

Springfield Senior Golf Club 2026 Club Officers

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Rules & Procedures

The club has established a number of local rules which apply when playing in club events. Furthermore there are certain financial obligations of the members when playing in such events. These rules and policies are explained in this section of the club website.

Please click on an menu item at the left to select a set of rules, procedures or other information to review.

Greens Fees Payment Policy

Following is the club policy regarding payment by club members of greens fees for our weekly golf events.

Payment of greens fees by ALL PLAYERS is expected no later than the day before or morning of the event.

Payment by **PayPal™** is the preferred method of payment. This will require the member to first create a PayPal account and link it to his/her credit card or bank. (go to [paypal.com](https://www.paypal.com) for further details and instructions).

Payment may be made by *check* (but only if necessary). Checks can be given to an officer on the day of play or brought to the Gables front desk to be left in the SSGC folder.

Payment by *cash* is the least preferred method and should only be done if approved by the club treasurer (in advance).

If a member has paid for a golf event, but did not play in the event, it is his/her responsibility to notify the Treasurer. If the payment was made to **Paypal**, a refund will be issued to the member's PayPal account, or if a check was used it will be shredded.

Penalty for Late Cancellation

Although it seldom happens, in some cases the club may be charged by a golf course because the club failed to meet the minimum number of players per our contract with the course. If a player cancels at the last minute, it means that the club is more likely to be required to *pay* for these no-shows.

If a player has signed up for an event and then cancelled less than one week before the event and if the club is then charged for that event, and if the player has already paid for the event, no refund will be issued.

In addition, if a player has not yet paid for that event, the player is expected to pay the fee and will not be allowed to participate in further events until such payment is made.

Cancelling an event at the last minute is a hardship for the club, its members, and officers. The club may incur charges which you would have to pay. It affects the scheduling of play, and will usually create problems with various tournaments such as our scrambles, etc.

If a last-minute cancellation is unavoidable (e.g. the morning of), it is the player's responsibility to call the golf course to notify them of your cancellation. Calling or leaving a message with the Scheduler or a Club officer is not sufficient since it can inadvertently be overlooked or may not be received in time to avoid payment to the golf course when the player did not play.

SSGC Local Club Rules

All official club events (March 1 through October 31) will be played in accordance with the Official USGA Rules of Golf except for the following:

1. Special Event or Tournament Rules shall be provided to participants at the beginning of the event or tournament.
2. The Stableford point system shall be used for scoring most events, when appropriate.
3. A ball that is within 18" of the hole is considered a "gimmie". It is not required to hole this ball; however, 1 stroke is counted for the "gimmie".
4. If a ball cannot be found (but is determined to be not out of bounds) it will be considered to have gone into a lateral hazard. The ball may be dropped and played from a point near to where it was last seen. A one-stroke penalty will be assessed. A player may still try to find the lost ball, but if the group ahead is out of range, a new ball should be dropped and played without further delay. This rule does not change the rules for a ball played out-of-bounds.
5. Preferred lies are allowed. Players may mark, clean and place their ball up to one club length from the mark, no closer to the hole, and not onto improved ground; for example, a player may not move the ball from the rough to the fairway, or from the fringe to the green. If a sand trap is unplayable due to standing water or

mud, the ball may be removed from the trap and moved to the rear or side of the bunker, no closer to the hole. This rule is intended to improve pace of play.

6. Event participants may choose to play from any tee that has a rating (slope/rating) for one's gender. If one plays from a tee that is not designated in the event announcement/Starters List, one must clearly indicate on the scorecard, the tees from which one played. Should a participant play from a tee forward of the designated tee, their score will be entered for handicap purposes, but no Stableford points will be earned. Should a participant play from tees further back than the designated tees, both their score for handicap purposes and their Stableford points will be computed based upon the slope/rating of these tees.

7. The exception to choosing to play from any tee is that in an NCGA Club Qualifying event, everyone must play from the tees designated in the event announcement/Starters List.

8. Event participants are to use the scorecard provided by the golf course, unless the club provides a scorecard. Players are to enter gross score for each hole played, up to a maximum of 10. If a score of 10 has been reached and the ball has not yet been holed, the player will pick up the ball, write down a 10, and consider the hole complete. Do not enter a net score. The Club's computer will compute your net score and Stableford points.

9. If a player does not complete an 18-hole round, it will be considered "Did Not Finish" and scores will not be posted to the Club website. However, under the new World Handicap Rules (2024), the club Statistician will post partial rounds to the NCGA for handicap index purposes.

10. During Scramble play a team member may choose not to take a shot.

11. If you have lost your ball but have not hit a provisional, drop a ball in the fairway near where you believe your ball was lost proceed to play that ball. (The club considers a lost ball to be the same as a ball hit into a hazard. One stroke penalty)

12. If you have hit your ball OB, but have not hit a provisional, drop a ball in the fairway near where the ball went OB and proceed to play that ball. (Two stroke penalty – OB and distance as if you had gone back to the original spot to replay.)

Pace of Play and Ready Golf

Hints for ready golf play to speed up the pace of play:

Keep up with the group ahead by following these procedures:

- After holing out, move away from the green and proceed to the next tee box. This

allows the next foursome to approach the green.

- Scorekeeping should be done at the next tee box and not at the green.
- The person not keeping score should be ready to tee off, or the player that can hit without interfering with the foursome ahead should be ready to tee off.
- Play ready golf rather than 'honors', but be respectful on the putting green
- Minimize practice swings to increase speed of play.
- After a player hits out from a green side bunker, have a fellow player rake the bunker.
- If the player is on the green and decides to putt up to the hole (rather than waiting for the normal rotation), state your intentions and putt. This avoids playing out of turn. All players should be assessing their putt while others are putting so they are ready to putt.
- After hitting the ball from the fairway, the player hops in the cart with clubs and both players proceed to the next ball. Once they reach the next ball, both players can attend to their club cleaning and club selection.
- Look over your putt while others are putting. Be ready to putt when it is your turn. When possible, declare your intention to putt out as opposed to marking and putting later.
- Take a provisional ball when the original ball has or may have gone OB.
- Mark your ball. (Hitting the wrong ball is two-stroke penalty).
- If you have lost your ball but have not hit a provisional, drop a ball in the fairway near where you believe your ball was lost and proceed to play that ball. (The club considers a lost ball to be the same as a ball hit into a hazard. One stroke penalty)
- If you have hit your ball OB, but have not hit a provisional, drop a ball in the fairway near where the ball went OB and proceed to play that ball. (Two stroke penalty – OB and distance as if you had gone back to the original spot to replay.)

DO NOT LOOK FOR LOST BALLS IF IT HOLDS UP PLAY!!

Handicaps & Recording Scores

Handicaps

Springfield Senior Golf Club is a Northern California Golf Association Associate Club, and player indexes are maintained by the United States Golf Association using the GHIN system. The club uses computer software that allows the Handicap Chair or designee to enter golf scores directly to the NCGA and receive each member's golf

index directly from the NCGA to be used for club purposes.

The Handicap Chair enters all current member handicap indexes prior to the start of the official season, March 1. These establish the baseline to determine most improved players at the end of the season, October 31.

At the beginning of each month, the Handicap Chair updates each member's index based on scores entered during the previous month and posts these to the club website. An index may go up, down or remain the same depending on scores posted during the month. (NCGA uses only the 10 best scores of the last 20 entered each month to determine the index.)

Current NCGA index information is used to determine the total number of handicap strokes allowed for each club member at courses used by the club for designated club events. Based on the index, a course handicap is determined using the course rating, slope and tees used. Men and women usually play from different tees.

Recording Scores

Players are to use the scorecard provided by the golf course. Record only gross score for each hole, up to a maximum of 10. If a player does not finish a hole, record an X for the hole score. If a player drops out of the round, his/her score will not be posted to the club website and no Stableford points will be awarded, but the score will be posted to NCGA, using the new 2023 handicap rules.

One player in each foursome will be the official scorekeeper, keep score for the group, and turn this card in at the end of the round. To help ensure accuracy, it is advisable for a second card to be kept and cards compared at the end of the round. The official scorekeeper should sign the card, and the secondary scorekeeper should attest to the scores. A completed and signed scorecard should be placed in the Scorecard Box located in or near the Pro Shop at the end of the round.

Stableford Points

Stableford points are based on a player's handicap index using the player's net score (gross minus handicap strokes) on each hole played. Club software will calculate your Stableford Points based on your handicap index as follows:

POINTS	DESCRIPTION
0	Double Bogey or more (2 or more strokes above par)
1	Bogey (1 stroke above par)
2	Par
3	Birdie (1 stroke below par)
4	Eagle (2 strokes below par)
5	Double Eagle (3 strokes below par)
6	4 or more strokes below par

Stableford Points are used to determine end of season awards and you can keep track of your points on the club website under "Stats" on the home page.

Guest Policy

1. Members may bring guests to all SSGC golf events.
2. There shall be no limitation as to the number of times a guest may play with the club.
3. For golf rounds, a \$5.00 guest fee will be charged in addition to the normal fee for members.
4. When a guest of a member is signed up for a club golf event, the guest has the same priority as any member based on the order of their sign-up date. If there is a wait list (more members/guests signed up than we have reserved tee times), then a member on the wait list has priority over a guest on the wait list.
5. This policy is effective for events after March 1, 2016 and will continue in effect until modified or cancelled.

End of Season Awards

The End of Season Awards will include awards in these categories:

- Low Index Members
- High Index Members
- Women

Members are assigned to a category based on handicap index as of March 1. Men are grouped into high or low, and women constitute a single group with no high/low split. The high/low split for men is determined by identifying the mid-point of all handicaps from low to high, assigning members above the midpoint to the low group, and those below to the high group. If members at the split have the same handicap, they will be in the same group, high or low, as determined by the Handicap Chair.

The assignment to a high/low group is permanent for the season, even if a member's index changes during the year in a manner that would place that member in another index group.

Current awards categories for both women and men are:

- *Total Points (15 best rounds; first, second and third places receive awards)
- Iron Man and Iron Woman (most rounds played in the year)
- Low Gross
- *Highest Average Points/Round
- *Highest Points in a Single Round
- Most Improved Player

The categories marked with an asterisk include an award for those assigned as low and

high index members. To be eligible for Most Improved Player, one must have joined/renewed by February 28 so that starting index can be determined. All awards are based on achievement during the official season, March 1 – October 31.

To assure sufficient competitors within an index group, there must be at least 15 members eligible for the index group for that group to exist, with the exception that there shall always be at least one awards index group for men and one for women. With the current membership this will result in the following award Index Groups:

- Women (Single Index Group)
- Men (High Index Group)
- Men (Low Index Group)

Based upon these award groups the total number of awards is 21. To be eligible for any award a member must have participated in at least 8 events during the official season, March 1 – October 31.

Event Scheduling

Signing up for Events

Club members may sign up for events on the club website. Members must have an email address to sign in to the website and sign up for events. Whenever a member signs up for an event or modifies her/his signup, a confirming email will automatically be sent by the website to that member to confirm their reservation conditions.

Event Reservations

Events are open for reservations on the website up to 12 weeks prior to the event's scheduled date. Your reservation for the event is secured by signing up for it on the club website's home page. Reservations are first come, first served, and are accepted in the order in which they are received on the website. All reservations received are date and time stamped.

Reservations will be confirmed by email up to the limit of spaces available. Subsequent requests will be placed on a waiting list. Those on a waiting list will be notified if space becomes available. Players are encouraged to sign up even if the total number of players has been reached or exceeded, since there often are cancellations and players on the waiting list can get into an event, though sometimes on short notice.

When signing up for an event, please note any special requests such as special starting time needs, carpooling arrangements, requests to play with specific individuals, etc. The Scheduler will attempt to honor such requests.

Players Pairing Sheet and Starting Times

A pairing sheet with tee times and foursomes is emailed to members who are signed up 3-5 days before the event. If you are unable to play, please cancel at your earliest convenience via the Club website.

Cancellations: Try to avoid cancelling at the last minute if possible. A late cancellation for a contract event may result in you losing your event fee.

On the day of the event, all cancellations or requests for weather related status of the event should go to the Pro Shop at the event course.

SPRINGFIELD SENIOR GOLF CLUB MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP 2025

The 2025 Club Match Play Tournament format will be based upon the number of participants competing. Usually it consists of 4-person groups playing 3 round-robin matches to determine finalists. The finalists will play a single elimination tournament to determine the champion and runner-up. Based upon recent past participation, women and men may play in the same group using the new indexing system to determine the course handicap for each player. Returning to the *Handicap differential* method of scoring should improve the match fairness. (See below an explanation of the *Handicap differential*.)

These are Primary Tournament dates (April 10, May 1, June 5, August 21, September 11, October 2, 2025) and the Alternate dates (April 17, May 15, June 12, August 28, September 18 and October 16, 2025). The Primary Tournament dates are the preferred match play dates, with the Alternate Tournament dates to be used only if the competitors are unable to play on the Primary Tournament dates. All scheduled matches must be played on either a Primary Tournament date or an Alternate Tournament date and matches must be completed before the next round of play.

Should there be a problem with the scheduling of a match, the player who is available to play on both the Primary and the Alternate Tournament dates will be declared the match winner if the opponent is not available on either date. Should one player be available on the Primary Tournament date and the opponent is only available on the Alternate Tournament date, the matter will be referred to the Tournament Director for resolution.

The Round-robin format of 4-person groups will assure each participant at least 3 matches. Should it be necessary to form 3-person groups, each participant is assured at least 2 matches. The winner of a group is determined on the following point system:

3 points will be awarded to the winner of a match

1 point will be awarded to each player if they are tied at the end of the match

The loser of the match receives NO points

The player with the most points after all players have played each other will win the group and advance to the finalist's tournament. Depending on the total number of participants, the second place finish will also advance to the finalist's tournament.

Should there be a tie in the number of final points in a group, a playoff will be scheduled.

Should there be a tie in a quarter or semi final match, a putt-off* of 3 holes will be scheduled immediately after the match.

Should there be a tie in the final match, an 18 hole playoff will be scheduled with a Putt off should this playoff match be tied.

General Match Play Rules

Match play is an 18-hole contest between two palyers. It consists of each player attempting to score the **LOWEST NET SCORE** on each hole. The player who wins the most holes, wins the match.

How Does It Work?

All players will be ranked by their April Index. The Match Play events will be based on Handicap Differential as explained below:

Handicap differential will be used for Match Play with handicap stokes applied to each hole as indicated on the scorecard. (Handicap differential means that the net number of handicap strokes to be used is based on the *difference* between the course handicaps of the two players.) The player with the higher handicap will receive stokes equal to the difference between his/her handicap and his/her opponent's handicap. If strokes are given to the woman, the women's hole handicaps will be used. If strokes are given to the man, the men's hole handicaps will be used. There are no carryovers. If both players get the same net score (gross score minus handicap stroke(s)) on a hole, that hole is tied and is considered halved and does not count in the scoring.

Each player playing in a match play will contribute \$10.00 to the Match Play prize fund. **(This should be paid before playing your first match. Payments may be made using the club website through PayPal or providing a check at the Gables to be place in the golf club binder.)** This prize fund will be used to award prizes to the champion and runner up based upon a 2/3 – 1/3 split

* Putt-off consists of choosing three holes on the practice putting green. Players will flip a coin to determine who will go first on the first hole. The putting competition is the same as in match play with the player who wins two holes being declared the winner of the match. The winner of a hole always putts first on the next hole and continues to putt first until winning two holes or the other player wins a hole. After each player takes their first putt, the player furthest from the hole always putts next unless the putt is conceded. Continue to putt a minimum of three holes or until there is a winner.

Selection of Members for Inter-Club Team Events

For those members who wish to participate in team competition, the method of determining team members for a particular team event (should there be more participants than team members needed) will be based upon Stableford points accumulated at designated club golf outings or tournaments for that team event. For example, the team to be chosen for a team event in May will be based upon points accumulated at club events in April. (As each team event is scheduled, a list of the club events that will be used to determine the team members will be published.) Normally the list of club events will be larger than the number used to determine the team participants. This means that 6 event are listed but only the highest points from 4 will be used. Players need not play in all six events to be eligible to make the team.

The points accumulated from each scorecard turned in will be totaled for the designated club events being used for the team event, with those members with the highest total scores being given the option to participate in the team event. The only exception to this will be for current officers (4) who, if they have at least 80 points from the designated club events for the particular team event, will be given first option to participate. (If an officer has less than 80 points, they will be ranked with the rest of the members.)

For example, if a team event requires 20 members, the four officers who have accumulated at least 80 points and the 16 members with the highest total points will be given the option to participate. Should anyone not wish to participate from this group, the next person with the highest points will be asked to participate. This will continue until 20 members are able to participate in the team event.

Constitution & Bylaws

CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS OF THE SPRINGFIELD SENIOR GOLF CLUB (Formerly Springfield at Whitney Oaks Senior Golf Club)

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the organization shall be "SPRINGFIELD SENIOR GOLF CLUB" (SSGC).

ARTICLE II

Objectives

To promote and foster golf among active seniors, conduct tournaments, and participate in social gatherings for the mutual benefit of members; to promote and conserve the best interests and true spirit of the game of golf as embodied in its ancient and honorable traditions and provide service to our community.

To enforce uniformity in the rules of the game by creating a representative authority.

To maintain a uniform system of handicapping as set forth by the regulations of the Northern

California Golf Association (NCGA) in cooperation with the United States Golf Association (USGA).

To afford a convenient and authoritative body to govern the Springfield Senior Golf Club (SSGC) events and tournaments held at various courses.

This organization does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof and is organized for nonprofit purposes. Notwithstanding any of the above statements of purposes and powers, this association shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the specific purposes of the association.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be available to all qualified residents of the Springfield at Whitney Oaks Community and to non-residents of the Springfield at Whitney Oaks Community who are 55 years of age or older and interested in participating in SSGC tournaments and events. Memberships shall not be limited based on race, religion, color, national origin, or gender.

Section 2. Memberships are individual and non-transferable. Dues include membership in the Northern California Golf Association (NCGA).

Section 3. The fiscal year for the SSGC will be January 1 through December 31.

Section 4. Non-residents of the Springfield at Whitney Oaks Community must be proposed by a member in good standing and approved by the SSGC Board of Directors. The admission of a new non-resident member, at the time of admission, shall not cause the total number of non-resident members to exceed forty-nine percent (49%) of the SSGC total membership.

Section 5. The Board of Directors, with the approval of a simple majority of members present at a membership meeting, shall establish all membership fees and dues from time to time in such amounts as they deem to be adequate to operate and maintain the SSGC. Members shall be liable for dues until their written resignation has been received and accepted or at the end of a calendar year if they have not renewed their membership. Members in "good standing" are those members who are current on all dues, tournament fees, and any other assessments levied by the club.

Section 5.1. Payment of dues for renewal of membership is due by December 30 of each year. Late renewals may be assessed additional fees levied by the NCGA.

Section 6. The SSGC was organized in 2000.

Section 7. In the event any member of this club shall commit any act which reflects discredit or dispute thereon, or shall refuse or neglect to comply with the rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors, such member shall be subject to suspension or expulsion, after ten (10) days written notice and the right to be heard, by a vote of two-thirds of the Board of Directors at any meeting or special meeting called for such purpose.

ARTICLE IV

Officers and Board of Directors

Section 1. The officers of the SSGC shall be elected and consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The names of the elected officers must be submitted to the Springfield Board of Directors for final approval. Once approved, these officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Constitution/Bylaws, as noted in Article V, Sections 1-4.

Section 2. Each year, the President, in conjunction with the officers of the SSGC shall appoint members to serve in the key positions of Scheduler, Statistician/Handicap Chair, Webmaster, Administrative Assistant, and Tournament Director, and others as may be deemed necessary, who will also serve as members of the Board of Directors. Individuals filling these key positions must be SSGC members in good standing but are not required to be Springfield Community residents. They will perform duties as assigned by the Board.

Section 3. No less than four (4) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors shall solicit nominations for officers to serve for the term of office beginning the following January 1. At least ten (10) days prior to the Annual Meeting, a list of all candidates nominated shall be mailed or emailed to each member at his or her last known address. Names of other members in good standing may be nominated at the Annual Meeting provided that the nominee has given assurance that the individual will serve if elected.

Section 4. Voting shall be by written ballot. Each member in good standing shall have one vote for each position to be filled. Proxies may be used. Persons writing in a candidate and voting for same shall have prior assurance that the individual will serve if elected. If no single candidate wins a majority of the votes, then a runoff election shall be held between the two candidates who won the largest number of votes. The Board shall appoint a committee of three (3) judges who are not currently SSGC officers or candidates for election to supervise the election.

Section 5. All officers elected by the members, and approved by the Springfield Board of directors, shall assume office on the 1st of January.

Section 6. Elected officers may serve an indefinite number of terms but shall be placed on the ballot and voted on at each election. Terms for all officers shall be for a period of one (1) year.

ARTICLE V

Duties

Section 1. The President shall be the club spokesperson, preside at all meetings of the membership and Board of Directors meetings, enforce club rules and regulations, resolve disputes, and shall have check signing authority. The President shall prepare and submit club news articles for publication in the Springfield community newsletter or may delegate this responsibility to others. The President shall plan, manage, and coordinate the annual summer BBQ luncheon.

Section 2. The Vice President shall preside at any meeting in the absence of the President, communicate with golf courses to update and coordinate events, consult with the President to determine if an event should be cancelled, and establish schedules for the following year's season. The Vice President has authority to sign contracts with golf courses.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep minutes of meetings, coordinate the annual Gala awards dinner, keep literature, including membership applications up-to-date in the Gables clubhouse, and accomplish necessary correspondence.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall receive, maintain, and disburse funds, and maintain official financial records. The Treasurer shall prepare quarterly reports for the Board of Directors on club activities, membership, dues, financial status, and include any other information which has been requested by the President in writing. In preparation for the Annual Meeting in October, the Treasurer will prepare an estimated budget for the following year to facilitate the establishment of new membership dues. Once the final results for the current year are known, the Treasurer will prepare a final budget for the new year for Board approval in January. The Treasurer shall have check signing authority.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall provide for the holding of meetings of the membership as may be deemed necessary or desirable. Special membership meetings may be called by the President, by the Board, or by written request of ten (10) members, in good standing, of the club. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call and, except in the cases of emergencies, at least ten (10) days' notice shall be given.

Section 2. The Annual Meeting of the SSGC shall be held in the month of October or as scheduled by the Board of Directors. The purpose of the Annual Meeting shall be for receiving reports of officers and committees, electing officers, and for any other business that may arise. The date and place of the Annual Meeting will be announced at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Section 3. A legal quorum at any meeting of the membership shall be twenty-five percent (25%) of the SSGC membership or ten (10) members, whichever is greater, in good standing, present, in person, or by proxy. Each member in good standing shall be entitled to one vote.

ARTICLE VII

The Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors will consist of the four elected officers, the appointed Scheduler, Statistician/Handicap Chair, Webmaster, Administrative Assistant, and Tournament Director.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall meet at such times and places as they may select and a majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting. Such meetings are to be announced and open to the membership. If rules and regulations for the operation of the club are discussed and adopted during a meeting, the changes will be presented to the members at the next membership meeting for their ratification. Following such ratification, the changes shall be documented and published in the SSGC Rules and Procedures Manual.

The President may allow members to speak to the Board during the meeting.

Section 3. In the case of any vacancy through death, resignation, disqualification, or other cause, the remaining directors, even though less than a quorum, may elect a successor by majority vote to hold office for the unexpired term of the officer whose place shall be vacant, and until the election of his/her successor.

ARTICLE VIII

Committees

Section 1. The President or the Board may establish committees deemed necessary to carry on the work of the club. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

ARTICLE IX

Amendment of Constitution/Bylaws

The Constitution/Bylaws can be amended at any membership meeting of the club by a twothirds vote of the members present, provided that the amendment has been submitted, in writing, to the membership at least ten (10) days in advance of a scheduled meeting, and providing a quorum is present.

ARTICLE X

Adoption

This Constitution/Bylaws shall be effective when approved.

(This Constitution/Bylaws was last amended and approved by at least 2/3 of the members and their proxies who voted on September 29, 2024.)