

**USA NATIONAL SHUFFLEBOARD ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**ORGANIZED 1931**

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**CONSTITUTION**  
**AND**  
**BY-LAWS**

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**Adopted as amended at the Annual Meeting of the  
USA National Shuffleboard Association, Inc.  
Held May 4, 1978 in Hemet, California**

**Reprinted May 1989, January 2008, January 2021 and January 2023  
to incorporate changes approved**

**Under Article XIII of the Constitution at the Annual Meetings held:**

**January 10, 1983, January 12, 1984, January 16, 1986,  
January 22, 1990, January 13, 1992, January 23, 1995,  
January 27, 1997, January 26, 1998, January 27, 2003,  
January 22, 2007, January 21, 2008, January 26, 2009,  
January 11, 2011, January 23, 2012, January 21, 2013,  
January 22, 2019, January 19, 2021, January 30, 2023  
January 22, 2024**

# **CONSTITUTION**

## **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The Association shall be known as THE USA NATIONAL SHUFFLEBOARD ASSOCIATION, INC. hereafter.

## **ARTICLE II – OFFICIAL LOCATION**

The official location of the Association shall be the place of residence of the President.

## **ARTICLE III – OBJECT AND PURPOSES**

The general nature of the object of the Association is to stimulate the formation of State Associations; to give information on the game of shuffleboard; to promote construction developments in playing equipment and the improvement of the rules of play; to create interest by promoting National Championship tournaments.

This corporation is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. No substantial part of activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by the Internal Revenue Service tax code or any substantial activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of this corporation. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**

The membership of the USA National Shuffleboard Association and the manner of admission shall be as follows:

Any State Shuffleboard Association or Shuffleboard Association consisting of more than one State, including the District of Columbia, having qualified under the Constitution and By-Laws of the USA National Shuffleboard Association, may be duly proposed to, and voted on, by the Board of Directors of the USA National Shuffleboard Association.

Each State Association, or Shuffleboard Association consisting of more than one State Association, is entitled to have the President and one (1) Delegate on the National Board of Directors. The President and Delegate must have a residential address in the State they are representing.

Further, in any State where there is no State Shuffleboard Association, a person (Entity) desirous of membership, may by making proper application and paying the prescribed fee, upon being accepted, become an Associate non-voting member of the USA National Shuffleboard Association, Inc. (Associate members to be given notice of all meetings, a copy of the minutes, etc., allowed to attend meetings, but no voting rights.)

## **ARTICLE V – OFFICERS**

The officers of the Association shall be the President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Third Vice President, and the President Emeritus (previous President). The Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster/Keeper of Records, Hall of Fame Curator and three (3) Regional Directors shall be appointed as additional officers by the President. When elected or appointed, these individual positions shall have full voting privileges on all business of the Association's Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors shall be composed of duly qualified members, the elected and appointed officers of the Association. Each member shall have equal voting power except the President, who will vote only if necessary, to break a tie vote. Each Board Member will have only one vote, regardless of position(s) as a Board Member.

## **ARTICLE VII – OFFICIAL AND FISCAL YEAR**

The Official Year of the Association shall begin as of the date of the Annual Meeting and election of Officers. The Fiscal Year of the Association shall be for the calendar year ending December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **ARTICLE VIII – ANNUAL & SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS**

Annual Meeting: The date and place of the Annual Meeting of the Association shall be determined by the President. The election of officers shall be held at the Annual Meeting.

Semi-Annual Meeting: A Semi-Annual Meeting will be held at the call of the President. Prior to the meeting, a ten-day (10) notice will be available showing any suggested changes to the Constitution, By-Laws or Official Rules of the National Shuffleboard Association, Inc., hereinafter referred to as Rules. After the Semi-Annual Meeting, these changes will be placed on the agenda for a vote at the next Annual Meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX – SPECIAL MEETING**

Special Meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by the President, or by written request to the President of a qualified majority of the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE X – MEMBERSHIP PERIOD**

Any state wishing to join the Association and has their membership fee paid before the July Semi-Annual Meeting will be voted into the organization at the Semi-Annual Meeting. After said meeting, any new state joining will be able to join at the January Annual Meeting.

## **ARTICLE XI – TENURE OF OFFICE**

The following named Officers shall serve for two (2) years after their election to offices: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President and Third Vice-President. The President may hold office for an additional two (2) year term, not to exceed a total of four (4) years, and the existing officers have the option of continuing in their respective offices for an additional two (2) year term.

In order to keep stability in the office of Treasurer, that office shall have an unending term of office and the Treasurer shall continue to serve in that position unless they resign or expire while in that position. The Executive Board, consisting of the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and Third Vice President, may replace the Treasurer by a majority vote, if it becomes necessary for any reason.

## **ARTICLE XII – QUORUMS**

A legal quorum for the election of Officers for the transaction of business shall be not less than nine (9) qualified voting members of the Association's Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS**

The Constitution and/or By-Laws of the Association may be made, altered, or rescinded by a ten-day (10) notice prior to the Semi-Annual Meeting and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the qualified voting members of the Board of Directors, comprising those present and absentee ballot votes, to receive approval at the Annual Meeting (See Article V of the By-Laws)

# **BY-LAWS**

## **ARTICLE I – ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. Roll Call
- b. Reading of the Minutes
- c. Treasurer's Report
- d. Communications
- e. Report of Standing Committees
- f. Report of Special Committees
- g. Application of Membership
- h. Unfinished Business
- i. Election of Officers
- j. New Business
- k. Adjournment

## **ARTICLE II – APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Any State Shuffleboard Association, or a Shuffleboard Association consisting of more than one State Association where the State Association are already members of the USA National Shuffleboard Association, desiring membership in the USA National Shuffleboard Association shall make its application to the Association by addressing it to the President, or to the Secretary of the USA National Shuffleboard Association.

## **ARTICLE III – DUES**

Membership fees in the Association shall be Twenty (\$20.00) per year, regardless of number of Clubs in the State Association. Fees due annually on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

If a State Association has failed to pay its dues for two (2) consecutive years, after being notified by the USA NSA Treasurer of its delinquency, that State Association's membership in the USA NSA shall be terminated at the next Annual Meeting. The terminated State Association will no longer be given notice of meetings, copies of minutes, allowed to attend meetings and will have no voting rights. Said State Association may, by making proper application and paying the prescribed membership fee, and any delinquent fees, reapply for membership at a later time. Upon being accepted, said State Association will be given notice of meetings, copies of minutes, allowed to attend meetings and will have its voting rights reinstated.

## **ARTICLE IV – ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Nominations for Officers of the Association shall be made from the floor or by the reading of submitted nominations at the Semi-Annual Meeting. The election of the Association Officers shall take place at

the time of and at the place of the Annual Meeting of the Association. Currently serving Officers may be nominated to succeed themselves with the exception of President, who may not hold office as President for more than four (4) years. If there is more than one nominee for an office, the nominee receiving the most votes shall be elected, otherwise the Secretary shall be directed by the President to cast a single vote for the single nominee for each office. Each nominee must receive a majority of the total votes cast to be elected. In the event there are more than two (2) candidates for any office, a runoff vote shall be held between the two (2) candidates receiving the greatest number of votes on the first ballot. Each official elected shall hold office for two (2) years or until his successor in office has been elected. This Article shall apply to Officers and Directors of the Association.

## **ARTICLE V – VOTING QUALIFICATIONS**

Each member of the Board of Directors of the Association shall have one vote at all meetings of the Association. Any Board Member unable to vote electronically will be allowed to vote on any issue affecting changes in the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and election of Officers, by requesting from the Secretary, an Absentee Ballot. That Absentee Ballot shall be returned to the Secretary by United States Postal Service and it will be counted prior to the Annual Meeting. Each suggested change or amendment to be voted on separately, and every Officer must be elected by individual ballot.

## **ARTICLE VI – FILLING OFFICE VACANCIES**

If, for any reason, an elective office becomes vacant between the regular Annual Meetings, such vacancy or vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the regular term of such officer or officers by the President, with the approval of a majority of the members of the Board of Directors. The First Vice-President shall fill a vacancy of the office of President. In the event the First Vice-President cannot assume the office of President, then, and only then, shall the Second Vice-President assume the office of President. In the event the Second Vice-President cannot assume the office of President, then, and only then, shall the Third Vice-President assume the office of President.

## **ARTICLE VII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

The President shall preside at all meetings (regular and special) of the Association and shall conduct the meetings in accordance with parliamentary procedure as set forth in the latest edition of “Robert’s Rules of Order”. As promptly as possible following his election, the President shall appoint all committees and become ex-officio member of each. The President shall appoint a National Shuffleboard Association Tournament Director and Assistant Tournament Directors as required. The President shall perform all duties of the office deemed to be required of the office, or as may be specifically ordered by the Board of Directors.

The First Vice-President shall assume and perform all of the duties of the President during his incapacity. In the event the First Vice-President is unable for any reason to assume the duties of the President, then, and only then, the Second Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President. In the event the Second

Vice-President is unable for any reason to assume the duties of the President, then, and only then the Third Vice-President shall assume the duties of President.

The Secretary shall fully and accurately record the proceedings of all regular and special meetings of the Association, shall attend to all correspondence and be in charge of the files of the Association. The Secretary will notify all voting members of the Board, at least twenty (20) days prior to the Annual Meeting of any suggested changes in the Constitution, By-Laws or Rules and the names of those who have been nominated for office for the ensuing year. Any voting member of the Board who is unable to vote electronically, will be allowed to vote by requesting, from the Secretary, an Absentee Ballot. That Absentee Ballot shall be returned to the Secretary by United States Postal Service and it will be counted prior to the Annual Meeting.

The Treasurer shall be the sole custodian of the Corporation Seal, and all funds of the Association. The Treasurer shall draw all checks on the funds of the Association. All checks of the Association shall be countersigned by a designated officer of the Association.

The three (3) Regional Directors shall be ardent promoters of the shuffleboard activities. Their primary duty will be to promote the USA National Shuffleboard Association and the National Championship Tournaments in their area.

Each of the Regional Directors will cover one of the following areas:

1. Southeastern United States – East of the Mississippi River and south of Kentucky and Virginia
2. Northeastern United States – East of the Mississippi River and North of Tennessee and North Carolina
3. Western United States – West of the Mississippi River

The three (3) Regional Directors will report to the President, regarding shuffleboard activities in their area sixty days before each National Meeting.

## **ARTICLE VIII – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors shall hold an Annual Meeting and regular and special meetings between the dates of the Annual Meeting as often as may be deemed to be necessary for the efficient functioning of the Association, in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association, and for the orderly and expeditious transaction of routine business of the Association.

Any suggested change to the Rules of the Association must be submitted by mail or electronically to the President at least ten (10) days prior to the Semi-Annual Meeting. These changes will then be presented to the Board at the Semi-Annual Meeting, discussed and placed on the Agenda for the next Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors shall arrange for an annual audit of the financial records of the Association, shall decide if and when the Treasurer shall be bonded and shall effectuate such bond.

## **ARTICLE IX – THE HALL OF FAME**

Player Award: To qualify for the Player Award, a player must be eligible, according to their State's official playing rules, to participate in USA NSA championship events and meet the following criteria:

Earned two hundred (200) or more USA NSA points and won at least one (1) USA NSA Open Singles or Doubles National Championship.

The Keeper of Records will notify the President when a player achieves the criteria for the Player Award.

The President will contact the player's State President and request the State President to submit, within 15 days, their recommendation and report if there are any past or current behavior or disciplinary issues that might preclude HOF induction.

If the State President submits a concern, then the President shall call a special meeting of the Executive Board to review the concern. A majority vote of the Executive Board shall determine whether the player has committed extreme unsportsmanlike behavior and should be excluded from induction into the HOF.

Approved players will be inducted at the next Annual Meeting. There is no limit to the number of players who may be inducted at a meeting.

Special Award: In order to be eligible for the USA National Hall of Fame Special Award, a person must have a record of at least ten (10) years in shuffleboard as a player, executive officer, tournament director or otherwise distinguished himself by outstanding contribution to the USA National Shuffleboard Association.

It is the privilege of the President and each member of the Board of Directors to make one (1) Special Award nomination annually. Nominations shall be sent by mail or electronically to the President not later than November 10th. A full record of accomplishments of the nominee shall accompany the letter of nomination. The President will contact the nominee's State President, or someone in the nominee's State, and request them to submit, within 15 days, their recommendation and to report if there are any past or current behavior or disciplinary issues that might preclude HOF induction. If the nominee is recommended, the President will contact the nominee to confirm that they will accept the proposed induction if elected. The President will then submit the nominations to the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee.

The Hall of Fame Committee will review all nominations to ensure nominees meet the qualifications for the Special Award. The Hall of Fame Committee shall make the approved nominee's record of accomplishments available to the Board of Directors at least twenty (20) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Election to the Hall of Fame in the Special Award category shall be at the Annual Meeting. The board may elect up to two (2) persons in the Special Award category. Each voting member may vote for up to two (2) persons. The two (2) players who receive the most votes and receive a majority of the submitted



votes earn induction. In case of a tie, an exception may be made for that year. The Secretary shall notify those elected and inform them of the time and place of the presentation ceremony.

The President shall be entitled to automatic induction into the National Hall of Fame Special Award category upon completion of two (2) years in the office of President over and above the specified nominees for Special Award category. In the event of unforeseen circumstances (death in office or catastrophic illness requiring resignation) the President may also be eligible for this honor without having completed two (2) years' service upon an affirmation of the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE X – TOURNAMENTS**

The Board of Directors shall approve the Annual Tournament Schedule, by a majority vote, at the Semi-Annual Meeting.

National Championship Tournaments: At least one championship open singles, and one championship open doubles and one championship mixed doubles tournament shall be held annually during the USA NSA's tournament season (October – September).

National Frame Game Championship Tournaments: One championship singles (men's and women's division) and one championship doubles (any) may be held each year.

National Invitational Tournaments: Invitational tournaments may be requested by any club in the jurisdiction of an associate member of the Association. The tournament date, formats, prize money, etc. shall be coordinated with the President.

National tournaments may be played at any club in the jurisdiction of an affiliated member of the Association or by an associate member of the Association. Tournament sponsorship shall be determined on a competitive basis with the amount of guaranteed prize money taking high priority. The President will work with the host club to determine the distribution of the prize money after expenses. The finalized seasonal schedule will be voted on by the Board of Directors at the Semi-Annual Meeting.

No more than one (1) National tournament will be scheduled on the same day(s) unless the host venues are more than one thousand five hundred (1,500) miles apart.

Individual National tournaments will be scheduled an adequate number of days apart to allow for travel for players who choose to participate in multiple tournaments.

Clubs hosting National tournaments in consecutive years are expected to host the tournament in the same week of the year from year to year. Due to scheduling conflicts, the National Tournament Schedule shall take precedence.

Proposed changes to the timeframe of a tournament must meet all the conditions of the USA NSA Constitution and By-Laws and be submitted to the President by April 30 prior to the Semi-Annual Meeting. The change will be accepted or rejected by majority vote at the Semi-Annual Meeting.

National Team Tournaments may be held each year. Awards or prize money may be given.

At all National tournaments, One Dollar (\$1.00) from each participant's entry fee shall be submitted to the USA NSA.

The official playing rules of the State that hosts any type of National Tournament shall be followed, without exception. Each hosting state shall supply a copy of its official playing rules to the President. Said official playing rules will be included on the USA NSA website.

### **ARTICLE XI – USA NSA POINTS**

The USA NSA awards national points to players who place in USA NSA approved open national tournaments. Following is the point scale:

- First Place Main Event earns Eight (8) National Points
- Second Place Main Event earns Seven (7) National Points
- Third Place Main Event earns Six (6) National Points
- Fourth Place Main Event earns Five (5) National Points
- First Place Consolation earns Four (4) National Points
- Second Place Consolation earns Three (3) National Points
- Third Place Consolation earns Two (2) National Points
- Fourth Place Consolation earns One (1) National Point

Members of the USA National Team who represent our country in International Tournament competition are also awarded eight (8) national points. No national points are awarded for placements in amateur or junior national tournaments.

### **ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS**

The Constitution and/or By-Laws of the Association may be made, altered, or rescinded by a ten-day (10) notice prior to the Semi-Annual Meeting and a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the qualified voting members of the Board of Directors, comprising those present and absentee ballot votes, to receive approval at the Annual Meeting. (See Article V of the By-Laws)