

MEMPHIS ITALIAN-AMERICAN SOCIETY
MEMPHIS BOCCE CLUB

AMENDED CLUB BY LAWS
Adopted by Acclamation October 1, 2007

MISSION STATEMENT

The MIAS is a 501(c)(3) not for profit charitable organization that sponsors programs, scholarships, and activities designed to promote and preserve Italian and Italian-American Heritage throughout the tri-state Mid-South area. It serves to raise funds for activities that build and strengthen the cultural identity of Tennessee, Arkansas, and Mississippi citizens of Italian descent while promoting a bias-free, positive image for all Italian Americans. It shall serve as custodian of a repository of documents, photographs, and other historical data that secures the unbroken link between ourselves and our Italian American ancestors who received approval of the first charter for this organization from the State of Tennessee on the 12th day of May, 1870. Said repository shall be maintained and made available for research and historical documentation of the myriad contributions made to this community by our ancestors.

In addition, this organization shall promote and support through education, research, training and development the international sport of Amateur Bocce in the tri-state Mid South area.

ARTICLE 1

Name

Section 1. The name and title of this organization shall be the “Memphis Italian-American Society and the Memphis Bocce Club.”

ARTICLE 2

Meetings and Order of Business

Section 1. The regular meeting of this Club shall be held quarterly; March, June, September and December on the second Sunday (or designated alternative) at 2:00 PM for the transaction of business.

Section 2. All meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 3. The order of business shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Reading of minutes of the last meeting
3. Communications and bills against the club
4. Balloting for membership applicants
5. Treasurers' Report
6. Committee Reports (Special and/or Standing)
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
9. For the good of the Club
10. Adjournment

Section 4. Special meetings of the club may be called at any time by the President, as he may deem necessary; or as he may be requested in writing by the Directors or 10 (Ten) members in good standing. No business shall be transacted at such "special" meetings, except as shall be stated in the notice of such call.

Section 5. Eight (8) members in good standing plus the President shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all regular or special meetings.

Section 6. Written and e-mail or telephone notices of regular monthly and/or special meetings shall be required. It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to construct and maintain current addresses of all members in good standing and execute the directives of this Section.

ARTICLE 3

Membership and Applicants

Section 1. Qualifications: Any adult person possessing the following qualification may be elected to an active membership in this club.

1. That he or she is an American citizen at least 18 years of age at the time of admittance.
2. That he or she agrees to abide by the by-laws as outlined in this document and to conduct himself/herself at all Club functions in such a manner as to reflect positively on the organization.

Section 2. Duration of Membership. Membership in the chapter shall endure life unless membership is terminated pursuant to the provisions contained in Articles 5 & 6.

Section 3. Membership classes.

- A. Regular membership (Single male or female) and Family membership
- B. Honorary membership

Any one belonging to any religious order and/or any adult who has distinguished him/her self by some outstanding unusual service or circumstance may be considered eligible for honorary membership. He/she shall be exempt from admission fees and dues, but shall not have voting privileges. He/she shall be permitted to enjoy the benefits of the chapter.

- C. Special membership (Associate or Social)

Section 4. Application for Membership. An application for membership in this chapter shall be submitted in writing on the club application form and must be accompanied by an initiation fee and the first six (6) months dues.

Section 5. Method of recommendation and election of new members.

- A. A member desirous of bringing into membership a person who possesses the necessary qualifications for membership in the club, shall submit the candidates' name, address, and all other qualifications to the chairman of the membership committee or to the president.
- B. After investigation by the membership committee and Board of Directors that determine that credentials are in order, the proposed membership will be acted upon by the membership at the next regular meeting.
- C. The vote of the membership on the application shall be by secret ballot and a majority vote of the members present will be required for approval. A closed ballot may be dispensed with by action of the President, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried.
- D. An individual rejected to membership may not be nominated again for a period of ONE (1) year from date of said rejection.
- E. The chapter Secretary shall be responsible for presenting one copy of current by-laws to new members upon acceptance of said members.

ARTICLE 4

Initiation Fees and Dues

Section 1. Each application for membership shall be accompanied by the first SIX (6) months dues.

Section 2. Dues, whether paid by a member in person or transmitted to the Treasurer by mail or otherwise, shall be credited as of the date when the same are actually received by such officer, and his receipt to the member shall bear the same date. Any member who shall be in service to the Armed Forces of the United States shall be exempt from payment of dues.

Section 3. Every member shall be "in arrears" at the end of thirty days after the expiration of the half-year for which his/her dues were paid. During such time he/she

may attend the club meetings, but shall not have a voice or vote and shall be disqualified from holding office or taking part in elections.

Section 4. Any member who has failed to pay his/her dues for a period of Twelve (12) months shall be dropped from the roll of membership without action by the club except as herein provided.

ARTICLE 5 Offenses and Penalties

Section 1. It shall be the duty of every member to abide by and support the by-laws, all resolutions that may be adopted and other matters approved by the club, and upon his/her failure to do so, he/she shall be expelled from the club.

Section 2. When any officer of the club is absent for three consecutive regular meetings without being excused by the Club, or if he/she is arrears in the payment of dues, the President may declare the office vacant and order a special election to fill the vacancy. In the event the President shall have been absent for three consecutive meetings without excuse from the Club, or shall otherwise violate the provisions of this section, the Vice President shall declare the office vacant and order a special election, as provided by the bylaws.

Section 3. Every member who shall conduct him/her self in a manner considered unbecoming by the membership, or calculated to disturb the harmony, or to impair the good name or propriety of the Club or of its members, shall be expelled from the Club.

ARTICLE 6. Non Payment of Dues

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer at every regular meeting to read a list of members who have failed to pay their dues for a period of twelve (12) months. He shall then notify these members by letter addressed to their last known address in which shall be stated the amount due, and requesting immediate payment. Should said delinquent members fail to pay their dues on or before the succeeding regular meeting, they shall be dropped from the roll of membership. A member may be granted additional time for good cause shown at said meeting by a majority vote of the membership present.

ARTICLE 7.
Reinstatement

Section 1. A member who has been dropped for non-payment of dues may be reinstated upon the recommendation of a Board Member in good standing, provided the application is accompanied with the amount of his dues in arrears and he receives a majority vote of members.

Section 2. A dropped member who fails to apply for reinstatement before the expiration of six months from the date of his/her suspension, after said six month period, may apply for admittance as a new member in accordance with the provisions of these by-laws.

Section 3. A member expelled from the Club shall not be eligible for readmission in this club.

ARTICLE 8.
Officers, Nominations and Elections

Section 1. The officers (Board of Directors) of this Club shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian and four Directors. Officers shall be nominated at the regular meeting in November, elected at the regular meeting in December, and take office at the regular meeting in January of the following year. All of these officers shall serve for two years and until their successors shall have been elected and installed.

Section 2. Contested Board positions shall be elected by a secret ballot of the membership present at the regular membership meeting in March. Uncontested positions shall be elected by voice acclamation.

Section 3. Only members as described in Article 3, Section 3-A who have been members in good standing for not less than one (1) year may be nominated and elected to office.

Section 4. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected. There will be a run-off in the event of a tie.

Section 5. The Board shall select a member in good standing whose name is not in nomination to take charge of and conduct the election, and report the results to the chair.

Section 6. The retiring officers shall deliver to the newly elected officers all funds, books, documents, etc. pertaining to club business in their possession. The newly elected officers shall receipt for the same in a book to be kept for that purpose.

Section 7. Board Resignations, Terminations, Absences. Resignations from the Board must be submitted in writing and received by the Secretary (or, President in the case of the Secretary).

A Board member shall be dropped for excess absences from the Board if he or she has three (3) unexcused absences from Board meetings within any 12 month period.

A Board member may also be removed for other reasons by a three-fourths vote of the remaining Directors.

Section 8. Vacancies. When a vacancy on the Board exists, nominations for new Board members may be received from present Board members by the Secretary (or, President in the case of the Secretary) two weeks in advance of a Board meeting. These nominations shall be sent out to Board members with the regular Board meeting announcement, to be voted on at the next Board meeting. All vacancies shall be filled only to the end of the replaced Board member's term.

ARTICLE 9

Duties of the Officers

President

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club. He shall direct and supervise the affairs of the Club and shall enforce all rules and regulations. He shall appoint all officers pro tem in the places of absentees. He shall appoint all committees and chairs of same, and shall be ex-officio member thereof.

Section 2. He shall cast the deciding vote on all questions in which the vote is a tie, excepting on appeals arising from his decision.

Section 3. He and the Vice-President shall inspect all admissions ballots and report the results to the club.

Section 4. He shall sign all orders drawn on the Treasurer for the payment of such sums of money as may be authorized by the club from time to time.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the President, before adjournment at any regular meeting, to announce the names of members who have been dropped or expelled from membership of the Club.

Vice President

Section 6. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President in his absence. He shall assist the President in preserving order and decorum in the Club. He shall serve as de-facto Chair of all committees duly appointed by the President. He shall serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors. He shall serve as Commissioner of all Club Leagues. He shall perform other such duties as the President may assign.

Secretary

Section 7. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a full and accurate record of all proceedings of the Club, to read all reports, petitions and communications addressed to the Club and conduct such correspondence as may be desired by the Club and preserve copies thereof.

Section 8. He shall enroll in the proper books the name, age, occupation, and residence of each member of the Club, and note from time to time all deaths, suspensions, expulsions, withdrawals and/or reinstatements of members.

Section 9. He shall enroll in the proper books the name, age, occupation, residence, on line address, telephone of each member, and note from time to time all deaths, suspensions, expulsions, withdrawals, and/or reinstatement of members.

Section 10. He shall deliver to his successor in office no later than the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board all books, papers, records, seal, and all other property of the Club which may be in his possession.

Treasurer

Section 11. He shall receive all money of the Club and give his receipt therefore. He shall deposit all funds in the name of the Club in a bank selected by it. He shall pay all warrants drawn by the Secretary on the Treasury of the Club, provided the same have been authorized by the Club, signed by the President, attested by the Secretary.

Section 12. He shall keep in proper books an accurate account of all money received by him for the Club, and keep a list of all warrants signed by him. After these warrants have been paid and returned to him, he shall preserve them as part of the records of the Club. He shall attend meetings of the Board of Directors and render such assistance as might be required.

Section 13. He shall notify each member who may be indebted to the Club for non-payment of dues in accordance with Article 6, Section 1 of these bylaws.

Parliamentarian

Section 14. He shall satisfy himself that all persons at all regular and special meetings of the Club are members of the Club and entitled to participate in the same. He shall note the names and addresses of all guests at these meetings, as well as note their particular business with the Club. He shall surrender said list to the Secretary for the Record.

Section 15. It shall be his task to adjudicate issues regarding the procedural conduct of all meetings to insure Article 2, Section 2 of this document is adhered to. He may be called upon during said meetings to assist the President in settling points of order questions regarding this Document and/or procedural issues as they may arise.

Section 16. He shall prepare a ballot box for elections held by the Club. He shall assist the President and his appointed assistants in the tally of all votes, and surrender said tally to the Secretary for the Record.

Directors (4)

Section 17. Directors shall attend all club meetings, rendering assistance as requested by the President. They may be assigned to chair special Club events and/or functions as directed by the President. These shall include but not be limited to:

Food & Beverage

Bocce Alley Maintenance

Club Grounds and Facilities Maintenance

Tournaments

Social Functions

ARTICLE 10

Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and qualified to vote. All Amendments must be introduced in writing to the Board of Directors at least thirty (30) days prior to said meeting for discussions and recommendations. Notice of proposed amendment must be presented in writing to all voting members in good standing at least two (2) weeks before said meeting.

First Amendment to this Document 01/30/2008 Article 8, Sections 7 & 8