



TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS



PREAMBLE

We, the member schools of the Texas Association of Student Councils, sponsored by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals, in order to instill American ideals, to encourage citizenship, to develop leadership, and to support student councils of this State, do organize ourselves to operate under the following constitution.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Texas Association of Student Councils.

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Charter Members: The Junior and Senior High Schools sending delegates to the meeting called for April, 1937, at Highland Park High School, Dallas, for the purpose of forming a State Organization, shall be recognized as Charter Members of the Texas Association of Student Councils.

Section 2. Any Junior High/Middle School or Senior High School, public, parochial, or private, in the State of Texas, may become a member of this organization, provided it pays the approved annual membership fees.

- A. State and district membership dues shall be determined by the TASC Board of Directors.
- B. State and district membership dues shall be paid to the state association.
- C. District dues will be rebated by the state to the districts.
- D. State and district participation is limited to paid members.

ARTICLE III - OFFICERS

Section 1. Student Officers of the Organization shall be:

- A. Those elected by the official student delegates attending the Annual TASC Conference
 - 1. President,
 - 2. Vice-President,
 - 3. Parliamentarian,
 - 4. Secretary.
- B. A school which will serve as Conference Coordinator shall be selected two years in advance by the State Board of Directors.
- C. A school which will serve as Conference Coordinator for the Middle Level State Conference shall be approved by the State Board of Directors.
- D. The four student officers currently serving the Association shall be voting members of the State Board of Directors.

Section 2. Also:

- A. The person serving as State Executive Director of the TASSP shall serve as the State Executive Director of the TASC and a designated TASC Director shall be responsible to the TASC Board of Directors in all TASC Work.
- B. A Board of Directors consisting of:
 - 1. The TASSP/TASC Executive Director,
 - 2. One student and one advisor from each of four officer schools currently serving the Association,

3. Three senior high student council advisors, one elected by high school advisors attending the High School Annual Conference each year to serve for a term of three years,
 4. Three members of the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals,
 5. Two middle level student council advisors, one to be elected by middle level advisors attending the Middle Level State Conference each year that a three year term is completed, and
 6. The advisor of the Immediate Past President School.
 7. Failure to fulfill duties or absence from board meetings can be grounds to remove any officer school or elected board member. Formal charges and a two-thirds vote by the Board are required for removal. Should an officer school or elected board member resign, the resignation goes into effect when the board approves it. In the event of a resignation or removal of an officer school, the position shall either be filled for the remainder of the term or the position shall remain vacant until the next annual conference (depending on time of year). In the event of removal or resignation of an elected board member, the Board shall fill the position for the remainder of the term. In either of the mentioned occurrences, the vacancy would be filled by the person or school that ran and was not elected. Should the position have not been contested, the Board shall determine the advisor appointed to the position.
- C. The following shall apply to advisors serving on the Board of Directors:
1. All elected advisor positions are to be determined by a majority vote. In the event of a tie vote, in a run-off election, the candidate with the greatest number of votes in the general election on Day Two will win the election. In the event that there is a tie vote in both the general election and the run-off election, the current board will convene on Day Three of the conference and select an advisor to fill the position.
 2. The school principal shall designate the advisor to serve on the board as an elected advisor or state officer advisor.
 3. No more than one advisor from a member school may serve on board at one time.
 4. Elected advisors serving a three year term must be off the board for one year before running for an elected advisor position again. Advisors who are appointed to fill the remainder of a vacated three year term may run again at the expiration of that term.

ARTICLE IV - ELECTIONS

Section 1. Qualifications for Candidate Schools:

- A. Schools rather than individuals shall be candidates. Each Officer School shall choose the student to fill the office.
- B. A Candidate School shall have been a member of the Association the school year preceding its nomination and shall be a current member.
- C. A school may hold only one office at a time. Schools may not run for state officer while currently serving as an officer school.
- D. A Candidate School shall file, with the TASC Director, a letter of permission to run for an office from the principal of that school. This letter shall be submitted to the TASC Director at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening date of the conference.

Section 2. Campaign Procedure:

- A. Each Candidate School shall be responsible for securing from the TASC Director a list of regulations governing the type and use of campaign materials.
- B. A political rally, at which the Vice-President shall preside, shall be held prior to the voting session.

- C. Each Candidate School shall be allotted only seven minutes, during which time nominating, seconding, and acceptance speeches may be made.

Section 3. Election Procedures:

- A. Election of officer schools shall be held prior to the last general session of the Annual Conference.
- B. Voting shall be by secret ballot with each member school having the same number of votes as official student delegates present at the conference, not to exceed five. Foreign or exchange students are not official delegates.
- C. To be elected, a school must receive a majority of the vote. If a majority vote is not obtained, a run-off election will be held. If a tie vote occurs in the run-off election, the winner shall be the school having the greater number of votes in the first balloting. In the event that two schools have a tie vote in both the general election and in the run-off election, the current board will convene on Day Three of the conference and select a school to fill the office.
- D. Preceding the opening of the last general session at the conference, the run-off ballots, if needed, shall be marked, collected by the Secretary and given to the Chairman of the Tabulating Committee. The school having a majority shall be declared the winner.
- E. Ballots shall be tabulated before the end of the last general session of the conference and results of the election announced by the President.
- F. All newly elected officer schools shall assume their responsibilities at the conclusion of the last general session of the Annual Conference.

ARTICLE V - CONFERENCES

Section 1. The High School Level Annual Conference of the Association shall be held in the spring term of each school year. The date of the meeting shall be set by the State Executive Director, TASC Director and the TASC Board of Directors. The Middle Level Annual Conference shall be held in the fall term of each school year. The date of the meeting shall be set by the State Executive Director, TASC Director and the TASC Board of Directors.

Section 2.

- A. Attendance - The Board of Directors shall determine the number of delegates each school may bring to the Annual Conference.
- B. Completed registration forms and fees shall be mailed to the TASC Director prior to the opening of the Annual Conference.

ARTICLE VI - ADVISORS

Section 1. The Association shall also include an organization of the Advisors from the member schools.

Section 2. The Advisors of the member schools represented at the Annual Conference shall hold at least one scheduled meeting during the Conference.

Section 3. The Chairman of this group shall be the TASC Director, who shall appoint a Secretary for the meeting.

ARTICLE VII- AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments may be proposed by any member school of the Association, or by two-thirds vote of the State Board of Directors.

Section 2. Amendments signed by the Principal and Advisor shall be submitted in writing to the TASC Director not later than March 1, each year, for consideration by the State Board of Directors in regular session.

Section 3. All proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing (by the TASC Director) to all member schools. Each school shall vote by mail. Each ballot shall be signed by the Principal and Advisor. A majority of all votes cast shall be required for ratification.

ARTICLE VIII - TASSP SPONSORSHIP

The sponsorship of TASSP is given with the provision that any major action or proposed action that changes the orderly operations, threatens the survival or changes the balance of governing power may be referred by the President of TASSP or the Executive Director to the TASSP Board of Directors for approval prior to consideration by the TASC Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX - RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution shall be presented by mail to the Principal of each member school for ratification. Each ballot shall contain the signature of the Principal and the Advisor. The Constitution Committee shall canvass the votes. Two-thirds of all votes cast shall be required for ratification. If ratified, this constitution shall become effective immediately.

BY-LAWS

Section 1. The President shall appoint a Credentials Committee composed of the Vice-President, four students, each from a different school, and one advisor. This committee shall review the list of schools certified by the TASC Director and the Vice-President and prepare a list of eligible candidate schools to be voted on at the Conference.

Section 2. In the event no school signs up for an office, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee composed of five students and five advisors, each from a different school. This committee shall recruit two (2) or more schools for that office.

Section 3. The President shall appoint a Tabulating Committee composed of the Secretary, four students, each from a different school, and one advisor. This committee shall collect the marked ballots, tabulate the results, and present them to the President prior to the close of the Annual Conference.

Section 4. The Association may charge a Conference Registration Fee, which shall be used to defray the expenses of the Conference. This fee shall be collected from each delegate prior to the date set by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The amount of the registration fee may vary from year to year with relation to the total expense of the Conference.

Section 6. Duties of the student officers, State Executive Director/TASC Director, High School Conference Coordinator and State Board of Directors.

A. In conjunction with his or her advisor, the President shall:

1. Give leadership to the Association throughout his term of office,
2. Appoint committees;
3. Preside at meetings of the State Board of Directors;

4. Attend a TASC summer leadership workshop; and
 5. Perform other duties as required.
- B. In conjunction with the advisor, the Vice-President shall:
1. Execute the duties of the President in case of the latter's absence;
 2. Attend the meetings of the State Board of Directors;
 3. Act as chairman of the Credentials Committee;
 4. Attend a TASC summer leadership workshop; and
 5. Perform other duties as required.
- C. In conjunction with his or her advisor, the Secretary shall:
1. Attend meetings of the State Board of Directors;
 2. Read minutes of the previous business meeting;
 3. Furnish the State Executive Director with a copy of the minutes for permanent filing;
 4. Collect and tabulate ballots for the election of officers at the Annual Conference (Tabulations Committee);
 5. Attend a TASC summer leadership workshop; and
 6. Perform other duties as required.
- D. In conjunction with his or her advisor, the Parliamentarian shall:
1. Act as the final authority on questions of parliamentary procedure at the Annual Conference;
 2. Serve as time-keeper at the political rally;
 3. Attend meetings of the State Board of Directors;
 4. Furnish material and information on parliamentary procedure to member schools upon request;
 5. Attend a TASC summer leadership workshop;
 6. Perform other duties as required.
- E. The High School Conference Coordinator School shall:
1. Serve as Conference Coordinator School for the Annual Conference;
 2. Coordinate with the TASC Board of Directors or its designee to provide suitable entertainment for the High School Annual Conference;
 3. Perform other duties as required.
- F. The Past President School Advisor shall:
1. Attend meetings of the State Board of Directors;
 2. Serve in an advisory capacity to the State Board of Directors;
 3. Serve as chairman of the Scholarship Committee;
 4. Perform other duties as required.
- G. Duties of the State Executive Director/TASC Director:
1. Attend all meetings of the State Board of Directors. Meetings of the State Board of Directors shall include a minimum of one meeting in the fall and one meeting at the High School Annual Conference. A meeting must be called within 30 days at the request of any ten (10) members of the State Board of Directors.
 2. Secure platform speakers for the Annual Conference;
 3. Aid the President with all general sessions of the Annual Conference;
 4. Serve as Chairman of all business sessions of the Advisors;
 5. Receive membership dues and issue membership documentation;
 6. Administer the funds of the Association with the consent of the State Board of Directors;
 7. Furnish the State Board of Directors an annual report of income and disbursements. The Financial Report will be prepared by the State Executive Director/TASC Director and audited by a certified public accountant;
 8. Collect materials of benefit to student councils and make them available to all member schools upon request;
 9. Encourage schools to become active in the Association;
 10. Organize summer workshops;

11. Prepare and distribute a minimum of four newsletters each year;
12. Select delegates to attend the Annual Conference of the National Association of Student Councils with approval of the State Board of Directors;
13. Answer correspondence pertaining to student council activities in Texas; and
14. Perform other duties as required.

H. Duties of the State Board of Directors:

1. Appoint persons to fill un-expired terms of the State Board of Directors members;
2. Review and study the Annual Audit Report presented by the State Executive Director;
3. Determine the date and place for the Annual Conference;
4. Approve a program for the Annual Conference;
5. Determine the registration fee for the Annual Conference;
6. Serve as a planning board of the promotion, growth, and continued success of the Association;
7. Serve in an advisory capacity to the State Executive Director/TASC Director in all matters pertaining to that office and to TASC;
8. Serve in an advisory capacity to TASSP in all matters pertaining to TASC; and
9. Perform other duties as required.

Section 7.

- A. The TASC State Association shall adopt guidelines regarding best practices for TASC District Associations regarding district organization and management of district finances.
- B. Any decision of the district boards may be appealed by any district member to a committee made up of the principals of district officers. The TASC Director shall act as an advisor to that committee

Section 8. The By-Laws may be amended in the same manner as the Constitution.

Section 9. *Roberts Rules of Order* shall be the standard parliamentary text of the Association and shall govern all cases not otherwise covered in the Constitution and By-Laws.

Constitution amended: 2015, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2008, 2005, 2003 (see ballots for changes)