

**Society for Personality
and
Social Psychology, Inc.**

Bylaws

**Prepared summer 2003;
Bylaws revised 2007
Bylaws revised 2015
Bylaws revised 2019**

BYLAWS OF THE SOCIETY FOR PERSONALITY
AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, INC.
As approved 1/07

Article I. Name and Purpose

1. The name of this organization shall be the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Society").

2. The objects of the Society shall be to advance personality and social psychology as a science and as a means of promoting human welfare; and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to advance the theory, research, and practice of personality and social psychology by encouraging topics, holding meetings for the presentation of scientific papers, issuing publications containing scientific papers and other material pertinent or necessary to the furtherance of the Society's objectives, improving the qualifications and usefulness of personality and social psychologists through higher education and achievement of persons in the field, supporting activities encouraging the employment of personality and social psychologists in a wide variety of settings, and cooperating with other scientific and professional societies.

3. The purposes for which this corporation is formed are purely educational and not for financial gain, and no financial gain shall ever accrue to any member of this Corporation, nor any other person or institution, in the conduct of same.

Article II. Membership

1. The Society shall have four classes of membership: Full Members, Associates, Graduate Students, and Undergraduate Students. Specific criteria for membership will be determined by the Board of Directors according to the following definitions of each membership class.

2

3. Full Members shall possess an earned doctorate in psychology with work relevant to social and personality psychology.. Full Members shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of the Society without restriction, including the right to hold office and vote in elections.

4. Associates shall be social and personality psychologists who do not possess an earned doctorate in social or personality psychology or those with professional interests that cover social and personality psychology. Associates will have all the privileges of membership, save the right to vote and hold office. Otherwise, Associates shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of the Society not specifically denied them in these bylaws.

5. Graduate Students shall be students enrolled in a graduate psychology program with interest in the field of personality or social psychology. Graduates will have all the privileges of membership, save the right to vote and hold office.

6. Undergraduate Students shall be students enrolled in an undergraduate psychology program with interest in the field of personality or social psychology. Undergraduate Students will have all the privileges of membership, save the right to vote and hold office.

7. Persons interested in joining the Society must apply through means specified by the Board of Directors.

Article III. Officers

1. The officers of the Society shall be a President-Elect, a President, a Past President and a Treasurer.

2. The terms of the office for the President-Elect, President and the Past President shall be one year in each position, and for the Treasurer three years.

3. The President-Elect shall be a Full Member of the Society elected by the Full Members of the Society. It shall be the duty of the President-Elect to serve as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Society and to perform the duties of the President in the event or absence or incapacity of the President.

4. The President shall be a Full Member of the Society who has just completed his or her term as President-Elect. It shall be the duty of the President to serve as Chair of the Society, to preside at all meetings and to act as Chair of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Society, and to perform such other duties as are incident to his or her office, or as may properly be required by vote of the Board of Directors of the Society.

5. The Past President shall be the most recently retired President. It shall be the duty of the Past President to serve as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Society, and to receive nominations of officers and Board of Director members and to supervise their election.

6. The Treasurer shall be a Full Member of the Society who is elected by the Full Members of the Society. It shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer, in conjunction with the Central Office staff, to keep records of all meetings of the Society; to file and hold subject to call and to direct the publication of such records, reports and Proceedings as are authorized by these Bylaws and by vote of the members of the Society at any duly constituted meetings; to bring to the attention of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee and of the Society such matters as deemed necessary; to conduct the official correspondence of the Society; to issue official call and notices of meetings; to notify new members of their election, to sign such checks or other drafts upon the funds of the Society as may be necessary to execute, seal, and deliver any contracts, deeds, instruments, or other documents which shall be required on behalf of the Society by the Bylaws or by vote of the Society; to have custody of all funds and securities and to deposit same in the name of this Society in such bank or banks as the Society may direct; to have custody of all other property of the Society not otherwise expressly provided for by these Bylaws and to hold them subject to the order and direction of the Society; to collect dues and other debts due the Society by any persons whatsoever. The Treasurer shall, at any reasonable times, exhibit the books and accounts to any members of the Society upon written request, and in general shall perform all such duties as may be incident to the office or as properly may be required by vote of the members of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee at any duly constituted meetings.

7. In the case of the death, incapacity, or resignation of the President-Elect, the office shall remain vacant until the current year's election, at which time members of the Society shall elect an individual to serve the term of the missing President-Elect (as well as a new President-Elect to serve in the coming year, in the ordinary sequence). If the death, incapacity, or resignation of the President-Elect occurs too late in his or her term for the

successor to be elected by the regular election procedure, the successor shall be elected by a special ballot by the Full Members of the Society.

8. In the case of the death, incapacity, or resignation of the President, the office shall be filled by the President-Elect.

9. In the case of the death, incapacity, or resignation of the Treasurer, a new Treasurer shall be appointed by the President, subject to ratification by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, , to serve until a replacement may be duly elected at the next election of officers.

10. Any member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all currently serving members of the Board of Directors. This vote may take place at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, for nonfeasance, malfeasance, or misfeasance, for conduct detrimental to the interests of the Society, for lack of sympathy with its objective or for refusal to render reasonable assistance in carrying out its purpose.

Article IV. Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of twelve members: the four officers (the President, the President-Elect, the Past President, and the Treasurer), the Council Representative representing Division 8 in the Council of Representatives of the American Psychological Association with most seniority duly elected in accordance with established procedures of the American Psychological Association, and seven to be elected as At-Large Members of the Board of Directors. Additional persons may be invited to participate but not vote in Board of Director meetings. The Executive Director serves as an ex-officio member of the Board with voice but no vote.

2. Council representatives shall be elected to three-year terms in accordance with the Bylaws of the American Psychological Association. Council Representatives shall represent Division 8 on the Council of Representatives of the Association as well as serve on the Board of Directors of the Society. In the event that APA solicits more than one Council Representative, only the one with most seniority shall serve on the Board of Directors of the Society. Council Representatives shall be elected each year that the Society is eligible for representation in accordance with the Bylaws of the Association.

3. At-Large Members shall be Full Members of the Society elected by the membership to serve terms of up to three years on the Board of Directors. At-Large Members shall be elected each year as necessary to bring the Board of Directors to a membership of twelve. Insofar as possible, At-Large Members shall be divided into three classes to contain as nearly as may be one third of the whole number of At-Large Members.

4. Members of the Board of Directors, with the exception of Council Representatives and Treasurer, shall be ineligible for re-election to their current positions after a three-year term without at least one year intervening.

5. In case of death, incapacity, or resignation of a Council Representative or an At-Large Member, a successor shall be appointed by the President to serve until a replacement may be duly elected at the next election of officers, subject to ratification by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

6. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at any time on the call of the President or Treasurer. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of a majority of the Board of Directors. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the Board of Directors members present at a meeting, except as specifically provided in Section III.10 of the by-laws.

7. The Board of Directors shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Society, performing the duties and abiding by the limitations specified in these Bylaws, and overseeing the delegation of duties to the Central Office staff. The Board of Directors shall have the power to make such contracts and to provide for the delivery of such deeds, documents, and instruments as shall be necessary for the carrying out of all purposes, functions, and other business of the Society, and shall be authorized by vote of the members of the Society at any duly constituted meeting, or as may be provided elsewhere by these Bylaws.

8. The President shall serve as Chair of the Board of Directors, and the Treasurer of the Society as Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Article V. Elections

1. The officers and members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the Full Members of the Society.

2. A call for nominations shall be issued by mail or by electronic distribution for the office of President-Elect each year; Council Representative every year of eligibility; Treasurer, and At-Large Members as necessary to maintain the Executive Committee at a size of eleven members.

3. Not longer than six months after closing the nominating ballot, the final ballot shall be mailed or made available electronically to eligible voting members and fellows.

4. Election shall be by means of a preferential voting system, and at least two nominees shall be named for each office. Voters shall rank order each candidate in one ballot. If one candidate gets fifty percent or more of all the first preference votes, that candidate will be selected on the first count. If no candidate gets fifty percent or more of the first preference votes, the candidate with the fewest number "1" votes is dropped and its votes are re-cast to the candidate each voter ranked next. This continues until one candidate gets fifty percent or more of the votes cast.

5. If a person who is already a member of the Board of Directors is elected to another position by which he or she becomes an officer or member of the Board of Directors, he or she must resign one of these positions.

6. All members of the Board of Directors shall assume office on January 1st following their election and hold office until their successors are elected and assume office.

Article VI. Meetings

1. The Annual Business Meeting of the Society shall be held at the time and place of the Annual Conference of the Society, the exact time and place to be set by the Board of Directors.

2. Special meetings of the Society shall be held any time upon the call of the Board of Directors or of 100 members of the Society.

3. Notice of the meetings, in writing or by electronic distribution, for every annual or special meeting of the members of the Society shall be prepared and sent to the last known post office or email address of each member, not less than thirty days before such meeting unless notice be already included in the regular announcement of the Convention.

4. A quorum at any meeting of the members of the Society shall consist of fifty or more members in good standing.

5. A majority of members attending a meeting of the Society may authorize a referendum of the total membership on any matter that is of concern to the membership. Such a referendum shall be conducted by the Board of Directors or by a committee appointed by the Board of Directors to carry out the referendum.

Article VII. Committees

1. The Executive Committee, consisting of the four officers and Executive Director (as ex-officio with voice and no vote), shall be a standing committee. The Executive Committee retains authority to act on behalf of the Board of Directors per authority defined and approved annually by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee oversees and delegates the work of the Executive Director.

2. Special Committees may be initiated by majority vote of the Board of Directors. Establishment of a Special Committee must be accompanied by specifications of its membership and by a specific budget authorization.

3. Task Forces may be initiated by majority vote of the Board of Directors and those task forces will automatically dissolve after one year unless renewed by the Board. Establishment of a Task Force must be accompanied by specifications of its membership and by a specific budget authorization.

Article VIII. Finances

1. Annual dues and assessments shall be established by the Board of Directors and shall include subscription to such publication as may be determined by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may reduce dues or assessments for students or for members of other groups.

3. The fiscal year of the Society shall commence on January 1 of each year and end on December 31.

Article IX. Amendments

1. Voting on amendments to or repeal of these Bylaws may take place at any time and will be accomplished by means of a mail or electronic ballot of the Full Members. A majority vote of those who return ballots within 30 days of the date of mailing shall carry the vote. The notice of the amendments or repeal shall be sent with the ballot and shall describe the substance of the proposed action. Amendments or repeal shall be initiated by a majority vote of the Board of Directors or by a petition of at least 100 members of the Society.