

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

PI ALPHA XI

THE HONOR SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURE

ARTICLE I: Name and Purpose

Section I: Name

The full, legal name of this organization is Pi Alpha Xi, The Honor Society for Horticulture, abbreviated as P.A.X.

P.A.X. was founded in 1923 as an honor society for floriculture. Over time, it expanded to include landscape horticulture and ornamental horticulture. The 2010 revision expanded to include all horticultural disciplines.

The meaning of the Honor Society for Horticulture is interpreted as a professional Honor Society for those engaged in horticulture.

Section II: Mission

The mission of this Honor Society is 1) to recognize high scholarship, 2) to foster good relationships among its members, 3) to promote or to facilitate the exchange of ideas among members of the professions, and 4) to establish cordial relations among students, educators, and industry members.

ARTICLE II: Chapters

Section I: Eligible Institutions

Any four-year university or college offering instruction in horticulture is eligible to establish a chapter.

Section II: Voting for New Chapters

A petition for the establishment of a new chapter is presented to the Board of Directors through the National Secretary-Treasurer. Upon consent of the Board of Directors, the petition is referred to all active chapters, by referendum at the Annual Business Meeting (two-thirds affirmative vote by the members present) or by mail or electronic correspondence. Upon affirmative vote of two-thirds of the active chapters, the President notifies the new chapter of its acceptance.

Section III: Installation of New Chapter

Such petitioning group covers the expense of the National President or other officer to attend the chapter installation and, at the time of installation, deposits with the Executive Secretary the regular initiation fee for each of the members. The chapter is exempt from further

payment of dues for the remainder of the academic year, except for members initiated after the installation of the chapter.

Section IV: Inactivation of Chapter

An active chapter of Pi Alpha Xi (those current on national dues) may be declared inactive by the National President or by the Board of Directors

- upon the request of the chapter concerned or recognized staff advisor of the chapter, or
- after lapse of dues payment for a period of more than three years.

Such an inactive chapter may become active again with the approval of the National President or the Board of Directors upon payment of chapter dues for the current year and one year in arrears.

Inactive chapters may not initiate members, propose honorary members, or have a vote at the Annual Business Meeting. Nothing, however, shall prevent duly initiated Pi Alpha Xi members at an institution with an inactive chapter, or any member duly initiated by that chapter, from holding a national office or committee appointment, or otherwise exerting membership rights in Pi Alpha Xi.

ARTICLE III Membership

Section I: Membership Classifications

The membership of Pi Alpha Xi is open to all persons engaged in horticulture provided they meet the eligibility requirements of one of the four categories: Active, Associate, Alumni, and Honorary.

(a) Active Membership

Active membership is restricted to the institution at which there is a chapter of Pi Alpha Xi and consists of the following three groups:

1. Regularly enrolled students studying horticulture and having attained at least junior standing (as defined by the chapter's institution) are eligible for membership. The student must have an overall grade point average of 3.00/4.00 (or equivalent).
2. Graduate students studying horticulture and in good academic standing after at least one academic term are eligible for membership. The student should show promise of continued activity and interest in the field.
3. Members of the faculty of horticulture, which may include USDA research scientists affiliated with the program.

Individual chapters may choose to elect a higher minimum grade point average.

(b) Associate Membership

Faculty members from disciplines other than horticulture at an institution where there is a chapter of Pi Alpha Xi, who are contributing to the advancement of horticulture, are eligible for membership.

(c) Alumni Membership

Any active member who is in good standing upon withdrawal, graduation, resignation, or retirement from his/her institution shall automatically become an alumnus/alumna.

(d) Honorary Membership

In the initiation of persons to honorary membership, every effort should be made to limit this group to individuals of high educational attainments and commercial prominence. Honorary membership consists of Chapter Honorary and National Honorary memberships and meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Persons who have rendered exemplary service in the advancement of horticulture.
 2. Persons engaged in teaching, extension or research work of benefit to horticulture at an institution where there is no active chapter of Pi Alpha Xi.
 3. Persons holding a college degree who have attained a distinguished position in the field.
- Honorary members have no vote in any regular meeting and are not be eligible to hold office.

ARTICLE IV: Election to Membership

Section I: Active Members

Membership nominations are submitted to the President of the local chapter and approved by the chapter's active members.

Section II: Associate Members

Associate members are approved and inducted by the local chapter at their institution.

Section III: Honorary Members

(a) National Honorary Members. Nominations for National Honorary Members are submitted to the Board of Directors through the National Secretary-Treasurer by ten members (active, associate or alumni) who are sponsoring the candidate. Election of National Honorary Members is by majority vote of the Board of Directors. Those elected to National Honorary membership will be initiated at the Annual Business Meeting. If for some good reason the initiate cannot be present at the Annual Business Meeting, the Board of Directors may arrange for his/her initiation through one of the active chapters.

(b) Chapter Honorary Members. Selection of Chapter Honorary Members is made by local chapters and will not require action by the Board of Directors of Pi Alpha Xi National.

Section IV: Chapter Transfer

Active, associate and alumni members may transfer their affiliation to another active chapter by paying the local dues without any obligation to their previous chapter.

ARTICLE V: Initiation

Section I: Initiation Requirement

Election of members having been carried out as prescribed in Article IV, the members-elect are initiated according to the by-laws and Section II of this article before they exercise the privileges of this Honor Society.

Section II: Requirements for the Initiation Ceremony

- (a) The ceremony of initiation is prescribed in the ritual as authorized by the Board of Directors.
- (b) The members-elect are inducted in the presence of the chapter's membership, and the President explains the mission of the Honor Society as set forth in Article I.
- (c) The pledge, as provided in the ritual, is administered by the President.
- (d) The President addresses those who have taken the pledge by pronouncing them members of Pi Alpha Xi Honor Society and has them sign the chapter's official membership roster.
- (e) The President awards the newly initiated members certificates of membership and presents them to the chapter.

ARTICLE VI: Insignia

Section I: Symbolology

The insignia has the Egyptian hoe and ancient vase (as described in the Explanatory of the Initiation Ritual), symbolizing ancient and modern horticulture.

Section II: Official Flower

The flower of the Honor Society is the Lotus of the Nile, *Nymphaea caerulea*.

Section III: Official Colors

The colors of the Honor Society are lotus blue and Nile green. See the PAX web site for official color designations for print media and honor cords. (www.pialphaxi.org/official-colors.html).

Section IV: Lapel Pin

The insignia worn by members is the lapel pin of the Honor Society, which is obtained from the Executive Secretary upon receipt of dues from the chapter's Secretary-Treasurer by authorization of the chapter's President.

Section V: Letterhead

The official letterhead will include the insignia of the Honor Society.

Section VI: Honor Cord

Chapters are authorized to present honor cords, worn at commencement exercises, to each member. Honor cords are one strand of lotus blue and one strand of Nile green (or comparable colors as purchased from the University's graduation regalia provider). It is the responsibility of each chapter to order honor cords through their University's channels. Honor cords may be purchased from PAX National.

ARTICLE VII: Officers and Standing Committees of the Honor Society

Section I: National Officers

The National officers of the Honor Society are President, Vice President and National Secretary-Treasurer.

Section II: Board of Directors

The affairs of the Honor Society between conventions are determined by a Board of Directors consisting of the President, Vice President, National Secretary-Treasurer and the two immediate past presidents. The Executive Secretary serves as a non-voting, ex officio member of the Board of Directors. In order to take action, the Board of Directors must have a simple majority quorum of three members of the Board, one of which must be the current President or Vice President, should the President not be available. A group of three members of the Board without the current President, or Vice President should the President not be available, cannot take action by themselves unless the current President is not capable of presiding over the Board of Directors (i.e., resignation, health, or death).

Section III: Standing Committees

The standing committees of the Honor Society are: Rules Committee, Membership Services Committee, Nominations Committee, Student Activities Committee, Fellows Selection Committee, and Annual Photography Contest Committee.

ARTICLE VIII: Annual Business Meeting

Section I: Scheduling the Annual Business Meeting

- (a) The Annual Business Meeting is held each year during the annual conference of the American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS).
- (b) Notice is given to the membership by the National Secretary-Treasurer at least thirty days prior to the date of the meeting. Communication is through chapters and the ASHS newsletter.
- (c) The purpose of the Annual Business Meeting is for the exchange of information, for conducting Honor Society business, and to promote fellowship among all Society members.

Section II: Voting at the Annual Business Meeting

Society business needing a vote will be approved by at least two-thirds of members present at the Annual Business Meeting, or be approved by two-thirds of active chapters by written ballot. The President, with the advice of the Board of Directors, will decide if the business requiring a vote will be by written ballot to chapters or by individual members present at the Annual Business Meeting.

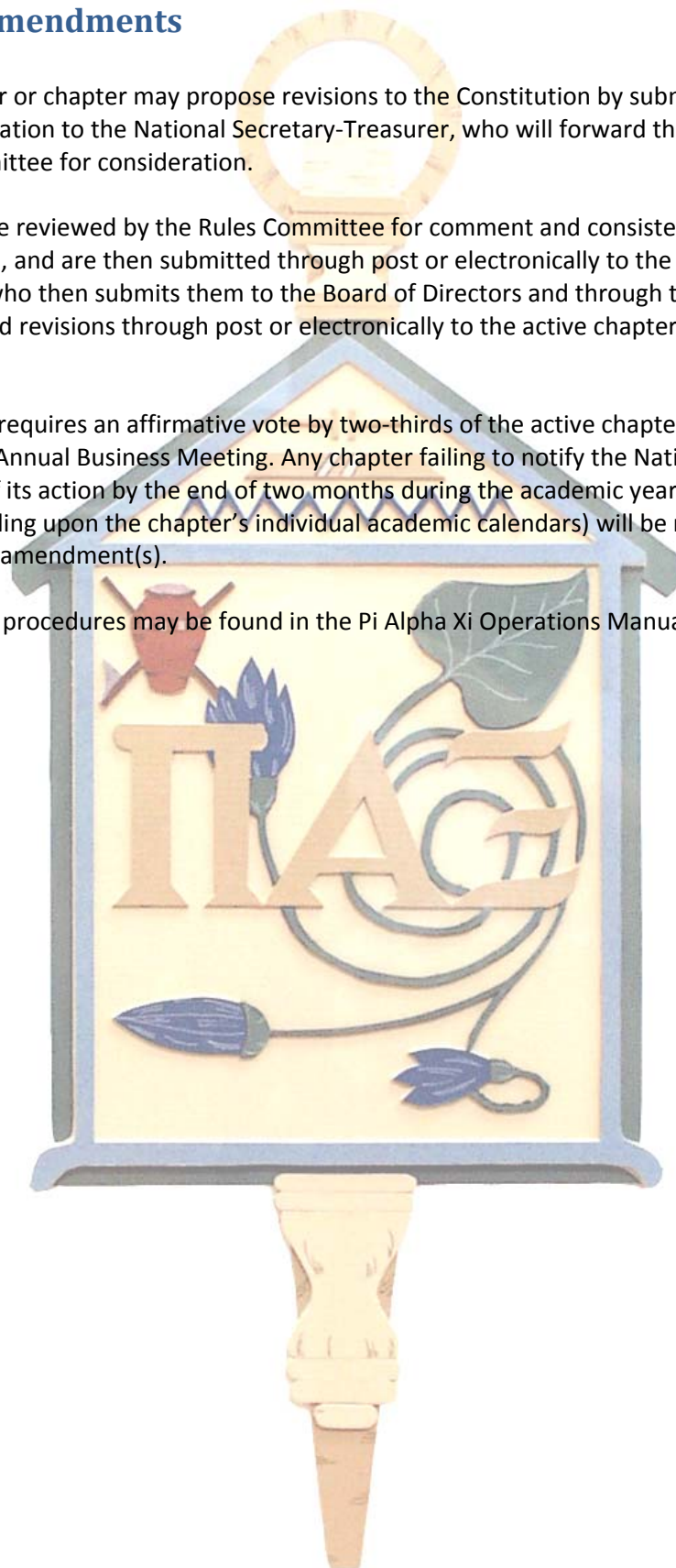
ARTICLE IX: Amendments

Any member or chapter may propose revisions to the Constitution by submitting the recommendation to the National Secretary-Treasurer, who will forward the proposal to the Rules Committee for consideration.

Revisions are reviewed by the Rules Committee for comment and consistency throughout the Constitution, and are then submitted through post or electronically to the National Secretary-Treasurer, who then submits them to the Board of Directors and through the Board, submits the proposed revisions through post or electronically to the active chapters for consideration and vote.

Ratification requires an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the active chapters before the succeeding Annual Business Meeting. Any chapter failing to notify the National Secretary-Treasurer of its action by the end of two months during the academic year (August through July, depending upon the chapter's individual academic calendars) will be recorded as voting in favor of the amendment(s).

Operational procedures may be found in the Pi Alpha Xi Operations Manual.



BY-LAWS OF NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

PI ALPHA XI

THE HONOR SOCIETY FOR HORTICULTURE

SECTION I: Nominations and Election of Officers, and Composition of Standing Committees

(a) Nominations and Election of Officers.

Officer elections are held every two years at the Annual Business Meeting. The President appoints a Nominations Committee to select nominees for President, Vice President and National Secretary-Treasurer at least thirty days before the Annual Business Meeting. The term of office is from the close of the Annual Business Meeting in which elected to the close of the Annual Business Meeting held two years later. A two-thirds majority of the members present at the Annual Business Meeting is required for election to office.

(b) Composition of and Appointment to Standing Committees.

The President, in consultation with the Board of Directors and after soliciting volunteers from the membership, appoints members to the standing committees. A member of the Board of Directors serves on each standing committee and is a non-voting, *ex officio* member of the committee.

(c) Appointment of the Executive Secretary

The Board of Directors in conjunction with the Executive Director of ASHS appoints the Executive Secretary of the PAX Honor Society. This individual will be an employee of the ASHS headquarters staff. The Executive Secretary serves as a non-voting, *ex officio* member of the Board of Directors.

SECTION II: Duties of Officers and Standing Committees

(a) Duties of Officers

(1) President

The President conducts the Annual Business Meeting, supervises the actions of the Board of Directors, and performs other duties that normally come under the office of President.

(2) Vice President

The Vice President assumes the duties of President in the absence of the President. The Vice President serves as editor of the Lotus Leaflet (to include, and not limited to, the results of the Intercollegiate Floral and Design Competition, minutes from the Annual Business Meeting and the coaches' meeting, lists of new chapter initiates, letter from the President, photo contest results, and news from chapters) and, with the assistance of ASHS, provides oversight for the Pi Alpha Xi web site.

(3) National Secretary-Treasurer

The National Secretary-Treasurer's responsibilities include

- Maintaining regular communication with the appointed Executive Secretary
- Serving as the clearinghouse for PAX inquiries
- Communicating with the Chair of the Rules Committee regarding any proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws and maintaining an updated version of the Constitution and By-Laws. The National Secretary-Treasurer provides the most current version of the Constitution and By-Laws to all active chapters and the Executive Secretary. The most current version is posted to the national web site.
- Coordinating the annual photography contest, collection of entry fees and processing cash awards to winners
- Provide assistance in writing of grant proposals and acquisition of awards to support student activities as sponsored by PAX as determined appropriate by the Board of Directors
- Working with the President, prepares the agendas and minutes for the Annual Business Meeting; and then, distributes the agendas and minutes to the chapters, the Vice President for publication in the Lotus Leaflet, and the Executive Secretary for posting to the PAX web site.
- Sending hard copies of the Lotus Leaflet and Annual Business Meeting's minutes to the PAX archive (enclosing a cover letter indicating the materials are for the Pi Alpha Xi National archive):

Attn: Director & University Archivist
Kroch Library, Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections
2B Kroch Library
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853
(607)255-3530, rareref@cornell.edu

(4) Executive Secretary

Responsibilities of the Board-appointed Executive Secretary include:

- Assisting the Vice President with publishing and electronically distributing the Lotus Leaflet (3 issues per year) in an appropriate format
- Maintaining the National PAX web site. Updates occur approximately 6 times per year and are to include posting each new issue of the Lotus Leaflet, posting the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting, and other materials as required by the Board of Directors and standing committee chairs
- Creating and maintaining a PAX listserv
- Receiving and filling orders of the Flower Judging Manual; depositing funds; reprinting when necessary
- Referring inquiries to the National Secretary-Treasurer.
- Providing oversight of financial matters to include checking account and other investment accounts, appropriate audits, accounts receivable, and accounts payable, creating and presenting an annual income statement for the Annual Business Meeting
- Providing member services to include receiving and depositing fees and lists of new initiates for each chapter, purchasing pins and certificates, inscribing certificates and mailing to appropriate chapters; recording new member numbers in the "black books,"

sending lists of new initiates by chapter to the Vice President for publication in the Lotus Leaflet, and maintaining the national database.

- Creating and sending annual dues notices to chapters, collecting and depositing dues
- Assisting the Board of Directors with other matters upon mutual agreement.

(b) Duties of Standing Committees

(1) Rules Committee.

The Rules Committee reviews and suggests changes or additions to the Constitution and By-Laws to the membership.

(2) Membership Services Committee.

The Membership Services Committee coordinates the development of the Recruitment Brochure, Flower Judging Manual, and other services or materials provided by the Honor Society. The Executive Secretary will assist with the printing and distribution of these materials and any future services or materials provided by the Honor Society.

(3) Nominations Committee.

The Nominations Committee develops a slate of candidates for National Offices and presents the slate at the Annual Business Meeting.

(4) Student Activities Committee.

The Student Activities Committee proposes, develops, and oversees activities of the Honor Society to engage undergraduate and graduate students at national and international events.

(5) Fellows Selection Committee.

The Fellows Selection Committee solicits nominations for Fellows of the Society and is responsible for assembling support documentation for selection.

(6) Annual Photography Contest Committee.

The Annual Photography Contest Committee proposes revisions to the contest as needed, solicits submissions, arranges for judges, compiles results, and announces the award recipients in the Lotus Leaflet and in the ASHS newsletter.

SECTION III: Filling Vacancies

(a) Officers

If the office of President becomes vacant, it is filled by the Vice President. If any other office becomes vacant between Annual Business Meetings, its filling will be determined by the action of the Board of Directors.

(b) Standing Committees Chairs

If any standing committee chair vacates his/her position, the President, in consultation with the Board of Directors and the remaining committee members, names a new chair.

SECTION IV: Initiation Fees and Dues

(a) Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Honor Society for the determination of dues shall be from July 1 -June 30.

(b) National Dues

National and international dues of each chapter are set by the Board of Directors.

(c) National Initiation Fee

National initiation fee is set by the Board of Directors. Each initiate receives a Pi Alpha Xi lapel pin and certificate.

(d) Chapter Dues and Chapter Initiation Fee

Chapter dues and chapter initiation fees are determined by the individual chapters of the Honor Society. Chapter Honorary members may not be assessed any dues other than the initiation fee.

SECTION V: Procedures for Handling Funds

(a) Payment of National Initiation Fee

The initiation fee for each member is forwarded to the Executive Secretary, at ASHS Headquarters, by the Treasurer of the local chapter. The check is made payable to Pi Alpha Xi National. The Executive Secretary will order certificates and recognition lapel pins. Only the Executive Secretary can supply lapel pins and certificates. If the design of pins or certificates changes, then the Executive Secretary will consult with the Board of Directors before re-ordering.

(b) Additional or Replacement Lapel Pins

To order additional or replacement lapel pins, the Treasurer of a local chapter will send payment to the Executive Secretary along with the name, chapter number, and date of initiation of the member wanting the lapel pin. The Executive Secretary orders and pays for the same as stated above.

(c) Dispersing of National Funds

The Executive Secretary is the only one authorized to disperse National funds. The Executive Secretary will pay bills for goods or services rendered with presentation of receipt or verification by the President, Vice-President, or Secretary of the Honor Society. No officer or standing committee chair will maintain an outside checking account.

(d) Annual Operating Budget

The Board of Directors establishes an annual operating budget for the Honor Society with the assistance of the Executive Secretary.

(e) Requests for Financial Information

The Executive Secretary will respond to requests for information concerning the finances of the Honor Society only when said request is submitted in writing (electronic or hardcopy) from a member of the Board of Directors.

SECTION VI: Official Publication

The official publication of the Honor Society is the Lotus Leaflet, a newsletter that is published and distributed three times per year.

SECTION VII: Voting Procedures

(a) Nomination and Election of Officers

See By-Laws Section I(a)

(b) Constitutional Amendments

See Constitution Article IX

(c) By-Laws Amendments

See By-Laws Section X

(d) Business of the Society

See Constitution Article VIII Section 2

SECTION VIII: Expulsion of Members

(a) Active and Associate Members

The privileges of the Honor Society may be denied to any active or associate member by the action of the chapter granting the membership. When such action is contemplated, the member in question must be given an opportunity to make a defense either in person or in writing. The member will be notified in writing (registered mail, return receipt required) of such proceedings ten business days before any action may be taken. Following such defense, or if no defense is offered, proceedings may continue.

A vote of two-thirds of the effected chapter's active and associate members is required to legalize an action for expulsion. The action of the chapter is final. Following such action, the chapter must notify the National Secretary-Treasurer, who notifies the Executive Secretary to strike the name of such expelled member from the official Records of the Honor Society. Expelled members are required to return both their lapel pin and certificate to the chapter. The chapter notifies the National Secretary-Treasurer that the lapel pin and certificate are surrendered. After such notification, the National Secretary-Treasurer will ask the Executive Secretary to process payment to such former member a sum of money equal to the entire cost of the lapel pin.

(b) Alumni and Honorary Members

The privileges of the Honor Society may be denied to any alumnus/alumna or honorary member by the following procedure: Preliminary action will be initiated by the chapter or body responsible for such membership. The unanimous vote of the chapter or official body is necessary to continue the action. The results of such action, together with all evidence, are then transmitted to the National Secretary-Treasurer, who in turn notifies the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will then evaluate the case and its decision is final.

Expelled alumni and honorary members are required to return both their lapel pin and certificate to the National Honor Society. Once received, the National Secretary-Treasurer will ask the Executive Secretary to strike the name of such expelled member from the official Records of the Honor Society and to pay such former member a sum of money equal to the entire cost of the lapel pin.

SECTION IX: Parliamentary Authority

For points not covered by the Constitution or By-laws, Robert's "Rules of Order" shall be considered the authority.

SECTION X: Amendments

Any member or chapter may propose revisions to the By-laws by submitting the recommendation to the National Secretary-Treasurer, who will forward the proposal to the Rules Committee for consideration.

Revisions are reviewed by the Rules Committee for comment and consistency throughout the By-Laws, and are then submitted through post or electronically to the National Secretary-Treasurer, who then submits them to the Board of Directors and through the Board, submits the proposed revisions through post or electronically to the active chapters for consideration and vote.

Ratification requires an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the active chapters before the succeeding Annual Business Meeting. Any chapter failing to notify the National Secretary-Treasurer of its action by the end of two months during the academic year (August through July, depending upon the chapter's individual academic calendars) will be recorded as voting in favor of the amendment(s).

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Revised September 2016 by the Rules Committee of Richard L. Harkess, Chair (Mississippi State University), Jim Klett (Colorado State University), Alice LeDuc (Texas State University) and Stephanie Burnett (University of Maine). Ratified February 2016.

Revised March 2014 by the Rules Committee of Richard L. Harkess, Chair (Mississippi State University), Jim Klett (Colorado State University), Alice LeDuc (Texas State University), Paul Thomas (University of Georgia), and Karen Panter (University of Wyoming). Ratified July 2014.

Revised January 2012 by the Rules Committee of Mary Lewnes Albrecht, chair (Univ. Tennessee), Doug Needham (Longwood Gardens), Kim Williams (Kansas State Univ.), and Richard Harkess (Mississippi State Univ.). Ratified May 2012.

Revised August 2010 by the Rules Committee of Mary Lewnes Albrecht, chair (Univ. Tennessee), Kim Williams (Kansas State Univ.), Jim Klett (Colorado State Univ.), and Richard Harkess (Mississippi State Univ.). Ratified March 2011.

Revised October 2008 by the Rules Committee of Mary Lewnes Albrecht (Univ. Tennessee), Kim Williams (Kansas State Univ.), Jim Klett (Colorado State Univ.), and Richard Harkess (Mississippi State Univ.) with additional input from the Board of Directors. Ratified June 2009.

Revised 2005 by Rules Committee of Mary Lewnes Albrecht (Univ. Tennessee), Kim Williams (Kansas State Univ.), Jim Klett (Colorado State Univ.), and Richard Harkess (Mississippi State Univ.). Ratified January 2006.

Revised 2000 by Rules Committee: Jack Buxton and Virginia Walter.

Revised 1992-94 by Rules Committee: Farrell Wise, Mary Albrecht, Jay Holcomb, David Hartley and Jack Buxton with additional editing by Terry Ferriss, Doug Needham, Barb Fails and Harvey Lang.

Revised 1986 by J. E. Klett and K. C. Sanderson.