**NWBA Bylaws Amendment Proposal Form**

**Proposed Amendments must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director and the chair of the Governance Committee at least sixty (60) days preceding the Annual Assembly (Sunday, April 25, 2021).**

**Section:** ARTICLE FOUR Membership

**Proposed By:** NWBA Management/Staff

**Summary of Proposed Change:** Change NWBA Bylaws to update wording for the purposes of clarity and consistency per the recommendations of Legal Counsel and updating the descriptions of the membership categories to coincide with and better represent the current standard operations of the organization. All other changes are formatting changes.

**Current Bylaw:** Current wording is included in the proposal section below.

**Proposed Bylaw:** Proposed changes are marked below with the track changes function (deletions have a strikethrough and additions are underlined).

**ARTICLE FOUR**

**Membership**

**Section 4.1: Membership Categories.**

Any group of individuals organized as a team or club for the purpose of playing wheelchair basketball, which accepts and observes the principles and requirements of, and functions in accordance with, the NWBA Bylaws, is eligible for active membership.

An individual may belong to more than one membership category. The NWBA shall have individual, team and affiliate organization membership categories each requiring the qualifications and have the voting and other rights and privileges indicated:

1. Individual Membership Categories
	1. Athlete Members. Athlete members are those individuals who register as competitive athletes and are eligible for competition in wheelchair basketball.
	2. Coach Members. Coach members are those individuals who register as active coaches and who are certified by the NWBA, or are certified as active coaches by the NWBA.
	3. Official Members. Official members are individuals who register as officials with the NWBA, and who are certified as officials to officiate wheelchair basketball games.
	4. Classification Members. Classification Members are those individuals who register as NWBA Classifiers and attend at least one Classification Clinic every two years.
	5. Team Representative/Voting Delegate Members. Team Representative/Voting Delegate members are those individuals who are a team leader, the liaison to NWBA National Office / Leadership and/or recognized as the voting delegate for their team.
	6. Team Support Staff Members. Team Support Staff members are individuals that support NWBA teams in at least one of the below categories:
		1. Statistician.
		2. Medical Professional.
		3. Team Classification Reviewer.
		4. Equipment Manager.
		5. Administrator.
		6. Personal Care Attendant.
		7. Other.
	7. Divisional and Conference Leadership Members. These are individuals who serve in a position on Divisional Committees and/or Conference Committees.
	8. Board of Directors Members. These are individuals who are members of the NWBA Board of Directors.
	9. Hall of Fame Members. Hall of Fame Members are individuals who have been inducted into the NWBA Hall of Fame.
	10. Event Directors / Sanction Holder Members. Event Directors / Sanction Holder members are those individuals who host an NWBA event.
	11. Committee Members. Committee Members are individuals who are members of an NWBA Committee (e.g., Standing Committee, Ad hoc, task force, etc.).
	12. Affiliate or other members. The Board of Directors may establish other non-voting membership categories as it deems appropriate.
2. Team Membership Categories
	1. Team Members. Team Members are any group of individuals organized as a team or club for the purpose of playing wheelchair basketball.
3. Affiliated Organization Membership Categories
	1. Affiliated Organization Members are those amateur or commercial sports organizations that register as contributing organizations and which conduct athletic programs or activities that further the sport of wheelchair basketball in the United States or which otherwise support the sport of wheelchair basketball in the United States.

**Section 4.2 Eligibility.**

1. Eligibility
	1. All players will be persons with physical disabilities resulting in at least some functional limitations of the lower extremities, who meet the NWBA player eligibility rules and policies.
2. All members and staff agree to establish and maintain high standards of eligibility, ethical conduct, and fair play. In particular:
	1. All members will adhere to the NWBA Policies as outlined in Article 18.
	2. All players will be persons with physical disabilities resulting in at least some functional limitations of the lower extremities, who meet the NWBA player eligibility rules and policies.

**Section 4.3. Voting Rights of Members.**

 The Team Representative/Voting Delegate for their respective NWBA Registered Team, who are U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age, shall be entitled to one vote in all matters submitted to a vote of the membership. All voting delegates shall be a member of the NWBA at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of the election or membership vote (Annual Assembly date) in order to be eligible to vote in such election and/or membership vote.

Certain athletes have voting rights as set forth in Articles 11 and 12 of these NWBA Bylaws.

No other voting privileges are conferred upon these members.

**Section 4.4. Non-Voting Members.**

All individual membership categories and affiliate organizational members described in Section 4.1 of these Bylaws shall be considered non-voting members for purposes of these bylaws. Each category of membership shall have only those qualifications, rights and privileges as set forth herein.

**Section 4.5: Membership Requirements and Dues.**

Membership in the NWBA is a privilege and creates with it certain obligations and duties. The Board of Directors shall establish such membership requirements and dues as the Board deems necessary or appropriate. Further, the Board may establish such policies for the manner and method of payment of dues, the collection of delinquent dues and the prorating or refund of dues. No privilege of membership shall be available until all membership requirements are satisfied and all dues are paid in full.

Further details are outlined in the NWBA Policies and Procedures.

**Section 4.6: Suspension and Termination of Membership.**

No membership or rights may be terminated or suspended, unless the expulsion, suspension or termination is done with the fair notice and an opportunity for a hearing as provided in Article 14 of these bylaws. Any member may be suspended or have their membership in the NWBA terminated for violation of these Bylaws or any rules, policies or procedures of the NWBA, U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee and/or U.S. Center for SafeSport. The member shall be given reasonable prior written notice of the proposed suspension or termination and the reasons therefore. Written notice must be given by Email, first-class or certified mail sent to the last address of the member shown on the NWBA’s records. Any member who is suspended or has their membership terminated is liable to the corporation for dues, assessments or fees incurred or commitments made prior to suspension or termination.

**Section 4.7: Transfer of Membership.**

Members may not transfer their membership in the NWBA. Members shall have no ownership rights or beneficial interests of any kind in the property of the NWBA.

**Rationale for Change:** Wording changes include: adopting suggestions from Legal Counsel, updating the names of current NWBA Policies, updates to incorporate current practices of communication and standards of organizational operations, and providing clarity and consistency.

**Submit to:**

Via Email to both:

Will Waller, NWBA Executive Director: will@nwba.org AND Tim Fox, interim Chair of the Governance Committee: timfox@nwba.org

OR

Via Postal Mail:

NWBA, 1130 Elkton Dr., Suite A, Colorado Springs, CO 80907