

**AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ACADEMY OF SPORTS MEDICINE**  
**BYLAWS**  
**Last Revised: August 2025**

**Article I: Name and Location**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine.

Section 2. The American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine shall be incorporated as a nonprofit corporation.

Section 3. The headquarters of the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine shall be located at the specific order of the Board.

**Article II: Definition**

Section 1. Sports medicine is that branch of the healing arts profession that utilizes a holistic, comprehensive approach to the prevention, diagnosis, and management of sport and exercise-related injuries, illnesses, dysfunctions and exercise-related disease processes.

Section 2. The Osteopathic Sports Medicine Physician's practice shall include:

- a) Providing comprehensive medical management of the athlete across a broad scope of specialties
- b) Recognition of the importance of utilizing osteopathic and other special manual medicine techniques in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of neuromusculoskeletal injuries, illnesses, dysfunctions and exercise-related disease processes.
- c) Understanding the principles of performance enhancers, coaching techniques, training methods and sport specific rules and regulations.
- d) Understanding the science of injury prevention and recognition, advanced rehabilitation techniques and epidemiology.
- e) Application and promotion of wellness concepts to the general public.
- f) Application of sports science in improving the health care of athletes, in general, and in special populations.

Section 3. The term athlete refers to an individual who is engaged in sport, exercise or physical activity at the recreational, industrial, competitive, professional or elite level.

### **Article III: Goals**

The goals of the AOASM shall be as follows:

- a) Be the leader in promoting and advancing the specialty of osteopathic sports medicine and to maintain, support and encourage high standards of learning and ethics in the pursuit and practice of that specialty.
- b) Maintain an active liaison with the American Osteopathic Association.
- c) Sponsor, promote, and encourage educational programs and the publication of scholarly works in the discipline of sports medicine.
- d) Assume primary responsibility for the development of continuing educational programs that help prepare physicians for the examination leading to a Certification of Added Qualification (CAQ) in Sports Medicine.
- e) Sponsor, promote and encourage research and study in the art and practice of osteopathic sports medicine for the purpose of benefiting mankind, and advancing the learning and understanding of the profession.
- f) Advance the knowledge and understanding of osteopathic sports medicine and encourage and instruct physicians and surgeons with a dedicated interest in osteopathic sports medicine and the structural relationship to health and disease.
- g) Cooperate and coordinate the functions of this organization with the American Osteopathic Association and its divisional societies in all matters determined to be in the best interest of the profession.
- h) Support and promote sports medicine fellowship training programs, especially those with osteopathic recognition.

### **Article IV: Membership and Dues**

Section I. Membership in the Academy shall be of several classes as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors. Classification of membership shall include: Honorary, Physician, Early Career, Resident/Fellow, Affiliate, Lifetime, and Student.

**Honorary:** Honorary membership may be granted by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors to any person considered qualified by the Board of Directors for noteworthy and outstanding service to the general science of osteopathic medicine and the specialty of sports medicine. Such Honorary membership may be granted to persons who are not licensed osteopathic physicians and surgeons, but who have through their endeavors, made substantial and noteworthy contributions to the advancement of osteopathic medicine and the specialty of sports medicine. Honorary members shall have no voting privileges.

**Physician:** Physician membership may be conferred upon those applicants who are duly qualified, active, and practicing physicians who graduate from either a COCA or LCGME approved medical

school. In addition, each applicant eligible for physician membership in the American Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine shall meet the following minimum requirements:

- a.) They shall be and continue to be recognized in their community and by their patients as a physician who is interested in the practice of osteopathic sports medicine.
- b.) They have completed AOA-approved post-doctoral training or ACGME-approved postdoctoral training and have demonstrated interest and proficiency in Osteopathic Principles and Practices (OPP) in their clinical practice.

**Early Career:** A physician who applies for membership to the AOASM within the first thirty-six (36) months of graduating from an accredited residency or fellowship is eligible for the early career membership category, which provides members with all the same benefits and rights as the physician member category, but at a reduced fee. That fee will apply only for the first thirty-six (36) months of membership in the AOASM. This period will commence January 1 of the year following the completion of the training program. The period will end thirty-six (36) months following the said start date. After that time frame expires, the physician will be automatically placed into the Physician category.

**Resident/Fellow:** Any physician who applies for membership while currently in an accredited Residency or Fellowship program will have their membership year extended through December 31st of the year that physician graduates from the program. After that time, the physician will be eligible for early career membership. Resident/Fellow members shall have no voting rights.

**Affiliate:** Affiliate membership is conferred upon those applicants who are involved in sports medicine but who do not meet the requirements of the physician membership category. Affiliate membership includes those with Ph.D., P.A., A.T.C., P.T., D.P.T., N.P., or D.C. degrees, as well as physicians (MD, MBBS, or DO) who do not meet the criteria for the physician membership category. Affiliate members shall have no voting rights.

Affiliate members have the following privileges:

- a) Serve on committees
- b) Receive discounts for conferences
- c) Have access to the “Members Only” section of the web site.

Affiliate members cannot:

- a) Vote or hold any office in AOASM
- b) Chair any committee, task force or ad hoc committee
- c) Be awarded the AOASM Award of Fellow.

**Lifetime:** Lifetime membership may be granted to any member with the following qualifications:

- a) 65 years old or older
- b) Maintain 10 years consecutive membership
- c) Retired from practice.

Lifetime members are not required to pay dues and will receive a 50% discount on the Clinical Conference. These individuals cannot be elected to offices and cannot vote. Lifetime members may receive the journal at cost.

**Student:** Student membership is granted to applicants who are currently enrolled in a COCA or LCGME accredited college of medicine. Student members shall have no voting rights.

**Affiliate Student:** Affiliate Student membership is granted to applicants who are currently enrolled in an advanced degree program including but not limited to the following: D.P.T, A.T.C., Ph.D., D.M.D., and PharmD. Affiliate Student members shall have no voting rights.

Section 2. The membership year shall renew annually. The membership year is January 1 through December 31 of the same calendar year.

Section 3. Members who fail to pay membership dues shall be placed on the inactive membership list.

- A. **Active members:** members are considered active if they pay dues within the same calendar year.
- B. **Inactive members:** members who fail to pay membership dues within the same calendar year shall be placed on the inactive membership list.
- C. **Members in good standing:** Members are considered in good standing if the following criteria are met:
  - I. Attend the AOASM annual conference or the annual fall conference at OMED once every three years.
    1. Those members attending the sessions at OMED must register under sports medicine to be recognized as an attendee.
  - II. Are considered active members as defined above.

Section 4. Complaints and Charges.

The code of ethics of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) shall be the code of this academy.

If a complaint is lodged against a member, a review committee will be convened by the president of the Academy or their designee within 30-days of the receipt of the complaint. The committee will review the complaint and based on their investigation, which may or may not include a direct inquiry with the accused member, a recommendation will be made to the Board of Directors (BOD) no later than 30 days after the formation of the committee. The BOD may, by a two-thirds majority vote, revoke membership, suspend and place the member on probation, or censure the member if the board, in its judgement, deems it to be in the best interest of the academy. The time of suspension, probation or censorship should not exceed three years.

Any member against whom action has been taken with respect to an alleged breach of the code of ethics shall have the right to appeal for a review of the record of such action by the BOD. This appeal should be received within 30 days of receipt of the final BOD decision

Section 5. **Dues.** The dues for each classification of membership shall be reviewed at a minimum of every three years by the BOD and approved accordingly.

## Article V: Officers and Board Members

Section 1. **Board of Directors:** Only Physician members of the Academy may become members of the Board of Directors.

The Board shall consist of fifteen (15) voting and two (2) non-voting members as follows:

- a. Officers: President, President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, Immediate Past President, First and Second Vice President. These members shall also be considered as members of the Executive Committee
- b. Nine (9) board members.
- c. Ex officio nonvoting members will include the AOASM senior editor of the *Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine* and one Past President as elected by the Past Presidents' Advisory Council

Section 2. Election and Terms of Office.

1. **Board Members:** The members of the board shall be elected by the general membership in staggered three (3) year terms. Qualified candidates shall be nominated and reviewed by the Nominating Committee and the final slate of candidates presented to the BOD for approval before being presented to the general membership for election. Nominated Directors shall be voted on and elected by the Membership. Each Director shall hold office for a period of three years.
2. **Officers:**
  - a. Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors. The officers will serve a six-year term once elected, serving a one-year term in the following rotation: Secretary/Treasurer, Second Vice President, First Vice President, President-Elect, President and Immediate Past President. Annually, the Board of Directors shall vote on the Secretary/Treasurer.
  - b. The term of office of all Officers shall be one year or until their respective successors are chosen, but any Officer may be removed from office at any meeting of the Board of Directors by a 2/3 majority of the Directors, when, in their judgment, the best interest of the Academy will be so served. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the reelection of any Officer.
3. Ex-Officio (non-voting) Members:
  - a. AOASM Senior Editor of the *Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine*: The Senior Editor shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and serve a term of five years.
  - b. Past President: The Past President shall be elected by the Past Presidents' Advisory Council. They must be five years removed from holding a position on the Executive Committee and shall serve a term of three years.

Section 3. **Duties and Powers.**

1. Board of Directors: The corporate powers, property and affairs of the Academy, subject to its Articles of Incorporation, shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by the Board of Directors, who shall create and direct such committees as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the Academy. The Board shall set fees, dues and assessments of members. It shall adopt rules and regulations, set standards and qualifications for membership and determine membership privileges and obligations, and may hold hearings on membership status as defined under Article IV, Section 4. The Board will also have the power to receive gifts and donations to the Academy.

2. **Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee shall have the authority of the Board of Directors in the management of the business of the Academy between the meetings of the Board.
3. **Officers:**
  - a. **President.** The President shall exercise general supervision over the affairs of the Academy and shall preside over all meetings of the members. The President shall be elected for one year and shall hold office as a member of the Board for one year subsequent to their term as President. It is the intent that there shall always be at least one Past President who is a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.
  - b. **President-Elect.** The President-Elect shall, in the absence or disability of the President, perform the duties and exercise the powers of the President and shall perform such other duties as shall be delegated by the President, or prescribed by the Board of Directors. The President-Elect shall be the Nominating Committee chair.
  - c. **Vice Presidents.** There shall be two Vice Presidents, a First Vice President and a Second Vice President. The two Vice-Presidents shall be in the line of ascendancy to become President. On the occasion of the election of new Officers and Board Members, the First Vice President will ascend to the office of President-Elect, and the Second Vice-President will ascend to the office of First Vice-President. The First Vice President shall be program chair for the annual spring conference that follows their ascension to that position. The Second Vice President is the chair of the sports medicine section of OMED, held annually in the fall that follows their ascension to that position.
  - d. **Secretary/Treasurer.** The Secretary/Treasurer or their designate shall perform all duties of the Secretary/Treasurer. The Secretary/Treasurer shall oversee recording of the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and all conclaves of the members. They shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all conclaves of the members and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors or by the President. The Secretary/Treasurer, or their designee, shall be the custodian of the funds of the Academy and shall deposit the money, or any other valuables, in a depository designed by the Board of Directors. They shall submit a regular report to the Board of Directors.
4. **Attendance:** All members of Executive Committee and Board of Directors are expected to attend 75% of all scheduled meetings. Members who do not comply with the attendance policy will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for corrective actions.

Section 4. **Vacancies.** Whenever a vacancy occurs in any of the BOD positions, by virtue of death, illness, resignation or removal, the President, upon approval of a majority of the Board, shall appoint a member to fill the vacancy for the balance of that term of office.

Whenever a vacancy occurs in any Officer position, by virtue of death, illness, resignation or removal, the President, upon approval of a majority of the Board, shall appoint a member to fill the Secretary/Treasurer position. The remaining Officers will ascend to the next Officer position for the remainder of the year.

## Article VI Meetings

1. **Board of Directors' Meetings.** The regular Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held immediately preceding the Annual Meeting of the membership for the purpose of conducting business of the Academy. Additional meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at such time and at such place as may, from time to time, be determined by resolution of the Board or upon call of the President.
2. **Special Meetings.** Special Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at any time or place upon the call of the President, by request of ten members of the Board, or by request of members having one-twentieth of the votes entitled to be cast at such meeting. Oral or written notice of the time and place and purpose of all special meetings of the Board should be duly served or sent to each Director not less than ten days before the meeting. Meetings may be held at any time without notice if all the Directors are present or if those not present waive notice in writing of the time, place and purpose of such a meeting.
3. **The Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee will meet on a regular basis as deemed appropriate by the President to discuss matters relating to the management of the business of the Academy between the meetings of the Board. The President shall serve as Chairman; the Secretary/Treasurer or their appropriate delegate shall keep records of all meetings and report all meetings and actions to the Board of Directors.
4. **Annual Meeting.** The Annual Meeting of the Membership shall be held at any location, either within or outside the State of Wisconsin, as determined by the Board of Directors.
  - a. The Annual Meeting of the members of the Academy shall be held during the annual spring conference. Notice of the time, place and purpose of such meeting shall be made known to all members.
  - b. A special meeting of the members may be called at any time by the President or by a majority of the Board of Directors. The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare and communicate to each member notice of the time, place and purpose of such meeting at least 10 days, and not more than 60 days prior, to any special meeting of the members.

## **Article VII: Quorum and Proxies**

Section 1. A majority of the members registered for the Annual Meeting or other Special Meeting shall constitute a quorum at such a meeting.

Section 2. A majority of the Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

## Article VIII: Finances

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall have general supervision over all the financial affairs of the Academy.

Section 2. All checks for the disbursement of funds shall be signed by the Secretary/Treasurer or their designee.

Section 3. The Secretary/Treasurer shall submit to the Board of Directors such reports as may be ordered by the Board and shall submit to the Board of Directors and/or Executive Committee, at each scheduled meeting, reports of all transactions as Secretary/Treasurer and that of the financial condition of the organization.

### **Article IX: Standing Committees and Task Forces**

The Board of Directors may create standing committees to perform functions that are of a long term or continuous nature. The President may create task forces to perform specific functions during that President's term of office. Task forces will generally cease to function at the conclusion of the President's term. However, task forces can be continued by successor Presidents or may be replaced by a standing committee by action of the Board of Directors.

The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, or unless otherwise provided for in these Bylaws, shall appoint members to the standing committees to fill vacancies on those committees. The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, or unless otherwise provided for in these Bylaws, shall appoint the chair of the standing committee.

Appointments to standing committees will be for a three-year term. It is the intent of these Bylaws that one-third of the committee members rotate off each committee each year. However, committee members can be appointed for consecutive terms on a committee.

The Secretary/Treasurer will be responsible for maintaining an official roster of committee members, dates of service, officer liaison, committee purpose, etc., to ensure that the terms of office are known and that the appropriate rotation off committees occurs.

The task forces will report to the President who will, in turn, report on their behalf to the Board.

#### **Past President's Advisory Committee**

The Past President's Advisory Committee shall be responsible for advising the Board on actions before the Board. The Past President's Advisory Committee will be represented on the Board of Directors by the Immediate Past President who shall serve as liaison between the Board and the Committee. This committee will also recommend to the BOD a member who is 5 years or more removed from service on the Executive Committee to serve as an ex-officio member. This term shall be three years, but the past president may request a shorter term, if circumstances arise that would prevent them from serving a full three year term. This shorter term must be approved by the Board of Directors.

#### **Nominating Committee**

It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for the positions of Secretary/Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors and present the same to the Board of Directors at the meeting prior to the Annual Membership Meeting. The Academy may conduct elections electronically. Any member entitled to vote may vote for Directors electronically. Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent members from making appropriate nominations to fill vacancies from the floor at any conclave called for the purpose of electing Directors.

The Board of Directors will establish other committees to conduct the business of the Academy.

#### American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates

The delegates for the AOA House of Delegates shall be determined as follows; the delegate will be determined by the AOASM Board of Directors and shall serve a three-year term. The current president may serve as alternate.

#### **Article X: Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended or repealed or new Bylaws may be adopted by the following measures:

- 1) The affirmative vote of the majority of the members present at any annual or special meeting of the members, or
- 2) The affirmative vote of a majority of the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting of the Board; provided, however, that the Board of Directors shall not make or alter any Bylaws, fix their qualifications, classifications or term of office, nor alter any Bylaw, which forbids amendment by the Board of Directors.

Amendments to the Bylaws shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees of the American Osteopathic Association.

The Board of Directors may amend or repeal a Bylaw adopted by the members, unless the Bylaw prohibits amendment by the Board of Directors.

#### Article XI: Dissolution - Disposition of Assets

Upon the dissolution of the AOASM, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code, or shall be distributed to the Federal Government, or to a State or Local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of 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 operated exclusively for such purposes.

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