretaries, Historian and Committee Chairpersons.**
 - (2.) Keep a current list of Standing Rules.**
 - (3.) Handle correspondence at the direction of the President and/or the Council.****
- D. The Treasurer shall keep the Association's Financial accounts, receive membership dues from the Divisions, process Membership Cards, and maintain a membership roster to be made available to authorized persons. The Treasurer shall see that:
 - (1) The funds of the Association shall be kept in an FDIC bank of the Treasurer's choice.**
 - (2) All checks shall be signed by the Treasurer or the President or the Vice President when necessary.****
- E. All outgoing officers shall forward records and general funds to the new officers by January 1.**

12: COMPETITIONS:

- A. All competitions in which Association trophies are awarded shall be conducted under the authority of the Council, directly or by delegation of such authority.**
- B. A player who alters or causes to be altered the bias of a bowl carrying an official imprint shall be barred from national and international competition for a period to be determined by the Council.**
- C. Any participant in the United States Championships must be a citizen of the United States and who:
 - (1) Maintains his/her primary residence in the United States.**
 - (2) Qualifies to play under the rules established by the Association and his/her Division.****
- D. A participant in an Association Open Championship must be a member of the Association or a member of a recognized affiliate of the World Bowls Association.**

13. SELECTION OF MEMBERS TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES LAWN BOWLS

ASSOCIATION: The following considerations are established for the selection of a member to represent the Association in international competitions:

- A. The representative shall be a United States citizen and a member of the Association.**
- B. The selection Committee (National Team Selectors) shall follow the Policy and Procedures as approved by the Council.**

14. SUSPENSIONS:

A. Failure To of any Division to comply with the provisions of this Constitution will require action as follows:

(2.)The Council shall have the responsibility and the authority, after due consideration of the facts and, if need be, the examination of witnesses and any relevant documentary evidence, to recommend the suspension in whole or in part, or termination of the membership of any Division. Such recommendation shall be voted upon by the other Divisions.

(3.)If all other Divisions uphold the Council's recommendation, that recommendation shall be binding.

B. If a club is suspended by a Division, the club and its members are automatically suspended from the Association and will remain suspended until the club is restored to membership in that Division.

15. AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION:

This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting, or at any special meeting of the Council called for that purpose, by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the elected Councilors. Notice of any such proposed amendments to be voted on at an annual meeting shall give to all Secretaries of Divisions and members of the Council at least sixty (60) days prior to such annual meeting. Proposed amendments should be submitted to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee for editorial review prior to being submitted to the Council.

October 13, 2000

