

# AAEP Bylaws Amendments

The following amendments are being presented for membership vote at the General Membership Meeting of the Annual Convention this year in Orlando on Monday, Dec. 9. Per our current bylaws, amendments can only be made in person at this meeting.

If Amendment 1 passes, then the subsequent amendments will be voted electronically. If Amendment 1 does not pass, we will call for votes on amendments 2-5 in Orlando.

Underlined sentences represent new language, with strikethroughs indicating language intended to be removed. After each amendment, the rationale for the change is provided for context.

## **Amendment 1**

These bylaws may be amended ~~at any annual meeting of the association only~~ by a majority vote of the ~~members present, active members who cast a vote (including via electronic means)~~, provided that the proposed amendment ~~has been approved by the board of directors and furnished to the membership for at least a 30 day review period followed by a 30 day voting period is made available to the membership in advance of the meeting~~, unless otherwise required by Illinois law.

***Rationale for the amendment: Allows for a greater level of member participation for future amendments and is not limited to just those that can attend the general membership meeting at the Annual Convention.***

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## **Amendment 2**

The Nominating Committee will prepare and present a slate of one or more nominees for the offices of ~~Vice President and~~ Treasurer for ~~election by~~ the board of directors at a meeting of the board of directors.

The Nominating Committee will prepare and present a slate of two nominees for the office of Vice President for election by the general membership.

***Rationale for the amendment: Member surveying in 2024 indicated that 57% of the respondents preferred voting on the vice presidential candidates, 27% preferred to have the Board select; and 16% had no strong preference either way.***

## **Amendment 3**

Election of ~~Officers-Treasurer~~: The ~~Vice President and~~ Treasurer will be elected by majority vote of the board of directors to oversee the financial goals of the organization. If two or more nominations are made and no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast on the

first ballot, the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes will be balloted upon again.

**Rationale for the amendment: Better describes the role of the treasurer.**

#### **Amendment 4**

Election of Vice President: The Vice President will be elected by majority vote of the voting membership. Once elected, the Vice President automatically assumes, in order, the office of President-elect, President and Immediate Past President in subsequent years at the close of the annual convention time of annual elections.

**Rationale for the amendment: Reiterates amendment 2 and outlines succession.**

#### **Amendment 5**

Disciplinary Proceedings:

(a) Any applicant or member may be subject to denial of membership, cancellation of membership or disciplinary action upon a two-thirds majority vote of the board of directors, excluding the officers, pursuant to a recommendation to take such action from the Professional Conduct and Ethics Committee. However, no applicant or member shall be deprived of membership without first being granted the opportunity to appeal the decision of the board of directors to the officers. Failure to appear before the officers at the time and place appointed by the officers will cause forfeiture of the right to appeal. Any decision taken by the officers shall be the final action that the association will take on this matter.

(b) Examples of circumstances which may constitute grounds for denial or cancellation of membership or disciplinary action are described in the Policy for Membership Denial and Disciplinary Procedures. include, but are not limited to:

- i) Failure to report action taken against the applicant's/member's veterinary or race track license by a regulatory agency or racing association on the American Association of Equine Practitioner's membership application/renewal form;
- ii) Action against an applicant's/member's veterinary or race track license by a regulatory agency or racing association in the form of fines, probation, suspension or revocation;
- iii) Failure to report action taken against the applicant/member by organizations governing horse shows, sales, equine events and breed registries in relation to the practice of veterinary medicine on the American Association of Equine Practitioners membership application/ renewal form;
- iv) Action taken by organizations governing horse shows, sales, equine events and breed registries in relation to the practice of veterinary medicine;
- v) Acts of fraud, misrepresentation, deceit or animal cruelty; vi) Violations of the Ethical and Professional Guidelines of the association as recommended by the Professional Conduct and Ethics Committee based on an application review or a complaint submitted by either another member in good standing or by the Executive Director;

~~vii) Any other reason that the Professional Conduct and Ethics Committee believes, in its discretion, warrants denial or cancellation of membership or other disciplinary action.~~

***Rationale for the amendment: This information is already contained within the Policy for Membership Denial and Disciplinary Procedures; therefore, is redundant to be contain herein.  
<https://aaep.org/resource/policy-for-membership-denial-and-disciplinary-procedures/>***