

**THIS DOCUMENT (2<sup>ND</sup> DRAFT) CONTAINS ONLY THOSE ARTICLES WHICH INCLUDED ANY PROPOSED CHANGES. SOME ARTICLES ARE INCLUDED WHICH ARE CONDITIONAL ON OTHER CHANGES BEING APPROVED.**

## **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

Whenever the Constitution and Bylaws shall employ the terms member, representative, officer, applicant, or any personal pronoun, etc., they shall be ~~taken to mean both sexes, unless otherwise specified.~~ considered non-gender specific unless stated.

Whenever the term Convention is used, it shall be taken to mean the Convention of the American Sokol Educational and Physical Culture Organization.

A "Slet" is a gathering of Sokols to engage in competitions, exhibitions and celebrations.

## **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

### **Article 1. Name, Location, Languages**

1. The name of this organization is American Sokol Organization, an Educational and Physical Culture Organization, hereinafter referred to as "American Sokol".
2. The headquarters of the American Sokol is in the Chicago area, in accordance with the decision of the Convention of the American Sokol.
3. The official language is English.

### **Article 5. Administration of the Organization**

**Changes in this Article if the proposal to eliminate the Board of Governors (Article 7) and Merge with Executive Board is approved.**  
**(See "COMMENT" Below)**

The activities of the American Sokol shall be governed by:

1. Federal, State and Local Laws for non-profits;
2. The Convention of the American Sokol;
3. The Board of Governors of the American Sokol; **(COMMENT: THIS LINE WILL BE REMOVED)**
4. The Executive Board of the American Sokol.

## Article 6. The Convention

### Additional Changes in this Article if the proposal to eliminate the Board of Governors (Article 7) and Merge with Executive Board is approved.

The Convention of the American Sokol is the Supreme Executive Body of the American Sokol. The Convention shall be held every four (4) years.

#### I. The Purpose

1. The Convention shall determine the aims and activities of the American Sokol and the American Sokol Executive Board for the following inter-Convention period.
2. The Convention shall decide with final authority all matters which concern the American Sokol.

#### II. Prior To The Convention

##### A. Timeline

1. At least ten (10) months prior to the Convention, the American Sokol Office will send notification of the call of the Convention. The date, location, request to review Bylaws, procedure to submit Bylaws changes, duties of Pre-Convention Committees and schedule will be included.
2. At least eight (8) months prior to the Convention, Units, at their annual meeting or at a specially called meeting, will elect delegates and alternate delegates to the Convention to allow the District Presidents to appoint members to Pre-Convention Committees.
3. All submissions for change or consideration are to be made through official channels. Submissions must be made through a Unit, District, Standing Committee or Pre-Convention Committee to the American Sokol Office who will forward the information to the appropriate committee.
4. At least seven (7) months prior to the Convention, the work of the Pre-Convention Committees will begin. The chair of these committees will be the American Sokol Officer or Standing Committee Chairman. Meetings will be by teleconference, virtually/remotely or, if approved by the American Sokol Executive Board, in person.
5. At least six (6) months prior to the Convention, the site of the American Sokol Office will be recommended by the Board of Governors. A request for nominations for Convention officials, including Chairman and Parliamentarian, along with nominations for the American Sokol Executive Board, will be sent to the District Presidents by the American Sokol Office.
6. At least five (5) months prior to the Convention, recommendations regarding Budget and Bylaws are due from the American Sokol Officers and Pre-Convention Committees.
7. Three (3) months prior to the Convention, the Bylaws and Budget Committees will distribute their first drafts for review by the membership. Nominations for Convention Officials and American Sokol Executive Board must be submitted to the American Sokol Office.
8. Two (2) months prior to the Convention, comments regarding the first drafts of the Bylaws and Budget are due.
9. One (1) month prior to the Convention, nominees for Convention Chairman and Parliamentarian and Sergeant at Arms will be notified; the second draft of the Bylaws, the second draft of the Budget and the report of the Nominating Committee will be distributed.
10. At least one (1) month prior to the Convention, motions or suggestions to the Convention that do not come from a Pre-Convention Committee shall be presented in writing to the American Sokol Office.

## **B. Delegates to the Convention**

1. Each Unit shall be entitled to one (1) delegate for the first one hundred fifty (150) **voting** members or fraction thereof and an additional delegate for each one hundred (100) **voting** members or fraction thereof as per the membership at the beginning of the quarter nine (9) months preceding the Convention. Travel and daily expenses shall be paid from the Convention Fund. Any Unit which dissolves, withdraws, ceases to exist because of a merger, or is expelled between the beginning of the quarter nine (9) months preceding the Convention and the commencement of the Convention shall lose its right to have a delegate(s) at the Convention. In the event a Unit merges with another Unit during this time, delegates will be allowed from the consolidated Unit, the number being figured using the total membership figures of the merging Units as of the beginning of the quarter nine (9) months preceding the Convention.
2. Units shall ensure that, as far as possible, the delegate shall have a practical knowledge of the Sokol program and the American Sokol Constitution and Bylaws, is a member in good standing and has been an active member at least two (2) years prior to the Convention. The two (2) year requirement shall be waived if the membership was approved as a transfer from the junior class. (See Article 67 - Sokol Membership, Section II).
3. A Unit may be represented by a member of another Unit in the same District. Delegates representing more than one (1) Unit or acting in more than one (1) capacity shall be reimbursed only once.
4. It is obligatory for the following officers of the American Sokol Executive Board to attend the Convention: the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Educational Director, Foundation Director, Membership Director, Public Relations Director, and Physical Director(s). These officers have one (1) vote each, with all privileges of delegates.
5. ~~The four (4)~~ **Two (2)** Assistant Physical Directors shall attend the Convention, each having one (1) vote, with all privileges of delegates.
6. The following District officers shall attend the Convention: the President, Men's Physical Director, Women's Physical Director, Bylaws Chairman, **Budget and Finance Representative**, Membership Director and Educational Director. All shall enjoy full rights and privileges of delegates, each having one (1) vote.
7. Only those delegates attending all the sessions of the Convention will be eligible to receive travel and daily expenses from the Convention Fund. Lodging will be based on double occupancy.

## **C. Pre-Convention Committees**

The following committees are Pre-Convention only. These committees will conduct work associated with their respective committee in preparation for the Convention but service on these committees will have no effect on attendance or voting privileges at the Convention unless specifically addressed in other sections of these Bylaws.

1. **Board of Instructors**
  - a) The Men's and Women's Physical Directors of the Districts together with the National Physical Director(s) and four (4) Assistant Physical Directors from the American Sokol Board of Instructors (designated by the National Physical Director(s) shall comprise the Board of Instructors. ~~The Secretary of the Board of Instructors of the American Sokol shall attend the Convention, travel and daily expenses authorized, without voting privileges.~~
  - b) They shall meet for the purpose of preparing their committee business plan, Budget and Bylaws recommendations for the next four (4) years.
2. **Budget and Finance**
  - a) The American Sokol ~~Financial Secretary and~~ Treasurer and one (1) member from each District shall comprise the Budget and Finance Committee.
  - b) The committee shall develop a four-year operating budget as follows:
    - 1) Review the current financial situation based on the financial information presented by the Financial Secretary and Treasurer.

- 2) Consider the requests for funds from other Pre-Convention Committees.
  - 3) Establish the Budget for the next inter-convention period
  - c) The final Budget shall be presented for approval at the Convention.
3. Bylaws
- a) The American Sokol Bylaws Committee shall be comprised of the Bylaws Chairmen from each District, who shall serve from the adjournment of the Convention through the next Convention. The Bylaws Chairman shall be recommended by this in-coming Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The Secretary of the Bylaws Committee shall attend the Convention, travel and daily expenses authorized, without voting privileges.
  - b) The American Sokol Bylaws Committee will meet prior to the Convention for the purpose of reviewing submitted American Sokol Bylaws proposed changes.
4. Educational
- a) The American Sokol Educational Director and the District Educational Directors shall comprise the Educational Committee.
  - b) They shall meet for the purpose of preparing their committee business plan, Budget and Bylaws recommendations for the next four (4) years.
5. Foundation
- a) The American Sokol Foundation Director and at least one (1) delegate member from each District shall comprise the Foundation Committee.
  - b) They shall meet for the purpose of preparing their committee business plan, Budget and Bylaws recommendations for the next four (4) years.
6. Membership Committee
- a) The American Sokol Membership Director and the District Membership Directors shall comprise the Membership Committee.
  - b) They shall meet for the purpose of preparing their committee business plan, Budget and Bylaws recommendations for the next four (4) years.
7. Nominating Committee
- a) A chairman appointed by the American Sokol Executive Board and one (1) delegate member from each District shall comprise the Nominating Committee.
  - b) The Nominating Committee may undertake a search for nominees for any office. They shall prepare a list of qualified candidates. This list, along with resumes, will then be sent to all Convention delegates at least one (1) month prior to the Convention. The final list will then be presented to the Convention floor.
8. Public Relations
- a) The American Sokol Public Relations Director, Editor of the American Sokol, and at least one (1) delegate member from each District shall comprise the Public Relations Committee.
  - b) They shall meet for the purpose of preparing their committee business plan, Budget and Bylaws recommendations for the next four (4) years.

### **III. The Conduct of The Convention**

#### **A. Procedure**

1. The Convention shall be opened by the President of the American Sokol. After the Credentials Committee presents its report, the assembled accredited delegates shall elect the officers of the Convention. The officers of the Convention shall be a presiding Chairman, as many Vice Chairmen as deemed necessary by the Convention, and a Parliamentarian.

2. The Convention shall revise, supplement and amend the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Sokol. Each change or amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Convention delegates present. (See #B3 below). Additional recommendations will be considered on the Convention floor only if proposed by a committee and accepted for consideration by a simple majority of the Convention without debate. Approval of the amended Constitution and Bylaws shall take place by means of a roll call of the Units, the vote being obligatory.
3. The Convention shall address all other motions submitted through official channels prior to Convention.
4. The Convention shall elect an Executive Board comprised of the following: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, ~~Financial Secretary~~, Treasurer, Foundation Director, ~~Membership Director~~, Membership Administrator, Educational Director, Public Relations Director, and three (3) At-Large Board Members. All Districts should be represented on the Executive Board.

**Rationale from Membership Committee:**

*Combine the position of Financial Secretary and Membership Director into the position of Membership Administrator. Delete any reference to financial duties and membership on the Budget & Finance Committee as the Financial Secretary no longer handles finances. Streamlines the operations of the Executive Board. (Applied also to changes in Articles 8, 13 and 17)*

**The three (3) At-Large Board Members would be eliminated from elections if the proposal to eliminate the Board of Governors (Article 7) and Merge with Executive Board is approved.**

- a. The officers of the American Sokol, members of the Executive Board and members of all committees elected by the Convention must be citizens of the United States of America and shall be active members in their respective Units.
- b. The terms of all elected officers are limited to two (2) consecutive terms in the same office. Election into another office is permissible. No officer is to hold more than one (1) office.
5. The Convention shall confirm the election of the Physical Director(s), and Bylaws Chairman, as submitted by their respective committees.
6. The Convention shall approve the four (4) year Budget for the next inter-Convention period developed and presented by the Budget and Finance Committee.
7. The Convention shall charge the American Sokol Executive Board to elect an Auditing Committee of five (5) members from the American Sokol National Office area to serve during the inter-Convention period. These shall not be members of the Executive Board.
8. Honorary membership in the American Sokol shall be bestowed on members of the Sokol Organization by the Convention, upon unanimous recommendation of the Executive Board, as recognition for outstanding work on behalf of the Sokol movement or in the national sphere. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the delegates attending the Convention is required to carry the motion.

**B. Voting**

1. Each Unit shall be entitled to one (1) vote for each ten (10) voting members (~~excluding associate and youth members~~). A fraction of more than five (5) members shall be entitled to one (1) vote. The number of votes per Unit shall be determined on the basis of the membership at the beginning of the quarter nine (9) months preceding the Convention. The votes may be cast by one (1) delegate or may be divided equally among several delegates as directed by the Unit. ~~provided the p~~Payment of all required dues and contributions ~~are~~ need to be made prior to the Convention.

2. A Unit which has not met all of its financial obligations in accordance with Article 21 as applies to Registration Fees, Dues and Special Assessments shall not have representation at the Convention.
3. The manner of voting shall be determined by the Chairman of the Convention and the delegates there assembled. The Chairman shall ask for approval of the motion presented by a hand count which must be approved by three-fourths (3/4) majority of the delegates assembled. Less than three-fourths (3/4) majority defeats the motion unless a roll call or ballot vote is requested which then requires a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting for approval of the motion.

#### IV. Special Conventions

A Special Convention shall be called in an emergency by the President, providing that the motion for such a Convention shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting in a joint meeting of the Executive Board and the Board of Governors.

The Special Convention shall be held at the headquarters of the American Sokol and shall consider only those matters for which the Special Convention was convened.

The expenses of the Special Convention shall be defrayed by a pro-rata contribution by all the Units on the basis of their membership.

#### Article 7. Board of Governors

**There has been a proposal to eliminate Article 7 in its entirety. It would combine the Board of Governors with the Executive Board. There are references throughout the bylaws that would have to be removed along with other corrections.**

- **Rationale for Changes from Sokol Spirit**
  - ***The World of Communications has changed*** – This structure was established during a different time-period that did not have the same opportunities for mass communication and quick feedback. Electronic communication now allows for expedited communications and for our membership/units/districts to provide quick feedback. Our current structure was intended to create oversight during a time when gathering this board took more time, and feedback was not as quickly accessible. Video Conferencing, Email, Text Messaging, and other new channels mean that information can be disseminated quickly, and action can be taken swiftly.
  - ***Executive Board is no longer an exclusively Chicago Board*** - The Board of Governors was established to create a checks and balances for what was at one time an Executive Board composed almost exclusively of Chicago area members. Due in large part to changing technology (mentioned above), many members of the Executive Board are from locations well outside of the Chicago area. Due to video Conferencing, our District Presidents can easily participate in the executive board meetings and be included in the decision-making process. The



*need to have an additional board (BOG), is not ideal for empowering nor for increasing the efficiency of the Executive Board.*

- ***Excessive Governance** – Our current structure is not efficient, especially in a world where most of our Sokol leaders hold multiple roles. We have the technology for this combined board to become a more concise governing body. This proposal would still provide District oversight and engagement at the national level without excessive governance. The Executive Board would still be held accountable at each convention.*
- ***Current System creates an imbalance of Authority** – The current set up creates an additional level of bureaucracy that is not needed. Our Convention is the highest governing body of the organization, and in most organizations the highest governing body is charged with electing the highest-level governing board. However, the BOG holds more authority than the Executive Board, which therefore undermines authority of the convention and circumvents the authority of the board that is intended to lead the operations of the organization.*

The Board of Governors (“BOG”) shall be responsible for reviewing the administration of the organization to ensure that decisions are based on the policies laid down by the Convention of the American Sokol

1. The BOG of the American Sokol shall be comprised of all District Presidents, or their duly elected representative, and the American Sokol President. Officers, directors and committees shall submit reports and attend meetings when requested by the American Sokol President.
2. The BOG shall meet quarterly and other times when needed or in the event of an emergency. The President of the American Sokol shall preside at all such meetings and shall have the voting privileges of a chairman. The American Sokol Secretary shall attend all BOG meetings, without voting privileges, travel and daily expenses authorized.
3. A quorum of the majority of the BOG is required for any action at official meetings.
4. The BOG shall review such financial matters as annual membership dues and travel and daily expenses should such need arise.
5. The BOG may select an Executive Director or any other employee of the American Sokol and determine the salary, term and conditions of employment. (CHANGED ONLY IF ARTICLE 7 REMAINS)
6. The BOG shall meet at least six (6) months prior to the Convention to recommend a site for the American Sokol headquarters for the ensuing Convention period.
- ~~7. A District President who is on the Board of Governors shall not serve as an elected officer on the Executive Board. (ADDED ONLY IF ARTICLE 7 REMAINS)~~

## Article 8. The Executive Board

### Additional Changes in this Article if the proposal to eliminate the Board of Governors (Article 7) and Merge with Executive Board is approved.

1. The Executive Board shall carry out the decisions and policies laid down by the Convention in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Sokol. In addition, the Executive Board will also follow the directives of the Board of Governors in any matters not determined by the Convention.

### **THIS IS THE BOARD STRUCTURE IN ALL PROPOSALS COMBINED INCLUDING IF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS (ARTICLE 7) IS ELIMINATED:**

2. The Executive Board shall be comprised of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, ~~Financial Secretary~~, Treasurer, Educational Director, Foundation Director, ~~Membership Director~~, Membership Administrator, Physical Director(s), Public Relations Director and ~~three (3) At-Large Board Members~~ all District Presidents, or their duly elected representative. ~~The National Bylaws Chairman shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Board.~~
3. All members shall attend monthly Executive Board meetings where a quorum of a majority of elected Board members is required for any actions to be taken. All officers, board and committee members shall submit reports of activities. Special meetings may be called as need arises.
4. The duties of the Executive Board shall be:
  - a) To provide, maintain and manage a central office of the American Sokol and appoint/employ responsible managers and hire services as necessary;
  - b) To determine the remuneration, duties, and bonds of the officers of the American Sokol; acquire appropriate insurance policies;
  - c) To approve or reject all expenses incurred by the American Sokol;
  - d) To elect an Auditing Committee (See Article 11);
  - e) To oversee and approve and post to the American Sokol website the American Sokol Standard Operating Procedures (“SOPs”);
  - f) To store and make accessible to all members the American Sokol Bylaws, Spending Authority Policy, approved SOPs and other official documents of the American Sokol;
  - g) To accept new Units into the American Sokol, and approve their names;
  - h) To determine the boundaries of Districts and to assign Units to them;
  - i) To suspend and, if need be, to make recommendation for the expulsion of Units;
  - j) To resolve disputes between Districts, Units and individual members. In cases of appeal, the Convention shall have final jurisdiction;
  - k) To approve or reject reports of its officers;
  - l) To review and approve all contracts;
  - m) To ensure that all federal, state and local tax returns, registrations and reports are prepared and filed in a timely manner;
  - n) To identify, develop, implement and monitor a risk management policy;



- o) To present motions to the Units for their consideration in matters which lie outside the Board's jurisdiction, in which case the Units shall be required to communicate their determination within three (3) months;
- p) To establish all required Convention committees;
- q) To allocate funds consistent with the budget approved at the Convention for the purposes designated by the Convention and Bylaws or the Board of Governors, unless due to fiscal considerations, at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting of the Executive Board vetoes such allocations;
- r) To fill vacancies on the Executive Board between Conventions, nominations will be requested from all Units. The Executive Board has the authority and responsibility to fill the vacancy in a timely manner;
- s) To recommend to the Convention Honorary Membership in the American Sokol;
- t) To annually elect representation to the World Sokol Federation;
- u) To select and maintain a method of tracking American Sokol membership information that is effective and efficient for the National office and Units;
- v) To maintain a website for the American Sokol with relevant links and secure payment methods.

**The following is proposed to be added if the proposal to remove Article 7 is approved.**

- w) Shall review such financial matters as annual membership dues and travel and daily expenses should such need arise
  - x) May select an Executive Director of the American Sokol and determine the salary, term and conditions of employment
  - y) Shall meet at least six (6) months prior to the convention to recommend a site for the American Sokol headquarters for the ensuing convention period.
5. The newly-elected members of the Executive Board shall assume the duties of their offices at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Board following the Convention. The retiring members shall deliver all property, books and records of the American Sokol to their successors not later than one (1) month after the Convention and support in-coming officers as needed during the transition.

**Article 9. Duties of the Officers of the Executive Board**

**Additional Changes in this Article if the proposal to eliminate the Board of Governors (Article 7) and Merge with Executive Board is approved.**

1. The President of the American Sokol shall open the Convention of the American Sokol; preside at meetings of the Executive Board; sign all official papers and orders for payment together with the appropriate officer(s) in accordance with the Spending Authority Policy in SOPs; make extraordinary decisions and arrangements in an emergency in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Sokol; represent the American Sokol in public.
2. The Vice-President shall assist the President, when requested by the President, and shall perform the duties of the President in his absence.

3. The Second Vice-President shall assist the Vice-President, when requested by the Vice-President, and shall perform the duties of the Vice-President in his absence.
4. The Secretary shall have charge of all official correspondence of the American Sokol, Board of Governors, and Executive Board; record and prepare the minutes of Board of Governors and Executive Board meetings; send an accurate copy of these minutes in a timely manner to the Board of Governors and Executive Board as directed.
5. The ~~Financial Secretary~~ Membership Administrator shall take charge of all membership records of the American Sokol; accept quarterly reports of the units; accept from the Units all membership payments and all other regular and special assessments; pursue reports and payments from delinquent Units; assist in training of the membership software and its uses; create reports for publication distribution; conduct verification of membership and the accounting of delegate certification; provide a summary of membership at the National, District and Unit levels quarterly, annually and a four (4) year report for each Convention.
6. The Treasurer shall accept and deposit all moneys for the Organization; make payments authorized by the appropriate officer(s) or authorities as outlined in the Spending Authority Policy; be responsible for all cash-on-hand, financial assets, and promissory notes of the American Sokol; present a report with the monthly and annual running status to forecast for each line item in the budget of the General Fund and for each additional account at each meeting of the Executive Board or other reports as requested by the Executive Board; ensure that all federal, state and local tax returns, corporate registrations, tax-exempt registrations and reports are prepared and filed in a timely manner; submit to the Auditing Committee all promissory notes, reports of cash-on-hand and bank statements at the time of its quarterly examination of the books; distribute to the Executive Board, the Board of Governors and each Unit President a copy of the annual audited financial statement showing all assets and liabilities; and prepare and file the end of year financial reports for publishing. Upon a drop lower than a 4-month reserve, the Treasurer will notify all directors with budgets about any temporary halt on expenses except salaries and essential products for the running of the organization.
7. The At-Large Board Members and Vice Presidents shall be assigned a specific portfolio of responsibility as identified in Article 8, Item 4, and others as necessary.
8. The duties of all other officers, although described in their respective paragraphs, may also include additional responsibilities.
9. Any elected officer who shall miss three (3) consecutive meetings, without reasonable excuse, shall forfeit the position.

## **Article 10. Standing Committees of the Executive Board**

The program of the American Sokol shall require the following standing committees:

- Auditing
- Board of Instructors
- Budget and Finance
- Constitution and Bylaws
- Educational
- Foundation
- Membership
- Public Relations

The chairmen of the standing committees shall be members of the Executive Board with the exception of the

Auditing, and Budget and Finance and Constitution and Bylaws committees. ~~The Constitution and Bylaws Chairman shall be a non-voting member of the Executive Board.~~ To complete the committees, every effort should be made to secure the best qualified members outside the Executive Board. No Executive Board member shall have more than one (1) vote on the Executive Board. The committees, where these are not indicated in the Constitution and Bylaws, are organized by the Executive Board and their rights and duties are defined by the Executive Board.

The chairmen of these committees shall manage the creation and maintenance of SOPs related to the operation of their committee. These SOPs should include vendor selection and inventory management processes, if applicable, and shall be approved by the Executive Board.

## Article 11. Auditing Committee

The Convention shall charge the American Sokol Executive Board to elect an Auditing Committee of five (5) members from the American Sokol National Office area to serve during the inter-Convention period. These shall not be members of the Executive Board. They shall elect a chairman from among themselves.

The Auditing Committee shall be responsible for examining the membership records of the American Sokol Financial Secretary and the records of the Treasurer, including all promissory notes, reports of cash-on-hand and bank statements at least ~~once each quarter~~ annually and at such other times when an examination shall be deemed necessary; examine the accounts and records of any special committee with its own books.

Once annually, and at the end of the fiscal year immediately prior to the Convention, the Executive Board will secure the audit of the ~~books of the Financial Secretary and~~ records of the Treasurer by an independent Certified Public Accountant.

## Article 12. American Sokol Board of Instructors

The Board of Instructors shall be responsible for determining the manner and scope of gymnastic and other physical activities of the American Sokol.

One (1) or two (2) Physical Director(s) is/are elected to office by the combined vote of the Men's and Women's District Physical Directors at their discretion and based on the number of qualified candidates the election confirmed by the Convention of the American Sokol. The National Physical Director(s) shall be voting members of the American Sokol Executive Board.

The Board of Instructors shall be comprised of:

- a) Physical Director(s);
- b) Two assistants, appointed annually by the Physical Director(s), who are specifically knowledgeable in men's activities;
- c) Two assistants, appointed annually by the Physical Director(s), who are specifically knowledgeable in women's activities;
- d) Additional assistants who are specifically knowledgeable in other disciplines or program areas, optionally appointed annually by the Physical Director(s);
- e) All District Physical Directors or their duly authorized representatives;
- f) A recording secretary, appointed annually by the Physical Director(s);
- g) A duly authorized representative of the Educational Committee;
- h) Board Members, appointed annually, ~~including an office secretary.~~
- i) One or more youth director(s) appointed annually by the Physical Director(s). The Youth Director(s) are responsible for enhancing the membership experience of Sokol youth through sponsored national programs.

1. The Physical Director(s), with the approval of the American Sokol Board of Instructors, has the authority to terminate Board membership of appointed assistants and staff members for, but not limited to, failure to attend meetings, failure to perform assigned tasks and violations of Sokol discipline.
2. All decisions of the Board of Instructors are subject to approval of the American Sokol Executive Board.

### **Article 13. Budget and Finance Committee**

The Budget and Finance Committee shall be responsible for developing an annual operating Budget, which is subject to approval of the American Sokol Executive Board, based on the Budget provided to and approved by the Convention.

The Budget and Finance Committee shall be comprised of the American Sokol ~~Financial Secretary and Treasurer~~, and one representative from each District. They shall elect a chairman from among themselves.

### **Article 14. Constitution and Bylaws Committee**

The Bylaws Committee shall be responsible for reviewing submitted proposed American Sokol Bylaws changes prior to the Convention and the compiling, editing and proofreading of the Constitution and Bylaws after the Convention.

The American Sokol Bylaws Committee shall be comprised of the Bylaws Chairmen from each District, who shall serve from the adjournment of the Convention through the next Convention. The Bylaws Chairman shall be recommended by this incoming Constitution and Bylaws Committee and confirmed by the Convention of the American Sokol. ~~The Bylaws Chairman will be a non-voting member of the American Sokol Executive Board.~~ The Bylaws Secretary, appointed by the Bylaws Chairman, shall attend all Bylaws Committee meetings, travel and daily expenses authorized, without voting privileges, if necessary.

The members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall:

1. Submit to the Convention proposed American Sokol Bylaws changes as well as non-recommended submissions, along with the opinion of the committee;
2. Upon receipt, submit Unit and District Constitution and Bylaws and Amendments, along with any recommendations of the Committee, to the American Sokol Executive Board for final approval.

27. For instructions concerning other ways and means of making changes in the Constitution and Bylaws, see Article

### **Article 15. Educational Committee**

The Educational Committee shall be responsible for the education of the adult and youth members. The Education programs may include information on Sokol history, fitness, health and culture. The Educational Committee is responsible to manage the selection of the American Sokol Merit Award recipients.

The Educational Director is elected by the Convention and shall be a voting member of the American Sokol Executive Board. The Educational Director, or his duly appointed representative, represents the Educational Committee on the American Sokol Board of Instructors.

The Educational Committee shall be comprised of:

- a) Educational Director of the American Sokol;
- b) A librarian/archivist to be appointed by the Educational Director, as needed, to manage books, photos, archives, and other Sokol memorabilia;
- c) Sokol Historian to be appointed by the Educational Director as needed;
- d) Secretary to be appointed by the Educational Director, as needed;
- e) All District Educational Directors;

- f) A member of the American Sokol Board of Instructors;
  - g) Other assistants as may be needed, appointed by the Educational Director for one (1) year, with the approval of the American Sokol Executive Board.
1. All decisions of the Educational Committee are subject to approval of the American Sokol Executive Board.
  2. American Sokol may loan historical artifacts to a third party.
    - a) These loans will be managed via a “bailment contract” between American Sokol and the third party.
    - b) Any items loaned to a third party may continue to be stored at the American Sokol Headquarters.

## **Article 16. Foundation Committee**

The Foundation Committee is responsible for raising and administering funds, acknowledging and/or publishing all donations, and for perpetuating the goals and purpose of the American Sokol as stated in the Constitution and Bylaws. The Foundation Director is elected by the Convention and shall be a voting member of the American Sokol Executive Board.

The Foundation Committee shall be comprised of the American Sokol Foundation Director, one representative from each District, and additional staff as needed.

1. The expenditure of Foundation funds, including administrative expenses of the Committee, shall be from the income earned only by that Fund. No part of the principal of the fund shall be expended without approval of two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Convention of the American Sokol.
2. The Foundation Committee will manage all restricted donated funds using the Internal Grant process.
3. The Endowment Foundation funds shall be held, administered and distributed by the Foundation Committee members in accordance with and pursuant to the provisions of this Article, in concert with the American Sokol Treasurer’s annual report of earned interest submitted to the Executive Board.
4. No gift, bequest or devise of any such property shall be received and accepted if it is conditioned or limited in such a manner as to require the disposition of income, or principal, to any person, other than for allowable purposes within the meaning of such terms as defined pursuant to Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code as now in force or afterwards amended.
5. All decisions of the Foundation Committee are subject to approval of the American Sokol Executive Board.

## **Article 17. Membership Committee**

The Membership Committee shall be responsible for the development and support of the membership structure of the American Sokol.

The Membership ~~Director~~ Administrator is elected by the Convention and shall be a voting member of the American Sokol Executive Board.

The Membership Committee shall be comprised of the American Sokol Membership Director, the District Membership Directors, and additional staff as needed.

All decisions of the Membership Committee are subject to approval of the American Sokol Executive Board.

## Article 20. Income of the Organization

The sources of income of the American Sokol shall be:

- a) Registration fees and dues from ~~members~~ Units;
- b) Special dues from all members in the event that available funds in the treasury of the American Sokol shall fall below a workable balance;
- c) Special assessments to make up a Convention Fund;
- d) Other independent enterprises of the American Sokol such as, but not limited to, magazine advertising, seals, souvenirs and promotional material, educational material, books and tapes, uniforms, gymnastic equipment and supplies, cultural events, and gymnastics and educational clinics and/or workshops on the National, District and Unit level;
- e) Gifts, subsidies, bequests, endowments and all other legally permitted sources of income.

## Article 21. Financial Obligations of Units and Members to the American Sokol

1. Each newly accepted Unit shall pay ~~a registration fee for each member.~~ an application fee. The fee shall be determined by the convention.
- ~~2. Each newly accepted adult member of an established Unit shall pay a registration fee through the Unit. The respective fees shall be determined by the Convention.~~
3. Each Sokol Unit shall collect membership dues from its members.
4. Each Sokol Unit shall submit annual adult membership dues to American Sokol as determined by the Convention based on the number of members reported to the American Sokol at the end of the first calendar quarter. Unit dues are considered delinquent if not received by American Sokol by the end of April. Any payment from American Sokol to the Unit shall be withheld until the Unit becomes current with its dues. In addition a penalty of one and one-half percent (1 ½%) per month will be assessed for all delinquent amounts unless a valid written explanation acceptable to the American Sokol Executive Board is sent in by the end of April.
5. Each Unit that incorporates Sokol sponsored ongoing regular activities for youth shall submit annual Youth Membership dues to the American Sokol as determined by the Convention.
6. In a Convention year, all financial obligations must be met by the end of April or 30 days prior to the start of the Convention, whichever comes first.
7. Dues for all new members who join after the first quarter shall be on a pro-rated basis and must be paid to American Sokol at the next quarterly reporting period.
8. Dues for members who have been suspended but subsequently regain membership privileges by repaying all dues up to the time of suspension shall be considered full-year members and will keep their original join date. Payment to American Sokol by the Unit shall be for the full year and must be sent to American Sokol at the next quarterly or annual reporting period, whichever comes first.
9. Each Sokol Unit shall report to the American Sokol all new members within one (1) month of acceptance. Resigned, transferred, terminated, expelled and deceased members will be reported at the conclusion of the specified grace periods. (See Article 70)
10. Each Sokol Unit shall pay a special assessment annually for each Voting Member to the Convention Fund as determined by the Convention. This payment shall be made on the basis of membership during the first calendar quarter and shall be used specifically and exclusively for the Convention Fund to cover the entire Convention expense. The minimum annual contribution to the Convention Fund for each Unit shall be based on twenty (20) members.
11. Membership fees and all assessments due the American Sokol or the District cannot be used for Unit purposes.



12. Upon request, a Unit is required to submit to the American Sokol Executive Board a current financial statement (Unit's Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance [Balance Sheet or equivalent] and a Unit's Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Fund Balance [Income Statement or equivalent]) as well as the financial statements for the three (3) preceding fiscal years.

## **Article 22. Establishment and Acceptance of New Units**

A request for the acceptance of a new Unit as a member of the American Sokol shall be submitted in writing to the American Sokol Executive Board by the requesting Unit directly or through the District closest to its vicinity. A minimum of seven (7) prospective adult members is required. Only combined Men and Women Units will be accepted as new Units.

## **Article 23. Temporary Loss of Unit Membership (Suspension)**

1. A Unit shall be suspended (lose the right of membership) for any of the following reasons:
  - a) Deliberately neglecting its financial obligations to the District and/or the American Sokol. If Unit dues and assessments are not received by the American Sokol office two (2) months after the end of the quarter, the office shall send notice of such to the Unit President and Unit Financial Secretary. If still not received by the American Sokol office one (1) month after the notice was sent, the Unit's rights of membership shall be suspended. This shall not apply to Units which shall make a proper and acceptable explanation. The American Sokol shall cease sending the American Sokol Publication to each member of the suspended Unit. Each member shall be notified by letter in writing of the reason for non-receipt of the publication;
  - b) Failing to abide by the adopted Constitution and Bylaws of the American Sokol;
  - c) Violating Sokol discipline.
2. A suspended Unit has the right to settle its account within a period of three (3) months. If within a three (3) month period after suspension all over-due payments and assessments, including those accumulated during the period of suspension, shall be remitted, the Unit shall regain its rights of membership. The Unit in question shall be informed of its suspension and reinstatement in writing.
3. Suspension of a Unit shall continue not longer than three (3) months during which time the District Executive Board shall investigate the cause of the suspension and recommend to the American Sokol Executive Board actions necessary to resolve the suspension.
4. If the suspension is not resolved within the three (3) month period, the American Sokol Executive Board may suspend the membership of each member of the Unit Executive Board and, through the District Executive Board, call a special meeting of the Unit for the election of a new Unit Executive Board.

## **Article 25. Termination of Unit Membership in the American Sokol**

**Changes in this Article if the proposal to eliminate the Board of Governors (Article 7) and Merge with Executive Board is approved.**

1. A Unit shall lose its membership in the American Sokol for any of the following reasons:
  - a) When by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting in a specially-called meeting, the members shall decide to withdraw from the American Sokol;

- b) When the number of members becomes fewer than seven (7);
  - c) When the Unit shall be expelled for violation of Sokol discipline together with refusal to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Organization. Expulsion becomes effective immediately.
  - d) When it is determined by the American Sokol Executive Board that the Unit is inactive with no plan for reactivation. (See Article 24)
2. The expelled Unit has the right to appeal pursuant to Article 26 - Appellate Procedure within three (3) months.
  3. A Unit must notify the American Sokol Executive Board at least four (4) months prior to considering any motion to withdraw the Unit from the American Sokol.
  4. In the case of a dissolving, withdrawing or expelled Unit, the American Sokol Executive Board shall ask for an investigation by the District which shall consist of one (1) member from each Unit in the District and the District President.  

This investigation will check into the reasons for the termination and the assets and liabilities of the Unit. The investigation will be completed and a written report submitted to the American Sokol within two (2) months. At the conclusion of the investigation a special meeting will be held within two (2) months with written notification to the American Sokol Executive Board and to all the members of the potential dissolving, withdrawing, or expelled Unit. The sole purpose of this special meeting will be to discuss details/reasons for dissolution, withdrawal, or expulsion, options for the members, and to vote on the termination, if applicable.
  5. The decision to expel a Unit lies with the Board of Governors upon the recommendation of the Executive Board.
  6. The dissolving, withdrawing or expelled Unit shall surrender its gymnastic equipment, apparatus, and gymnastic material to its District. The remaining records, archives and all possessions of the Unit, including all real and personal property, shall be surrendered to the American Sokol Executive Board through its District. The American Sokol Executive Board, at its discretion, shall accept these assets. In no case is it permissible for a Unit to divide its assets among its members.
  7. In the event that any Unit 1) sells, leases or otherwise disposes of its gymnasium, and does not conduct gymnastic or other physical activities, or 2) retains ownership of its facility but does not conduct gymnastic or physical activities, such Unit shall be obligated to deliver its gymnastic and other sports equipment to the Executive Board in the District of which it is a member. The Board may retain such property as a trustee, subject to the duties of a trustee, until such time as the Unit presents satisfactory evidence of intent to resume its gymnastic or other physical activities to the Board. After a period of three (3) years, the Board may dispose of said property.
  8. No substantial assets (exceeding \$10,000) of a Unit, including, but not limited to, real property, personal property, cash or other financial instruments, may be transferred from the Unit to another entity, except an American Sokol entity, without prior approval of the District and National Executive Boards and two-thirds approval of the membership at a special Unit meeting. The President and Secretary of the District and National Executive Boards must be notified by certified mail. The District and National Executive Boards must respond with a decision by certified mail within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notification from the Unit.

## **Article 26. Appellate Procedure**

### **Changes in this Article if the proposal to eliminate the Board of Governors (Article 7) and Merge with Executive Board is approved.**

1. Members of Units shall be required to follow a prescribed business and appellate procedure in the presentation of written complaints, motions, and recommendations:
  - a) From member to Unit;
  - b) From Unit to District Executive Board;

- c) From District Executive Board to the American Sokol Executive Board;
  - d) From the American Sokol Executive Board to the Board of Governors.
2. Further appeals or objections, if any, shall be referred to the Convention for a final decision.

## **Article 27. Voting on Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and Special Issues**

### **Changes in this Article if the proposal to eliminate the Board of Governors (Article 7) and Merge with Executive Board is approved.**

1. A Unit shall be privileged to request a revision of the Constitution and Bylaws or a decision of the Convention even during the inter-Convention period if an important matter shall be involved. Upon receiving a petition from a Unit, supported by its District, the American Sokol Executive Board shall present it to all the Units for written referendum.  
 If an urgent need to amend the Constitution and Bylaws or to change a decision of the Convention shall arise, or if the amendment shall be of such a character that only the Convention shall be competent to decide, and the Convention date shall be too distant, the matter shall be decided according to the following procedure:
  - a) A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Bylaws Committee approves the change, less than that defeats the proposal;
  - b) If approved, change is submitted within one (1) month of said approval by the Bylaws Committee to the American Sokol Executive Board;
  - c) The change and reason for change are submitted in writing to all District Presidents for notification and Units for ratification. The Executive Board will establish a deadline date (maximum of 60 days, not less than 30 days) by which Units must submit their vote. All negative votes should be accompanied by a written explanation. Votes will be acknowledged upon receipt. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes received from the Units by the deadline date is needed for approval.
  - d) A Unit receives the number of votes referred to in Article 6, Section III, Paragraph B, Sub-Paragraph 1. Voting will be consistent with Special Meeting procedures referred to in Article 47, Section IV.
2. Changes to the Bylaws proposed by a National Board or Standing Committee between Conventions will follow the procedure below:
  - a) Proposal will be sent to the members of the Board of Governors and National Bylaws Committee 30 days prior to a regular or special Board of Governors meeting for initial consideration of the proposal;
  - b) At this same time, the National, District and Unit Executive Boards will also receive this preliminary proposal copy for review and recommendation;
  - c) If the proposal is deemed not ready for membership approval by the Board of Governors ("ready" requires simple majority of all Board of Governor members) or needs significant content revision, it goes back to the submitting entity for rework. When rework is completed, repeat 2a) and 2b) above;
  - d) When the Board of Governors deems the proposal is ready for membership vote ("ready" requires simple majority of all Board of Governor members), the proposal will be sent to all Units for a vote; the Board of Governors will establish a deadline date (maximum of 60 days, not less than 30 days) by which Units must submit their vote. All negative votes should be accompanied by a written explanation. Votes will be acknowledged upon receipt. The ballot will go to the Unit Presidents or their designated representatives.
  - e) If the proposal is approved by a 2/3 majority of the votes received by the deadline date, the proposal is accepted;
  - f) A Unit receives the number of votes referred to in Article 6, Section III, Paragraph B, Sub-Paragraph 1. Voting will be consistent with Special Meeting procedures referred to in Article 47, Section IV.

## SOKOL DISTRICTS

### Article 30. Ways and Means of Attaining the Purpose

1. Support the associated Units and direct them in all Sokol activities; ~~found~~ form Sokol Units and provide assistance whenever needed.
2. Conduct Sokol training programs according to the Tyrs system.
3. Conduct gymnastic, physical fitness and training programs, other sports activities, educational and cultural courses for instructors and members.
4. Provide, when feasible, traveling instructors to assist in gymnastics and other sports, educational and organizational activities of the Units.
5. Conduct District Sokol Slets, exhibitions, competitions, etc.
6. Conduct lectures for members and the general public and arrange discussions concerning the Sokol systems and Sokol principles.
7. Organize juniors and children into groups within Sokol Units and arrange special educational meetings and junior gatherings for the purpose of fostering a deeper knowledge of Sokol ideas.
8. Issue an official publication.
9. Encourage public relations services and independent District and Unit publications.
10. Maintain contacts and direct cooperation with other democratic, national and international gymnastic and other sports, fraternal and cultural organizations.
11. Employ all legal means which shall contribute to the aims of the American Sokol.
12. Participate in community activities and provide service to the community in a charitable and/or educational manner.

### Article 32. District Administration

The activities of the District shall be administered by:

1. The Annual Meeting of the District;
2. The Executive Board of the District.

#### I. The District Annual Meeting

1. The Annual Meeting shall be the highest administrative body of the District. The Annual Meeting shall be held in accordance with the District's Constitution and Bylaws or other resolution. For technical reasons the Board of Instructors may hold their elections in the summer. Units shall be notified concerning the time, place and particulars of the Annual Meeting at least one (1) month in advance.
2. The calling of the Annual Meeting shall be announced to all of the delegates of the Units in the District. In exceptional cases, a Unit may be represented by a delegate of another Unit in the District.
3. The District shall have the right to determine the number of delegates.
4. In the selection of Annual Meeting delegates, attention should be paid to the candidates' practical knowledge of the Sokol program.

5. The following officers of the District shall participate in the Annual Meeting as members of the Executive Board: President, Vice-President(s), Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Educational Director, Membership Director, Public Relations Director, Bylaws Chairman and Physical Director(s).
6. The District Annual Meeting shall:
  - a) Determine the aims of all activities of the District Executive Board for the following administrative period and shall carry out all directives of the American Sokol Executive Board;
  - b) Prepare and approve the budget of the District for the following administrative period;
  - c) Establish the remuneration for services performed;
  - d) Elect the following District officers: President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Educational Director, Membership Director, Public Relations Director, and at least two (2) members of the Auditing Committee. It is permissible to accept a nomination in absentia provided a written acceptance from the nominee has been received;
  - e) Elect at the Annual meeting preceding the Convention a Bylaws Chairman who shall serve from the adjournment of the Convention through the next Convention;
  - f) Elect as many additional members to the Executive Board as shall be deemed necessary to properly conduct the business of the District, these additional members will have no voting rights;
  - g) Approve the election of the Men's and Women's Physical Directors on the recommendation of the District Board of Instructors;
  - h) Review and approve the reports of the officers, committees and departments;
  - i) Pass on changes in the District Constitution and Bylaws and regulations of the District by means of two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those present; be it noted that approved changes shall not contradict the American Sokol Constitution and Bylaws;
  - j) Decide in case of doubt what shall be the official interpretation of the District Constitution and Bylaws and regulations of the District;
  - k) Bestow District Honorary Membership upon Sokol members. Voting is done by ballot and the motion must receive at least two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting.
7. No decision shall be approved by absentee ballot at a regular or Annual meeting except as pertains to Article 61.

## **II. The District Executive Board**

1. The District Executive Board shall direct all matters of the District except those which come under the jurisdiction of the Annual Meeting and shall:
  - a) Carry out all directives of the American Sokol and the District Annual Meeting;
  - b) Establish the duties of officers and the amount of their surety bonds, if any;
  - c) Obtain the surety bonds of officers from a bonding company;
  - d) Approve the reports and carry out the recommendations of the officers and committees, or return them for revision;
  - e) Submit to the Units for referendum all motions which are beyond its jurisdiction; Units shall report their vote within one (1) month;
  - f) Administer the funds of the District and approve disbursements for purposes authorized by the District Constitution and Bylaws and the District Annual Meeting; motions for other disbursement of funds shall be passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting;
  - g) Ensure that all federal, state and local tax returns, registrations and reports are prepared and filed in a timely manner.
  - h) Identify, develop, implement and monitor a risk management policy;

- i) If a vacancy occurs at any elected District position, a new election will be held to fill that position.
2. The officers and members of all committees of the District Executive Board must be citizens of the United States of America and shall be active members of their respective Units.
3. An officer or member who, with the approval of the District Annual Meeting or the Executive Board, represents the District shall be entitled to travel and daily expense.
4. The tenure of office of all officers and members of all standing and administrative committees, except the Bylaws Chairman, shall be for the current administrative year unless the District has adopted an alternate plan of tenure of office.
5. Regular meetings of the District Executive Board shall be held monthly or as determined at the District Annual Meeting. All Executive Board officers and at least two (2) duly elected representatives from each Unit in the District shall attend, each having at least one (1) vote.
6. Special meetings of the District Executive Board shall be called by the District President if necessary. Notification of the meeting must be mailed first class, postmarked or by electronic means for those members who have indicated a preference to receive messages in this manner, not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. All Executive Board officers and at least two (2) duly elected representatives from each Unit in the District shall attend, each having at least one (1) vote.

### **III. Special Meetings of the District**

In an emergency, a special District meeting shall be called by the District President, providing that the motion for such a meeting shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those voting of the District Executive Board. Notification of the meeting must be mailed first class to each District representative, postmarked or by electronic means for those members who have indicated a preference to receive messages in this manner, not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting. The special District meeting shall consider only such matters for the settlement of which it was called into being.

Proposal to add the following:

### IV District Administration

If a District has fewer than three (3) Units and has no District activities outside of holding an annual meeting and collecting dues from its Units, then said District may withdraw from the American Sokol Organization. The remaining Units of the District may request transfer to another District to be determined by a vote of the Unit members.

### **Article 38. District Educational Committee**

1. The District Educational Committee is responsible for the Sokol education of the adult members, juniors and children of the District.
2. The District Educational Director is elected by the District Annual Meeting. The District Educational Committee is comprised of:
  - a) The District Educational Director;
  - b) A historian and a secretary to be appointed by the Educational Director, as needed;
  - c) All Unit Educational Directors;
  - d) A member of the District Board of Instructors;
  - e) Other assistants as may be needed.
3. The District Educational Director, or his duly appointed representative, represents the Educational Committee on the District Board of Instructors.



4. All assistants are appointed by the Educational Director for one (1) year, with the approval of the District Executive Board.
5. All decisions of the Educational Committee are subject to the approval of the District Executive Board.

### **Article 43. Appellate Procedure**

#### **Changes in this Article if the proposal to eliminate the Board of Governors (Article 7) and Merge with Executive Board is approved.**

1. The District shall be required to follow a prescribed business and appellate procedure in the presentation of written complaints, motions and recommendations:
  - a) From the District Executive Board to the American Sokol Executive Board;
  - b) From the American Sokol Executive Board to the Board of Governors.
2. Further appeals or objections, if any, shall be referred to the Convention for a final decision.

### **SOKOL UNITS**

#### **Article 60. Financial Obligations of Units and Members**

##### **I. To The American Sokol**

See Article 21.

##### **II. To The Districts**

1. Each Unit shall pay to the District an annual fee for each member, in accordance with the assessment of the District Annual Meeting. Payments shall be due and payable as specified by the District. The annual membership report of the Unit shall serve as a statement in the payment of dues. (See Article 42)
2. A Unit shall not employ for any other purpose membership fees or other payments due to the American Sokol or the District.

##### **III. To The Units**

1. Each member shall pay to the Unit a registration fee and regular annual payment established by the Annual Meeting of the Unit. The complete membership payment shall include the portion which the Unit shall remit to the American Sokol and the District.

**Proposal to reword "III. To the Units Paragraph 1" as follows:**

**Each Unit may establish a new member registration fee at the Annual Meeting.**

2. A youth member who transfers to adult membership shall not pay a registration fee.
3. The Unit shall have the right to exempt from payment all or part of a member's Unit dues for reasons of inability to earn a living, injury, permanent illness, advanced age and the like. Each exemption shall be recommended by a special committee of the Unit and shall be submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Unit for approval. An

exemption granted shall not reduce the Unit's financial obligation to the District and the American Sokol.

## **Article 67. Sokol Membership**

### **I. All Membership Categories**

All applicants for membership must:

1. Demonstrate good character and habits;
2. Complete required forms;
3. Pay required dues and fees;
4. Be a citizen or legal resident of the United States;
5. Observe the directives and Bylaws of American Sokol, the District and Unit;
6. Guard the honor and interest of American Sokol, the District and Unit and uphold Sokol discipline.

### **II. Member Classifications**

#### **1. VOTING MEMBERSHIP**

Eligibility:

- a) 17 years or older; and
- b) Admitted and accepted according to Unit Bylaws or policies; and
- c) Has been a Youth or Associate Member for a period of at least six (6) months or length of time according to Unit Bylaws or policies, or is joining a Unit which is less than one (1) year old.

Rights as determined by Unit Bylaws or policies:

- a) Attend meetings, vote, serve on committees;
- b) Hold elected office if a citizen of the United States, unless prior written approval is received from the American Sokol Executive Board;
- c) Use facilities and participate in programs of the Unit, District and American Sokol;
- d) Sponsor new members.

#### **2. NON-VOTING / ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP**

Eligibility:

- a) 17 years or older; and
- b) Admitted and accepted according to Unit Bylaws or policies; and
- c) Pay individual or family fees as determined by the Unit for gym classes and/or other sponsored programs.

Rights as determined by Unit Bylaws or policies:

- a) Attend meetings without privilege of voting or holding elected office;
- b) Use facilities and participate in programs of the Unit, District and American Sokol;
- c) Serve on committees, except those dealing with financial disbursements or property assets;
- d) Apply for Voting Membership according to Unit Bylaws or policies.

#### **3. YOUTH MEMBERSHIP**

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Eligibility:

- a) All age 17 years or younger; Participants in American Sokol sponsored ongoing regular activities shall be Youth Members.
- b) Youth, that are directly related to a Unit member and not active in programs may apply for youth membership status.
- ~~b) Every youth participating in a Board of Instructors sanctioned ongoing regular activity must have at least one parent or guardian registered as a member;~~
- ~~c) Special events (i.e., camps, bring a friend, special classes, special programs, etc.) with the goal of introducing Sokol to non-Sokol individuals or reaching to the community, are exempt from the parental membership requirement.~~

~~All age 17 and younger participants in American Sokol sponsored ongoing, regular activities shall be Youth Members. Youth participants in special events (i.e., camps, bring a friend, special classes, special programs, etc.), with a goal of introducing Sokol to non-Sokol individuals or reaching out to the community, are exempt from the Youth Membership requirement.~~

**Rationale from Membership Committee:**

- *One District voted in favor of keeping clauses a) & b); four Districts voted to remove the clauses; one District abstained.*
- *The requirement is not compatible with the needs and procedures of all units*
- *Would be easier for units to keep track of their membership without constant addition and deletion of parental Associate members, where there typically is a high turnover.*
- *Some units with youth activities are changing to a program of short class sessions rather than a typical Sokol year-long program. The fee for such sessions will be critical factor and the additional (adult) membership fee possibly discouraging.*
- *The artificial increase in adult membership from this clause is not considered a critical factor to the ASO. Very few parental members become long-term members, rather they disappear as soon as the youth leaves Sokol.*
- *Units are free to implement this requirement internally if desired.*
- *If the dues income from parental members is considered critical, youth dues could be increased to cover. But this is not recommended.*

**Rationale from Eastern District**

- *Unit locations and demographics vary widely, and all are not able to enroll parents in low income areas.*
- *The majority of parents registered are not initiated at a meeting and most do not even know they are members as the fee for dues is just added on to the youth class fee. They are signed up before anyone in the Unit governing body even knows who they are.*
- *Makes additional work for the officer who has to enter the name in national Data Base. If the youth does not return the following year, then the name has to be removed.*
- *This is not an appropriate way to balance the National budget. The AS Executive Board needs to budget within their means or find other reasonable sources of funding to cover the needs of the National organization. Units pay annual dues for voting and non-voting members to American Sokol*

*to support its activities. They should not have to undertake an additional administrative burden keeping track of the parents of youth members.*

4. UNIT HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

An honor bestowed by the Unit on persons having given exemplary contributions, either financial or service, to Sokol over a long period of time.

### **III. Membership in Multiple Units**

An individual may hold membership simultaneously in more than one Unit of the American Sokol. Voting Member rights are limited to one (1) Unit and its District.

### **IV. Members at Large**

Individuals may become Members at Large who shall be assigned to Sokol T.G. Masaryk, which shall be administered by the American Sokol Membership Director. Dues shall be determined by the American Sokol Executive Board. Members at Large shall have no voting rights but shall receive the official *American Sokol* publication.

2nd DRAFT