

Proposed Change to Bylaw(s)

Submitted by: Neil McNab (President GSSA), on behalf of the GSSA Bylaw Review Committee

Existing Bylaw:

Each applicant for GSSA membership shall submit their annual application on a form approved by the board, accompanied by the appropriate fees. Any application received that is incomplete or lacks the required supporting documentation shall be returned to the applicant.

Applications shall be filed with the secretary of the association. Applications for new associate memberships and affiliate memberships shall be presented to the membership at the next general membership meeting. That meeting may approve new memberships.

Bylaw w/ proposed change:

Each applicant for GSSA membership shall submit **an initial or annual** application on a form approved by the board, accompanied by the appropriate fees **and any required supporting documentation**. Any application received that is incomplete or lacks the required information shall be returned to the applicant **with notice of deficiencies**.

Applications shall be filed with **the Executive Director or their designee**. Applications for new associate memberships and affiliate memberships shall be presented to the **Board of Directors for review and recommendation** and then to the membership at the next general membership meeting **for approval**.

The Board of Directors may grant provisional membership status to new applicants who meet the minimum eligibility criteria established by policy. Provisional members shall have all rights and responsibilities of membership except voting privileges until final approval is granted by the general membership. Each provisional member shall be subject to a review within the first year of membership to confirm continued compliance with GSSA membership standards and eligibility requirements.

New adult-only member applications shall be reviewed at the next Adult Council meeting and new youth-only member applications shall be reviewed at the next Youth Council meeting. Joint applications for membership in both

adult and youth divisions shall be reviewed at the next General Council meeting.

How the Bylaw would read after proposed change:

Each applicant for GSSA membership shall submit an initial or annual application on a form approved by the board, accompanied by the appropriate fees and any required supporting documentation. Any application received that is incomplete or lacks the required information shall be returned to the applicant with notice of deficiencies.

Applications shall be filed with the Executive Director or their designee. Applications for new associate memberships and affiliate memberships shall be presented to the Board of Directors for review and recommendation and then to the membership at the next general membership meeting for approval.

The Board of Directors may grant provisional membership status to new applicants who meet the minimum eligibility criteria established by policy. Provisional members shall have all rights and responsibilities of membership except voting privileges until final approval is granted by the general membership. Each provisional member shall be subject to a review within the first year of membership to confirm continued compliance with GSSA membership standards and eligibility requirements.

New adult-only member applications shall be reviewed at the next Adult Council meeting and new youth-only member applications shall be reviewed at the next Youth Council meeting. Joint applications for membership in both adult and youth divisions shall be reviewed at the next General Council meeting.

Rationale:

The revised bylaw modernizes the membership application process, strengthens governance, and ensures consistent oversight across all divisions of GSSA. Key improvements include:

Providing the Board of Directors with the ability to grant provisional membership, allowing qualified applicants to engage with the Association while undergoing full review.

Requiring first-year compliance review to ensure new members remain aligned with GSSA standards.

Implementing a tiered review structure, routing adult applications to the Adult Council, youth applications to the Youth Council, and joint applications to the General Council, ensuring that each type of membership is evaluated by the appropriate group.

Clarifying administrative responsibilities by shifting application processing to the Executive Director's office.

Strengthening transparency and fairness with clearly defined eligibility criteria and required notice for incomplete applications.

These updates create a clear, efficient, and accountable pathway for all new GSSA members.