

**Society for Personality  
and  
Social Psychology, Inc.**

**Bylaws**

**Prepared summer 2003;  
Bylaws revised 2007  
Bylaws revised 2015  
Bylaws revised 2019  
Bylaws revised 2021**

BYLAWS OF THE SOCIETY FOR PERSONALITY  
AND SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY, INC.  
As approved 1/07

Article I. Name and Purpose

1. The name of this organization shall be the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as the "Society").

2. The objects of the Society shall be to advance personality and social psychology as a science and as a means of promoting human welfare; and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to advance the theory, research, and practice of personality and social psychology by encouraging topics, holding meetings for the presentation of scientific papers, issuing publications containing scientific papers and other material pertinent or necessary to the furtherance of the Society's objectives, improving the qualifications and usefulness of personality and social psychologists through higher education and achievement of persons in the field, supporting activities encouraging the employment of personality and social psychologists in a wide variety of settings, and cooperating with other scientific and professional societies.

3. The purposes for which this corporation is formed are identified in the Articles of Incorporation.

Article II. Membership

1. The Society shall have six classes of membership: Full Members, Associates, Graduate Students, Undergraduate Students, Early Career Members, and Retired Members. Specific criteria for membership will be determined by the Board of Directors according to the following definitions of each membership class.

2. Full Members shall possess an earned doctorate in psychology with work relevant to social and personality psychology. Full Members shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of the Society without restriction, including the right to hold office and vote in elections.

3. Associates shall be social and personality psychologists who do not possess an earned doctorate in social or personality psychology or those with professional interests that cover social and personality psychology. Associates will have all the privileges of membership, save the right to vote and hold office.

4. Graduate Students shall be students enrolled in a graduate psychology program with interest in the field of personality or social psychology. Graduate students will have all the privileges of membership, including the right to vote and hold office.

5. Undergraduate Students shall be students enrolled in an undergraduate psychology program with interest in the field of personality or social psychology. Undergraduate Students will have all the privileges of membership, save the right to vote and hold office.

6. Early Career Members shall be members who have earned their doctorate degree in psychology within the last 6 years. Early Career Members will have all the privileges of membership, including the right to vote and hold office.

7. Retired Members shall be retired members with past experience in the social and personality psychology fields. Retired Members will have all the privileges of membership, including the right to vote and hold office.

8. Persons interested in joining the Society must apply through means specified by the Board of Directors.

### Article III. Officers

1. The officers of the Society shall be a President-Elect, a President, a Past President and a Treasurer.

2. The terms of the office for the President-Elect, President and the Past President shall be one year in each position, and for the Treasurer three years.

3. The President-Elect shall be a Full Member of the Society elected by the eligible voting Members of the Society. It shall be the duty of the President-Elect to serve as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Society and to perform the duties of the President in the event of absence or incapacity of the President.

4. The President shall be a Full Member of the Society who has just completed their term as President-Elect. It shall be the duty of the President to serve as Chair of the Society, to preside at all meetings and to act as Chair of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Society, and to perform such other duties as are incident to his or her office, or as may properly be required by vote of the Board of Directors of the Society.

5. The Past President shall be a Full Member of the Society who just completed their term as President. It shall be the duty of the Past President to serve as a member of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Society, and to receive nominations of officers and Board of Director members and to supervise their election.

6. The Treasurer shall be a Full Member of the Society who is elected by the eligible voting Members of the Society. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to serve as a member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Society, and to maintain the finances and ensure the financial stability of the Society.

7. In the case of the death, incapacity, or resignation of the President-Elect, the office shall remain vacant until the current year's election, at which time members of the Society shall elect an individual to serve the term of the missing President-Elect (as well as a new President-Elect to serve in the coming year, in the ordinary sequence). If the death, incapacity, or resignation of the President-Elect occurs too late in their term for the successor to be elected by the regular election procedure, the successor shall be elected by a special ballot by the eligible voting members of the Society.

8. In the case of the death, incapacity, or resignation of the President, the office shall be filled by the President-Elect.

9. In the case of the death, incapacity, or resignation of the Treasurer, a new Treasurer shall be appointed by the President, subject to ratification by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, to serve until a replacement may be duly elected at the next election of officers.

10. Any member of the Board of Directors may be removed from office by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all currently serving members of the Board of Directors. This vote may take place at any regular or special meeting called for that purpose, for nonfeasance, malfeasance, or misfeasance, for conduct detrimental to the interests of the Society, for lack of sympathy with its objective or for refusal to render reasonable assistance in carrying out its purpose.

#### Article IV. Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of 12-15 members: the four officers (the President, the President-Elect, the Past President, and the Treasurer), the Division 8 American Psychological Association Council Representative with most seniority duly elected in accordance with established procedures of the American Psychological Association, and seven to ten At-Large Members of the Board of Directors. Additional persons may be invited to participate but not vote in Board of Director meetings. The Executive Director serves as an ex-officio member of the Board with voice but no vote.

2. Council representatives shall be elected to three-year terms in accordance with the Bylaws of the American Psychological Association. Council Representatives shall represent Division 8 on the Council of Representatives of the Association as well as serve on the Board of Directors of the Society. In the event that APA solicits more than one Council Representative, only the one with most seniority shall serve on the Board of Directors of the Society. Council Representatives shall be elected each year that the Society is eligible for representation in accordance with the Bylaws of the Association.

3. At-Large Members shall be eligible Members of the Society elected by the membership to serve terms of up to three years on the Board of Directors. At-Large Members shall be elected each year as necessary to bring the Board of Directors. Insofar as possible, At-Large Members shall be divided into three classes to contain as nearly as may be one third of the whole number of At-Large Members.

4. Members of the Board of Directors, with the exception of Council Representatives and Treasurer, shall be ineligible for re-election to their current positions after a three-year term without at least one-year intervening.

5. In case of death, incapacity, or resignation of a Council Representative or an At-Large Member, a successor shall be appointed by the President to serve until a replacement may be duly elected at the next election of officers, subject to ratification by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

6. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at any time on the call of the President or Treasurer. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of a majority (at least half) of the Board of Directors. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority of the Board of Directors members present at a meeting, except as specifically provided in Section III.10 of the by-laws.

7. The Board of Directors shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Society, performing the duties and abiding by the limitations specified in these Bylaws, and overseeing the delegation of duties to the Central Office staff. The Board of Directors shall have the power to make such contracts and to provide for the delivery of such deeds, documents, and instruments as shall be necessary for the carrying out of all purposes, functions, and other business of the Society, and shall be authorized by vote of the

members of the Society at any duly constituted meeting, or as may be provided elsewhere by these Bylaws.

8. The President shall serve as Chair of the Board of Directors.

#### Article V. Elections

1. The officers and members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by the Full Members, Graduate Students, Early Career Members, and Retired Members of the Society.

2. A call for nominations shall be issued by electronic distribution for the office of President-Elect each year; Council Representative every year of eligibility; Treasurer, and At-Large Members as necessary to maintain the Board of Directors at a size of ten to fifteen members.

3. Not longer than six months after closing the nominating ballot, the final ballot shall be made available electronically to eligible voting members.

4. Election shall be by means of a preferential voting system, and at least two nominees shall be named for each office. Voters shall rank order each candidate in one ballot. If one candidate gets fifty percent or more of all the first preference votes, that candidate will be selected on the first count. If no candidate gets fifty percent or more of the first preference votes, the candidate with the fewest number "1" votes is dropped and its votes are re-cast to the candidate each voter ranked next. This continues until one candidate gets fifty percent or more of the votes cast.

5. If a person who is already a member of the Board of Directors is elected to another position by which they becomes an officer or member of the Board of Directors, they must resign one of these positions.

6. All members of the Board of Directors shall assume office on January 1st following their election and hold office until their successors are elected and assume office.

#### Article VI. Meetings

1. An Annual Business Meeting of the Society may be held at the time and place of the Annual Conference of the Society, the exact time and place to be set by the Board of Directors.

2. Special meetings of the Society shall be held any time upon the call of the Board of Directors or of 100 members of the Society.

3. Notice of the meetings, in writing or by electronic distribution, for every annual or special meeting of the members of the Society shall be prepared and sent to the last known email address of each member, not less than thirty days before such meeting unless notice be already included in the regular announcement of the Annual Conference.

4. A quorum at any meeting of the members of the Society shall consist of fifty or more members in good standing.

5. A majority of members attending a meeting of the Society may authorize a referendum of the total membership on any matter that is of concern to the membership. Such a referendum shall be conducted by the Board of Directors or by a committee appointed by the Board of Directors to carry out the referendum.

#### Article VII. Committees

1. The Executive Committee, consisting of the four officers and Executive Director (as ex-officio with voice and no vote), shall be a standing committee. The Executive Committee retains authority to act on behalf of the Board of Directors per authority defined and approved annually by the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee oversees and delegates the work of the Executive Director.

2. Special Committees may be initiated by majority vote of the Board of Directors. Establishment of a Special Committee must be accompanied by specifications of its membership and by a specific budget authorization.

3. Task Forces may be initiated by majority vote of the Board of Directors and those task forces will automatically dissolve after one year unless renewed by the Board. Establishment of a Task Force must be accompanied by specifications of its membership and by a specific budget authorization.

#### Article VIII. Finances

1. Annual dues and assessments shall be established by the Board of Directors and shall include subscription to such publication as may be determined by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may reduce dues or assessments for students or for members of other groups.

2. The fiscal year of the Society shall commence on January 1 of each year and end on December 31.

#### Article IX. Amendments

1. Voting on amendments to or repeal of these Bylaws may take place at any time and will be accomplished by means of electronic ballot of eligible voting members.

2. A majority vote of those who return ballots by the vote deadline shall carry the vote. The notice of the amendments or repeal shall be sent with the ballot and shall describe the substance of the proposed action.

3. Amendments or repeal shall be initiated by a majority vote of the Board of Directors or by a petition of at least 100 members of the Society.