

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION  
OF  
INDEPENDENT ATHLETIC ORGANIZATIONS  
(TAIAO)**

**CONSTITUTION**

July 14, 2014

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## ARTICLE I - Name

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The name of the association shall be the Texas Association of Independent Athletic Organizations (“TAIAO”).

## ARTICLE II - Objectives

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The Purpose of TAIAO is and shall be to organize, encourage and promote academic, athletic and fine arts programs and excellence in Texas based organizations through sponsored competition and contests. All activities shall be focused on the development of a spirit of fair play, good fellowship, true sportsmanship and wholesome competition for young men and women.

## ARTICLE III – Membership

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- 1. Membership:** Membership in TAIIO is limited to private and public organizations and groups actively focused on and committed to the education and development of youth in the state of Texas.
- 2. Eligible Organizations:** Organizations eligible for membership shall include:
  - A.** Private schools that are established, conducted and primarily supported by a non-government agency or primarily supported by student tuition.
  - B.** Parochial schools are that are controlled by, supported by, or within the jurisdiction of a church parish.
  - C.** Charter Schools operating under Chapter 12 of the Texas Education Code.
  - D.** Home School organizations, cooperatives and private groups (i) governed by a group or board of individuals, (ii) having at least one person formally authorized to represent their interests and (iii) whose student membership consists of students who are currently being home schooled in accordance with the laws of Texas.
- 3. Member Organization and Representation:**
  - A.** A TAIIO Member Organization is one that has been approved for participation in any TAIIO sponsored activity, event or contest, is in good standing according to all TAIIO governing rules and requirements and is current in the payment of all membership fees.
  - B.** Each TAIIO Member Organization shall be represented by a delegate who will have voting privileges for that member. In addition, each Member Organization delegate must agree to actively serve on at least one Association committee.
  - C.** Each Member Organization shall be allowed one vote for its membership in TAIIO.
- 4. Application for Membership and Annual Fees:**
  - A.** Applications for membership of must be made to the TAIIO state office in writing by the organization’s chief administrator. Applications will be considered by the Steering Committee and its decision will be reported to the applying organization and TAIIO membership.
  - B.** All Member Organizations shall be responsible for timely payment of annual dues and all activity, contest, and event fees to the TAIIO state office. Annual dues shall be submitted to the TAIIO state office on or before February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

## ARTICLE IV – Organization and Annual Meeting

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- 1. Association Management:** The management, control, and final authority for this association shall belong to the Steering Committee, the Commissioner, the Athletic Committee, the Academic Committee, the Arts Committee and such other committees as may, from time to time, be authorized and appointed.
- 2. Annual Meeting:** An annual meeting of the Member Organizations shall be held each year on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday during the month of June at such time and place as stated in a notice of meeting issued by the Steering Committee to elect members of the Steering Committee and to transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.
- 3. Steering Committee:** Executive management of the activities and affairs of the Association shall be conducted and vested in the Steering Committee.
  - A. Committee Composition:**
    - 1.** The number of members of the Steering Committee shall be a minimum of three (3).
      - a.** The initial Steering Committee shall be comprised of Wayne Alldredge, Rush Cone and Jimmy Stanford.
    - 2.** The number of the Members of the Steering Committee shall be fixed from time to time by the Steering Committee and the number so fixed shall comprise the entire Steering Committee.
    - 3.** Any new Steering Committee member shall first be nominated by the Chairman and approved, subject to election by the Membership at the Annual Meeting, by a majority of the Committee.
    - 4.** The Association Commissioner shall be a member of the Steering Committee and shall not be required to stand for election at the annual meeting.
  - B. Term of Office and Election:**
    - 1.** Each member shall hold office for 2 years or until his or her successor is elected and qualified, or until his or her death, removal, or resignation.
    - 2.** After nomination and approval as provided in Paragraph 3. A. 3. above, Committee members shall be elected by a majority vote of the TAIAM Member Organizations in attendance at the annual meeting of the Association or at any meeting specially called for such purpose.
    - 3.** The Steering Committee shall be charged with establishing Steering Committee members initial terms of offices such that approximately 50% of the Steering

Committee shall be subject to election in odd years and 50% shall be subject to election in even years.

**C. Committee Quorum and Voting:** A majority of the Steering Committee must be present to act on Association business. Except as otherwise specifically provided, a majority vote of the quorum in attendance shall be required in order for the Steering Committee to pass any motion or action.

**D. Committee Officers:**

1. A Chairman shall be elected by majority vote from the members of the Steering Committee.
2. A Vice-Chairman and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Chairman with the approval of a majority of the Steering Committee members.

**E. Compensation:**

1. Committee members shall serve without compensation.
2. Committee members shall be allowed reasonable advancement or reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

**4. Athletic, Academic, and Fine Arts Committees:** The activities and affairs of the association shall be supervised by the Athletic, Academic, and Fine Arts Committees.

**A. Committee Composition:** Each Committee shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members.

**B. Term of Office and Appointment:**

1. Each Committee member shall hold office for 1 year or until his or her successor is elected and qualified, or until his or her death, removal, or resignation.
2. Members shall be nominated, appointed and serve at the pleasure of the Steering Committee.
3. Each new Member must be approved by a majority vote of the Steering Committee.

**C. Committee Officers:**

1. A Chair shall be selected from the members of each Committee by the Steering Committee
2. A Vice-Chair shall be selected from the members of each Committee by the Steering Committee.

**D. Compensation:**

1. Members shall serve without compensation except that they may be allowed reasonable advancement or reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

**5. Commissioner:**

**A. Appointment:** The Steering Committee shall appoint a person to serve at its pleasure as the Commissioner of TAI AO. The Commissioner will be an employee of TAI AO. The Commissioner shall have the right to appoint staff as he or she deems necessary.

**B. Responsibilities:** The TAI AO Commissioner has the responsibility;

1. To serve as the chief administrative officer of TAI AO;
2. For day to day operation of TAI AO and supervision of sponsored activities, events and contests;
3. To work with the Steering Committee Chairman on contractual and fiscal matters, board meeting agenda, and other Association business;
4. To prepare the annual budget for TAI AO and submit it for approval by the Steering Committee;
5. To take such other actions as are reasonable, necessary, desirable and consistent with the TAI AO Constitution, General Rules and other approved rules, policies and procedures.



## ARTICLE V – Alignment

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- 1. Division Alignment:** Upon acceptance to membership in TAI AO, each Member Organization will be assigned to a Division classification for each activity based on the TAI AO General Rules.
- 2. Initial At-Large Assignment:** Except as otherwise provided in the TAI AO General Rules, each new Member Organization will be first assigned to At- Large status within a region. District assignment will be made at the next realignment.

## ARTICLE VI – Eligibility

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- 1. Compliance:** In order to be eligible for participation in TAIIO sponsored activities, events and contests a student must meet and/or comply with all qualifications listed in the Constitution, General Rules and Association policies and procedures.
- 2. Age Based Restrictions:** No student who is 19 years of age or older as of September 1<sup>st</sup> in the year of participation may participate in TAIIO sponsored activities, events or contests.
- 3. Academic Restrictions:** No student who has graduated from high school or other school of equal or higher status (including successful completion of the General Educational Development tests) may participate in TAIIO sponsored activities, events or contests.
- 4. Curriculum Restrictions:** Homeschool students may not be enrolled in three or more classes at a primary or secondary school. No student may be earning hours on campus at a college, university, trade school or other technical training or educational organizations unless that student is enrolled as pursuing dual or simultaneous credit and the student has yet to graduate from high school or another school of equal or higher status.
- 5. Amateur Restrictions:** No student who has received money or gifts or valuable consideration for participating in any sport or contest may participate in TAIIO sponsored activities, events or contests.

## ARTICLE VII – Activities

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- 1. State Championships:** State Academic, Art, Athletic, and Fine Arts championships will be conducted each year. A state champion will be recognized in both boy and girl designated sports/events.
- 2. Association Operations:** The general operations of TAI AO will follow the guidelines as set by the TAI AO Constitution, General Rules and approved policies and procedures.

## ARTICLE VIII – Discipline

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- 1. Forfeit:** TAI AO shall deem all contests, events, activities or games in which an ineligible student participates to be a loss even if the team had obtained a victory. Participation will include, but not be limited to, dressing in the team uniform, playing in a game against any opponent or any other act which TAI AO considers to be participation.
- 2. Violations:** Failure to follow rules listed in the TAI AO Constitution, General Rules or other approved policies and procedures may subject a Member Organization and/or student, coach, employee, representative or parent to Association discipline and fines, up to and including suspension and/or expulsion.

## ARTICLE IX – Amendments and Ratification

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1. **Amendments:** Amendments to this Constitution must be proposed in writing to the Steering Committee by Member Organizations. A proposed amendment will be included on the agenda only if it is endorsed in writing by at least two other Member Organizations and if it is submitted to the TAI AO state office at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Steering Committee shall make a recommendation to the membership for each amendment submitted.
2. **Ratification:** Ratification of this Constitution and/or any amendments hereto shall require a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the entire Association membership.