



**The South Carolina  
Speech-Language-Hearing  
Association (SCSHA)  
Bylaws**

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## **Article I: Name**

The name of this nonprofit corporation shall be the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association (SCSHA) and will hereafter be referred to as “the Association”.

## **Article II: Purpose**

The purpose of this organization shall be to (1) advocate for the rights of persons with communication disorders; (2) foster improvement of clinical services and procedures with such disorders; (3) stimulate exchange of information among persons and organizations thus engaged and disseminate such information; (4) promote the individual and collective professional interests of the Members of the Association; (5) promote investigation and prevention of disorders of human communication and related disorders; and (6) encourage basic scientific study of human communication and study of human communication disorders with special reference to speech, hearing and language.

## **Article III: Membership**

### **Section 1: Eligibility**

**Voting Member (Audiologists, SLPs, SLTs, SLPAs, and Speech-Language-Hearing Scientists):** A professional member is an individual who is employed as a speech, language, or hearing professional (Audiologist, SLP, SLT, SLPA, or Speech-Language-Hearing Scientist). Voting members are eligible for all privileges and benefits of association membership.

**Non-voting Member (professionals or researchers in related disciplines or community members):** Non-voting members are defined as professionals or researchers who have completed a degree (graduate or undergraduate) in a related discipline or community members. Non-voting members are interested in promoting the purposes, objectives, and activities of the Association. Non-voting members are eligible to serve on standing committees and to attend the annual business meeting of the Association. Non-voting members are not eligible to vote, hold elected offices, or chair committees.

**Student:** Student members are defined as those individuals who are enrolled in a degree program at the bachelor's, master's, or doctoral level in Communication Sciences and Disorders (which includes Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology) or a related discipline at a regionally accredited higher education institution. Student members are interested in promoting the purposes, objectives, and activities of the Association. Student members are eligible to serve on standing committees and to attend the annual business meeting of the Association. Student members are not eligible to vote, hold

elected office, or chair committees. Upon degree completion, student members must renew at the voting or non-voting membership level.

**Life:** Individuals who have held voting membership in the Association for 20 consecutive years and are age 65 or older are eligible for life membership . This status will grant all rights and privileges awarded to a voting member. Life membership dues shall be assessed at a reduced rate. Application forms for Life membership will be available on the website.

## **Section 2. Dues**

Changes to the annual dues required for each class of membership must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Promotions that involve reduction in membership dues or waiving of membership dues must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

## **Section 3. Termination of Membership**

Any member who violates the bylaws or the Code of Ethics of the Association shall be suspended by a majority vote of the Executive Board. Persons who have been suspended may, upon application and recommendation of the Executive Board, be reinstated after one year by a majority vote of the Executive Board

# **Article IV: Executive Board**

## **Section 1: Composition**

The Executive Board consists of the following ten (10) voting officers: The President, the seven (7) Vice Presidents, President Elect, and the President Elect-Elect. The Past President remains on the Executive Board for one year but does not vote on Executive Board motions.

## **Section 2: Responsibility**

The Executive Board is the legally responsible management body and supervises, controls, and directs the affairs and objectives of the Association. The Executive Board has the discretion in the disbursement of funds under the established policies. The actions of the Executive Board are reported to the membership through meetings and Association communications.

### **Section 3: Term of Office**

The President Elect-Elect serves for four consecutive one-year terms: one as President Elect-Elect, one as President Elect, one as President, and one as Past President, respectively. Each Vice President serves a two-year term. After serving as Past President, the individual may not serve as a President Elect-Elect for at least 2 years.

### **Section 4: Nominations/Elections**

The President-Elect-Elect shall present to the Executive Board a slate of nominees for review for each open elected position at the fall meeting. One-half of the Vice President positions shall stand for election in even numbered years and the one-half of the Vice President positions shall stand for election in odd numbered years, as designated by the Executive Board in its Policies and Procedures. All voting members of the Association will receive an electronic ballot to vote for candidates nominated for each office. The nominee receiving the most votes is the elected member.

### **Section 5: Meetings**

The Executive Board shall hold regularly scheduled meetings at least four times annually throughout the year. Additional meetings shall be scheduled as needed. A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of voting members of the Executive Board. At the discretion of the Executive Board, business of the Executive Board may be conducted by telephone or other electronic method.

### **Section 6: Vacancies**

Should a vacancy in the Executive Board occur, the resultant vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the following procedure. If the vacancy is in the Presidency, the President Elect automatically becomes President and serves the remainder of the vacated term, in addition to the term to which the officer was previously elected. If the vacancy is in the office of President Elect, the President Elect-Elect automatically becomes President Elect and serves the remainder of the vacated term, in addition to the term to which the officer was previously elected. If the vacancy occurs in other elected offices, the Executive Board shall appoint a member to serve the remainder of the vacated term until the next election for that office.

### **Section 8: Removal From Office**

Any elected member of the Executive Board may be removed from office in

accordance with the following procedure: A written petition signed by 20 voting members of the Association shall be presented to a member of the Council for action in accordance with the procedures determined by the Council, such procedures to include provisions for the conduct of fair hearings and right to appeal by the voting member elected to the office involved. The voting members of the Council must approve the petition for removal by three-fourths written or electronic vote. Thereafter, the petition for removal shall be submitted promptly to the members of the Association by electronic method. Three-fourths of the voting members of the Association must approve the petition for removal.

### **Section 9: Qualifications**

Any Executive Board member must work in the state to be elected to the Executive Board. If a board member ceases to work in the state in the middle of the term of office, the Executive Board will vote to determine whether to allow the Executive Board member that no longer works in the state to continue in their position until the end of the term.

## **Article V: Council/Committee/Task Force**

### **Section 1: Council Composition**

The Council consists of the Executive Board, the committee/task force chairs and ex officio members.

### **Section 2: Responsibilities**

Committees/Task Forces are responsible to the Executive Board member having jurisdiction as described in the Policies and Procedures of the Association. All Executive Board members shall be responsible for attending Executive Board meetings.

### **Section 3. Formation/Dissolution**

The Executive Board may establish and/or dissolve any standing committees/task forces, designating their charges, size, composition and term. The Executive Board may establish and/or dissolve any task forces, ad hoc committees, networks and working groups designating their charges, size, composition, terms and budgets.

## **Article VI: Policies and Procedures**

The Executive Board shall establish written policies and procedures for all functions of the Association management. Such policies and procedures shall be reviewed annually and revised as necessary.

#### **Article VII: Annual Business Meeting**

An annual business meeting shall be held at a time and place determined by the Executive Board. The time and place should be published to the membership at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

#### **Article VIII: Rules of Order**

The President shall adopt procedures of his/her choice necessary for the performance of Association duties and the governance of its operations. All business conducted must be by a positive majority vote. A majority vote is a majority vote of the entire Executive Board reduced by any vacancies existing at the time.

#### **Article IX: Amendments or Changes to the Bylaws**

The bylaws may be amended or any part thereof repealed, provided that the President has been provided at least 30 days notice prior to the regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Board. Any amendment so submitted shall be presented to the membership at a regular meeting of the Association, voted on by electronic ballot, and shall require for adoption a two-thirds vote of those members voting.

The Executive Board may make editorial changes as long as content or meaning are not changed. These changes may include (a) changing the order of sentences; (b) numbering of sections; (c) changing terminology for consistency within the document; (d) punctuation, capitalization, spelling, grammar and other editorial matters.

#### **Article X: Code of Ethics**

Members of the South Carolina Speech-Language-Hearing Association shall abide by the Code of Ethics of the Association.

#### **Article XI: Non-discrimination**

The Association shall not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identification, gender, or disability. All programs and activities of the Association are conducted in furtherance of this policy.

#### **Article XII: Finances**

The Association shall operate as a non-profit organization and shall take all action necessary to qualify for and obtain non-profit status with all appropriate governmental bodies.

#### **Article XIII: Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Association shall be fixed by the Executive Board from time to time, subject to the appropriate law.

#### **Article XIV: Dissolution**

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Executive Board, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the Corporation, shall dispose of all assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operating exclusively for charitable, educational or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify, under Section 501 (c) (6) or 501 (c) (3).of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Revenue law), as the Executive Board shall determine. Any such asset not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas for the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operating exclusively for such purpose.