

Article I. THE ORGANIZATION

1.1 Name

The name of the organization shall be the Hotlanta Volleyball Association, hereinafter referred to as "HVA" or "The Association".

1.2 Purpose

The mission of the Hotlanta Volleyball Association is to promote goodwill, understanding, and fellowship within the ~~gay and lesbian~~ LGBTQ+ community through the sport of volleyball. In pursuit of this goal, HVA shall engage in the following activities:

- A. Coordination and promotion of competitive volleyball play, leagues and tournaments aimed at the ~~gay and lesbian~~ LGBTQ+ community.
- B. Instruction and training in the field of volleyball, to include programs (e.g., forums, discussion groups, clinics, lectures, and films) designed to educate the community about the physical, social, psychological, and intellectual benefits of volleyball; and
- C. Affiliation with other local, national, and international volleyball organizations, such as the North America Gay Volleyball Association (NAGVA), encompassing assistance with events conducted by said organizations (e.g., the annual NAGVA Championship Tournament held during the Memorial Day holiday weekend).

1.3 Organizational Structure

The Association shall consist of a general membership and a board of directors, hereinafter known as the Sports Committee, elected by and from the general membership. The Sports Committee shall consist of a Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Treasurer, Secretary/Membership Chair, Social Chair, Public Relations Chair, Director of Tournaments, Recreational League Chair, Intermediate League Chair, and Advance League Chair.

1.4 Legal Status

These Bylaws, which shall have become effective on May 7, 2006 with the approval of a majority vote by the general membership, are subject to revision or amendment by the processes enumerated herein.

The Association is organized exclusively for educational purposes as prescribed by the General Not-for-profit Corporations Act of Georgia and by Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is intended that HVA and distributions made to HVA for such purpose qualify as exempt under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future U.S. Internal Revenue law). As a result, HVA is subject to certain specific federal and state statutes, as outlined below.

1.4.1 Remuneration

In conformance with Georgia Law, no part of the net earnings of HVA shall inure to the benefit of, nor the distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons; however, HVA shall be allowed to provide reasonable compensation for services rendered in furtherance of the propose set forth herein.

1.4.2 Enjoinments

No substantial part of the activities of HVA shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation. The Association shall neither participate nor intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distributing of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office. Members of HVA are especially enjoined from engaging in political activity under the name "Hotlanta Volleyball Association", or using any HVA facilities or funds in the furtherance of any political cause. However, this may not be construed as to violate an individual's rights as a private citizen of the United State of America under the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Notwithstanding any other provision of the Bylaws, HVA shall not carry on any activities prohibited to any association (or corporation) qualified under either Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or Section 170 (c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code,

allowing tax-deductible contributions to such a qualified entity (or the corresponding provisions of any future U.S. Internal Revenue law).

1.4.3 Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved either voluntarily or involuntarily only in the manner prescribed by Georgia state law under the General Not-for-profit Corporations Act, 1969; Section 44062, which specifies the only legal manner in which a corporation chartered in Georgia under this Act may be dissolved. Upon dissolution of HVA, the Sports Committee shall pay all liabilities of HVA in accordance with the law. It shall distribute any remaining assets under a plan to be adopted by the Sports Committee. Only organizations which are operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes and which are qualified as exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future U.S. Internal Revenue law) are eligible to have funds distributed to them by the Sports Committee, upon the dissolution of HVA. Any assets not so distributed shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the County in which the Association's principal office is then located, in a manner as said Court shall determine.

1.4.4 Protocol

For all matters not specifically covered in the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws, the Georgia Not-for-profit Corporations Act applies as specifically stated within Georgia law. No HVA member may act knowingly, at any time, in such a manner as to violate that law.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

2.1 Definition of Membership

Any person who wishes to support the stated purpose of HVA may become a member by agreeing to subscribe to the HVA Rules and Regulations.

2.2 Qualifications for Membership

Each member must satisfy the following requirements to remain a member in good standing:

- A. Sign a registration card/release form to be kept on file with the HVA Secretary.
- B. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age. or obtain written consent from a parent or legal guardian;
- C. Pay annual dues in an amount to be determined by the Sports Committee; such membership dues are non-refundable.
- D. Abide by the HVA Rules and Regulations, as well as these Bylaws and the rules of any facility hosting an event involving HVA; and
- E. Fulfill obligations for all fees associated with practices, league or tournament play, and any special functions, in accordance with HVA Rules and Regulations.

2.3 Benefits of Membership

The general membership of HVA shall be entitled to the following benefits:

- A. Participation in HVA sponsored events, subject to provisions in the Bylaws and HVA Rules and Regulations;
- B. Attendance at all meetings of the general membership and at special meetings as designated by the Sports Committee;
- C. One (1) vote during any meeting of the general membership on each issue requiring a vote from the HVA membership;
- D. Nomination of candidates, from among the general membership, for the Sports Committee:
- E. Eligibility for nomination to the Sports Committee;
- F. Eligibility for service on standing committees; and
- G. Sole power to amend the Bylaws by voting in majority when gathered for such purpose.

2.4 Term of Membership

Membership in HVA shall be valid for not more than one (1) year, from September 1 (or such time as all membership requirements are met) until August 31 of the following year. Membership in HVA may be renewed by re-satisfying the membership requirements; membership shall be terminated upon the expiration of the stated term unless renewal has been successfully completed.

2.5 Sanctions against Membership

Membership in HVA may be revoked or temporarily suspended, or any member may be censured, for any one or more of the following reasons:

- A. Failure to adhere to the HVA Rules and Regulations, Bylaws, or rules of a host facility;
- B. Outstanding financial debt to HVA;
- C. Misappropriation of HVA resources; or
- D. Personal threats against or assaults on, the integrity of fellow members.

Judgments in such matters shall rest with the Sports Committee. Suspensions may remain in effect for up to a maximum of one (1) year from the date of suspension; renewal of membership thereby may be delayed. Players on suspension shall be prohibited from participating in any activity with which HVA is affiliated, unless another affiliated organization's role takes precedence over the Association's role.

2.6 Procedures for Sanctions against Membership

Revocations or suspensions of membership in HVA, or censures against members may occur only after procedures adhering to the guidelines outlined below:

- A. Any member(s) seeking action against another member shall place before the Commissioner a written statement of the complaint being made. Such a statement would call for an investigation into the reason(s) for seeking action against the challenged members.
- B. The Commissioner shall provide a copy of this statement, including the date of receipt of the complaint, to the Secretary. The Secretary would then mail, within one week, to the challenged member a copy of the complaints against him or her, with the removal of the name of the member bringing the charges. The Secretary would include a request for the member to respond in writing to the complaints within one week.
- C. The Commissioner would initiate a preliminary investigation into the complaints, within one week, with the services of at least four other Sports Committee members.
- D. A hearing would be held within four weeks of the initial complaint(s). At that hearing, the initial complaints, the challenged member's written response, and the preliminary investigation's results would be presented to the Sports Committee in a meeting abiding by the 2/3 quorum rule. Any members with information bearing on the complaints would be allowed to present such information at this meeting.
- E. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Sports Committee would reach a majority decision as to the sanctions, if any to be applied. All discussions and the decision(s) reached will be done in an open meeting of said committee.
- F. The Secretary would then mail, or deliver, a copy of the findings to the challenged member, as well as to the member originally bringing the complaint(s), within one week.
- G. Any appeal by the challenged member must be filed in writing with the Commissioner and at least one other officer within two weeks of the hearing.
- H. Sanctions would remain in force pending any re-hearing resulting from an appeal. Such a re-hearing would be held by the Sports Committee within two weeks of receiving the written appeal, with all persons who appeared at the

original hearing given at least one week's written notice by mail or personal delivery of the re-hearing date, time and place. Any re-hearing must again be an open hearing.

I. Decisions of the Sports Committee after a re-hearing cannot be further appealed.

Article III. SPORT COMMITTEES

3.1 Definition of Sports Committee

Any member of HVA, in good standing, is eligible to serve on the Sports Committee.

3.2 Qualifications for Sports Committee

Each member must satisfy the general membership requirements outlined in Section 2.2 of this document. To serve as HVA Commissioner, the member must have served on a previous Sports Committee. The other Sports Committee positions are the offices of Assistant Commissioner, Treasurer, Secretary/Membership Chair, Social Chair, Public Relations Chair, Director of Tournaments, Recreational League Chair, Intermediate League Chair, and Advance League Chair. To qualify for any of these positions, the member must only be willing and able to perform the duties and responsibilities involved in these elected positions.

3.3 Duties and Unique Abilities of Sports Committee

The Sports Committee acting as a whole is the only body within HVA able to set rules and regulations for any HVA league, sessions, or activity. The Sports Committee is responsible for handling any necessary disciplinary actions as already outlined in Sections 2.5 and 2.6 of this document. The Sports Committee is charged as a whole with the overseeing the activities of the officers to ensure that their actions are proceeding for the benefit of HVA. The Sports Committee, with input from the membership, shall also designate members of standing and other committees.

3.4 Terms of Office for Sports Committee Members

The Commissioner, upon selection, shall serve in a co-capacity with the outgoing Commissioner until May 31 of that year. All other members of the Sports Committee shall serve from May 31 of the upcoming organization year to May 31 of the following organization year, unless they are assuming a vacant seat on the Sports Committee, in which case they shall serve only until May 31 of the following organization year.

Without re-selection or re-election, no term of service on the Sports Committee may be more than one calendar year. All members are eligible to seek re-selection or re-election. Unless voted otherwise by the standing Sports Committee, the Assistant Commissioner is "Commissioner designate" for the subsequent organization year. This is intended to provide organizational continuity from one year to the next.

3.5 Removal from Sports Committee

Membership on the Sports Committee may be revoked or temporarily suspended, or any member of the Sports Committee may be censured for any one or more of the reasons

enumerated in Section 2.5 of this document, or for any one or more of the following reasons:

- A. Manifesting no desire or interest to serve the interests of the organization;
- B. Failing to perform his or her duties or functions;
- C. Proving to be incapable of action or responsibility;
- D. Performing financial misconduct; or
- E. Failing to attend three (3) consecutive regularly-called meetings of the Sports Committee.

Judgments in such matters shall rest with the remainder of the Sports Committee. Sanctions shall be chosen so as to be as appropriate and reasonable as possible.

3.6 Procedures for Removals from Sports Committee

Removals or suspensions from the Sports Committee of HVA, or censures against its members, may occur only after procedures adhering to those in Section 2.6 of this document have been followed with the following changes, if necessary:

- A. If the Commissioner is the charged member, the Assistant Commissioner will fulfill the duties assigned to the Commissioner in Section 2.6;
- B. If the Secretary is the charged member, the Assistant Commissioner will fulfill the duties assigned to the Secretary in Section 2.6;
- C. If more than one member of the Sports Committee is charged, the highest ranking officer, as outlined in the following section (3.7), would assume the duties of any charged member, and the remaining Sports Committee members would choose from the General Membership enough members to hear the case to allow at least five persons to hear the case. (Any such chosen members must be acceptable to the charged members. If such is not possible within the membership, a lower number is acceptable to hear the case.)

3.7 Succession of Office

Officers of the Sports Committee follow this order in ranking and succession: Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Treasurer, Secretary, League Chairman I (one), League Chairman II (two), Social Chairman, Public Relations/Membership Chairman and Director of Tournaments.

3.8 Vacancies on Sports Committee

3.8.1 Retirement and Resignation

In order to retire or resign, any officer or other Sports Committee member shall tender a written notice of such intention so that the matter may be addressed at the next Sports Committee meeting. Unless the member is resigning in whole from HVA, his or her membership in HVA is not affected. The position is vacant.

3.8.2 Death

Upon the death of any officer or other Sports Committee member, that office or seat shall be considered vacant for the remainder of its term.

3.8.3 Disciplinary Removal

Upon any disciplinary action that removes a Sports Committee member from his or her position, that position is considered vacant.

3.8.4 Filling a Vacant Position

If a position on the Sports Committee becomes vacant during an organization year, the remaining Sports Committee members may select a replacement to fill the remainder of the vacated term, provided such action is taken at a meeting with at least 2/3 of HVA members present, and the choice is approved by at least 2/3 of those present. If such is not possible, a special election is to be called, with a two-week nominating period, followed by a vote at a scheduled membership meeting. No quorum is required at that meeting; approval needs to be only by majority of those voting at the meeting.

Article IV. MEMBERS OF THE SPORTS COMMITTEE

4.1 Commissioner

The Commissioner shall be responsible for the overall operation of HVA, with the following minimum duties:

- A. Presiding at all meetings of HVA and its Sports Committee;
- B. Presenting matters to the membership and the Sports Committee, as well as representing the Association to outside agencies, groups and individuals.
- C. Regulating the practice times and communicating all relevant information regarding practices, sessions, leagues, meetings and activities to the member membership and to the Sports Committee.
- D. Voting on all Sports Committee meetings on issues discussed at those meetings.

- E. Co-signing with the Treasurer any necessary financial documents, including checks (if no other officer does so);
- F. Signina all contractual obligations on behalf of the Association;
- G. Carrying out the directives of the Sports Committee and the Membership within the guidelines they set for the purposes they specify;
- H. Appointment of the Director of Tournament

- I. Supervising the work of the other officers, and;

- J. Attending the annual NAGVA meeting.

4.2 Assistant Commissioner

The Assistant Commissioner will perform duties as directed by the Commissioner, with the following minimum duties:

- A. Presiding at all meetings of HVA and its Sports Committee at which the Commissioner is not an attendee;
- B. Maintaining a current detail of HVA inventory property (such as volleyball equipment);
- C. Voting on all Sports Committee meetings on issues discussed at those meetings;
- D. Co-signing with the Treasurer any necessary financial documents which the Commissioner is unable to sign, including checks (if no other office does so); and
- E. Helping to conduct practices, sessions, leagues, meetings and activities.

4.3 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall main all financial records for the Association, with the following minimum duties:

- A. Maintaining control of all financial instruments for HVA, including actual funds, moneys, checks, ledgers, and purchase order.
- B. Presenting regular financial statements to the Sports Committee:
- C. Ensuring that all HVA checks have his or her signature, s well as that of one (1) other officer;
- D. Voting on all Sports Committee meetings on issues discussed at those meetings;
- E. Assisting the Secretary in handling ballots for all elections.

4.4 Secretary/Membership Chair

The Secretary shall maintain all informational records for the Association, with the following minimum duties:

- A. Maintaining records of all HVA Membership and Sports Committee meetings;
- B. Maintaining the Bylaws/Constitutions of HVA, along with any amendments, additions, and changes;
- C. Maintaining information regarding the Membership, including Registration Cards/"Waivers of Liability" with the help of the other officers;
- D. Notifying the membership of any meetings:
- E. Keeping statistical records on Leagues, Tournaments, and other such competitive activities;
- F. Assisting the Commissioner with correspondence of HVA with other organizations, groups and individuals;
- G. Preparing, and the counting, all ballots for elections within the Association;

- H. Voting on all Sports Committee meetings on issues discussed at those meetings; and

- I. Co-signing with the Treasurer any necessary financial documents which the Commissioner or Assistant Commissioner is unable to sign, including checks (if no other officer does so).

4.5 League Chair

Recreational League Chair, Intermediate League Chair, and Advance League Chair. Recreational League Chairman shall be responsible for the Recreational Level of play. Intermediate League Chairman shall be responsible for the Intermediate Level of play. Advance League Chairman shall be responsible for the Advance Level of play.. The League Chairmen shall be responsible for the operations of HVA leagues, with the following minimum duties:

- A. Work with the Assistant Commissioner on all issues related to HVA league play;
- B. Assist with the scheduling and formation of leagues;
- C. Communicate rules and gym information to all participants.
- D. Coordinate clinics for members to attend (including refereeing, scoring skills);
- E. Collect gym fees before Open Play.
- F. Vote on all issues discussed at Board meetings.

4.6 Social Chairman

The Social Chairman shall be responsible for the coordination of HVA sponsored social events with the following minimum duties:

- A. Arrange and/or coordinate HVA sponsored socials;
- B. Arrange extracurricular events that the Membership can attend;
- C. Vote on all issues discussed at Board meetings.

4.7 Public Relations Chairman

The Public Relations Chairman shall be responsible for advertising the Association and providing information to new members, with the following minimum duties:

- A. Communicate HVA activities to new media and other organizations;
- B. Greet new members and assist with assimilation into HVA;
- C. Solicit and obtain sponsors for HVA tourney and leagues;
- D. Coordinate HVA newsletter and ensure information is provided to newsletter editor on a timely basis;
- E. Vote on all issues discussed at Board meetings.

F. Shall oversee the application of the HVA website and corresponding social media to distribute news, information and technology applications for members as directed by the Sports Committee

4.8 Director of Tournaments

The Director of Tournaments is an appointed position by the Commissioner with the approval of the Sports Committee. This position is responsible for coordinating any HVA sponsored tournaments, with the following minimum duties:

- A. Responsible for coordinating the annual Hotlanta Classic Tournament;
- B. Responsible for coordinating any ad hoc Tournament;
- C. Vote on all issues discussed at Board Meetings.

Article V. ELECTIONS

5.1 Timing of Process

General elections shall be held for all Sports Committee positions, except for Commissioner, during the month of May each year.

5.2 Nominations

Nominations for all Sports Committee positions, except for Commissioner, shall be taken in writing during a period prior to the elections for no less than two weeks. For an individual to be elected to any officer position open to election (Assistant Commissioner, Treasurer, Secretary, League Chairman I (one), League Chairman II (two), Social

Chairman, Public Relations/Membership Chairman, Director of Tournaments), the person must have been nominated during the nominating period.

5.3 Voting Procedures

A. Commissioner: The Commissioner is selected at a regularly scheduled Sports Committee meeting by a majority of those present, provided the 2/3 quorum rule has been met. This meeting may be conducted anytime between March 15 and May 15. (As noted earlier in this document, the current Assistant Commissioner becomes Commissioner designate for the succeeding organization year, unless otherwise voted by the Sports Committee.)

B. Other Officers: At the Membership's regular May meeting, those attending will first select from among the nominees for Assistant Commissioner, Treasurer, Secretary/Membership Chair, Social Chair, Public Relations Chair, [Director of Tournaments](#), Recreational League Chair, Intermediate League Chair, and Advance League Chair. In order to be elected, a simple majority is needed; thus, if no one person receives over 50% of the votes first cast, the top two finishers in that race shall immediately be placed in a run-off.

C. Remaining Vacancies: If, for any reason(s), any position remains unfilled after these elections, the elected Sports Committee members may consider the position vacant; they may fill it at their next meeting, as explained in Section 3.8.4 of this document.

D. Dual Occupancy of Office: No Sports Committee seat may be occupied by any HVA member holding any other Sports Committee seat

Article VI. MEETINGS

6.1 Sports Committee Meetings

Sports Committee meetings should be held on a regular basis. Special meetings may be called by any member of the Sports Committee, allowing at least one week's notice, unless emergency situations prohibit such a notice.

6.2 General Membership Meetings

At least one meeting of the General Membership will be held during May of each organization year, in order for Sports Committee elections to be held. Other meetings are held as needed. Meetings shall be conducted in an organized manner, with the Sports Committee maintaining proper order.

6.2.1 Notice of General Membership Meetings

Notice of each Annual Meeting must be mailed or emailed to the General Membership for the current season at least fifteen (15) days before the day on which the meeting is to be held. The notice will include an agenda and any proposed changes to the By - Laws or Rules & Regulations of this Association.

6.2.2 Quorum of Annual Meeting

The presence and number, in person or by proxy of any eligible Membership shall constitute a quorum of the commencement of the meeting and thereafter all business conducted at properly called that Annual Meeting. Proxy vote must be submitted no later than 15 days from the date of the set Annual Meeting to any HVA Sports Committee members.

Addendum:

Revision Dates of Bylaws [pending changes highlighted in blue, to be voted on by membership](#).
Revised attest to by the Sports Committee.