

American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons

BYLAWS (Membership Requirements)

ARTICLE I: NAME, SEAL & PURPOSE

We the members of the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons, a nonprofit association incorporated in the state of Illinois, do hereby set forth the following bylaws of the Association.

SECTION A. PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The principal office of the Association shall be in the State of Illinois. The Association may also have offices in other places as the Executive Board shall determine to be desirable.

SECTION B. SEAL

The Association does not have a seal.

SECTION C. PURPOSE

The purpose shall be:

1. To increase knowledge of the hip and knee joint in health and disease.
2. To provide educational opportunities which will promote the highest level of professional standards in patient care of disorders of the hip and knee.
3. To create an optimum environment to enhance education, research, and treatment of arthritis of the hip and knee joint.
4. To promote and maintain professional standards to provide the best care to patients with arthritic disorders of the hip and knee joint.
5. To determine optimal standards for education of fellows in the surgery of the arthritic hip and knee.
6. To ethically promote the members' welfare.
7. To promote the interests of musculoskeletal patients and the profession of adult reconstructive surgery

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A. CATEGORIES

There shall be five categories of membership in the Association: Active, Honorary, Emeritus, Associate and Candidate.

SECTION B. REQUIREMENTS

There shall be basic requirements for all categories of membership. Membership shall be by written application and requires letters of recommendation by two Active members familiar with the applicant's practice.

SECTION C. CONTINGENCY

Membership shall be contingent upon compliance with the Bylaws of the Association.

SECTION D. SIZE

The size of the membership shall be unlimited.

SECTION E. DUES

Membership application fee and annual dues will be determined by the Executive Board.

SECTION F. ACTIVE MEMBERS

1. Eligibility for active membership
 - a. An orthopaedic surgeon living in the United States or Canada who has an interest in the advancement of orthopaedic knowledge of the hip and knee joint in health and/or arthritic disorders.
 - b. Shall be a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons or be a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Orthopaedics in Canada.
 - c. A candidate for membership shall have at least 50 percent of his/her medical practice devoted to total hip or knee replacement and/or perform a minimum of 50 total hip and/or knee arthroplasties or osteotomies about the hip and/or knee each year.
2. Rights and Duties of Active Members
 - a. May vote.
 - b. May serve on committees of the Association.
 - c. May hold office in the Association.
 - d. Must pay yearly dues.
 - e. Must maintain good professional and ethical standings in their community.
 - f. Must attend at least every fourth meeting of the Association.

SECTION G. HONORARY MEMBERS

Honorary members shall be individuals whom the Association deems worthy of special acknowledgment due to notable contributions in the advancement of knowledge of the hip and knee joint in health and/or disease, or because of long standing or special interest in or service to the Association. They are not required to attend scientific meetings or pay dues, initiation fees or assessments, but neither can they vote nor hold office or attend business meetings of the Association.

SECTION H. EMERITUS MEMBERS

Upon application, active members who have been forced to curtail clinical and/or scientific activities due to illness, disability, and/or retirement may request Emeritus status, subject to the approval of the Executive Board. Emeritus Members are not required to attend scientific meetings or pay dues or assessments. They cannot serve on committees of the Association nor hold any office.

SECTION I. ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

1. Individuals who are not members of the AAOS or Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons of Orthopaedics in Canada may apply for Associate membership. These individuals will not reside in the United States or Canada.
2. Individuals who are not eligible for Active membership but are intimately involved with hip and knee surgeons (i.e., researchers, engineers, scientists or industry leaders who have an interest in hip and knee arthroplasty) may apply for Associate membership. An Associate member must fulfill all of the other criteria of active membership. They shall be notable for their contributions in advancement of knowledge of hip and knee joints in health and disease or because of long-standing special interest or service to the Association.
3. Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) who do not complete allopathic residency programs and are not eligible for ABOS Certification, but who do complete hip and/or knee adult reconstruction fellowship programs, can be eligible for Associate membership, if they fulfill all other membership requirements.

4. Rights and Duties of Associate Members
 - a. May serve on committees.
 - b. Must pay initiation fee and yearly dues.
 - c. Must maintain good professional and ethical standards in their community.
 - d. Must attend at least every fourth meeting of the Association.

SECTION J. CANDIDATE MEMBERS

1. Eligibility for Candidate membership
 - a. Shall be a Board-Eligible Orthopaedic Surgeon living in North America who has an interest in the advancement of orthopaedic knowledge of the hip and knee joint in health and/or arthritic disorders.
 - b. Members in this category will be eligible for up to three years, after which the Candidate member would have to apply to become an Active Member and fulfill the requirements of that category.
2. Rights and Duties of Candidate Members
 - a. Cannot vote.
 - b. Cannot serve on committees of the Association but may attend meetings as a non-voting participant.
 - c. Cannot hold office in the Association.
 - d. Must pay discounted yearly dues for up to three years, until the Candidate member is able to generate enough cases to qualify (and apply for) Active status in the organization.
 - e. Must maintain good professional and ethical standings in their community.
 - f. Candidate Members are encouraged to attend the annual meetings of the Association at a discounted registration fee.

SECTION K. ELECTION OF MEMBERS

1. **Active, Candidate and Associate Members**
 - a. A potential member who fulfills eligibility requirements may submit an application for membership to the Membership Committee.
 - b. A slate of eligible candidates shall be submitted to the Executive Board by the Membership Committee at least one month prior to the annual meeting of the Association.
 - c. The Executive Committee will vote on proposed new members. A plurality of affirmative votes by the Executive Board is required.
 - d. Applicants approved by the Executive Board will be recommended to the membership for a vote at the annual meeting. A plurality of votes shall elect.
2. **Honorary Members**

Honorary Members shall be nominated by the Executive Board and presented to the membership at the annual meeting for confirmation by the membership.

SECTION L. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

1. Completed sponsoring documents for membership must be submitted to the Chairman of the Membership Committee by **May 15**.
2. The applicant must provide:
 - a. A list of hip and/or knee arthroplasties or osteotomies he/she performed during the year prior to application for membership.
 - b. Proof of Board certification or eligibility must be provided by the applicant. (Active and Candidate only)
 - c. Proof of membership in the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons or Royal College of Surgeons in Canada. (Active and Candidate only)
 - d. A letter of recommendation by two Active Association members.
 - e. Current curriculum vitae.

SECTION M. NOTIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP

1. All new Active, Candidate, Honorary, Emeritus, and Associate members shall be notified of their membership status by the Secretary of the Association. They shall be sent a copy of the Bylaws of the Association and a membership certificate.
2. The Secretary shall be responsible for informing the unsuccessful candidates of the outcome of their application.

SECTION N. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

1. A member in good standing may resign at any time after providing written notice to the Secretary of the Association and fulfilling all obligations to the Association.
2. A member who has failed to pay the annual dues within a time specified by the Executive Board after a written reminder shall forfeit membership.
3. A member who fails to attend one of four consecutive annual meetings shall forfeit membership.
4. A member whose state license to practice medicine has been revoked shall forfeit membership.
5. A member who changes his/her practice pattern to no longer meet membership criteria cited in Article II, Section F, Part 1 shall forfeit active membership.
6. A member who is sanctioned by a state board of medical examiners for unethical behavior shall forfeit membership.

Approved November, 1993
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