

BY-LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES
TRAMPOLINE AND TUMBLING ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I

Name

The official corporate name of this organization is **THE UNITED STATES TRAMPOLINE AND TUMBLING ASSOCIATION** (referred to herein as the U.S.T.A.). U.S.T.A. will conduct its activities to promote the purposes for which it was organized as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation. No part of the net earnings of U.S.T.A. shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its directors, officers or other private persons, except that U.S.T.A. shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes and objects set forth in the Articles of Incorporation. No substantial part of the activities of U.S.T.A. shall be for carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and U.S.T.A. shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions in these By-laws, U.S.T.A. shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on:

- (a) By a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or
- (b) By a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law)

ARTICLE II

Offices

The principle mailing office of the U.S.T.A. shall be located at the address of the Executive Director or at such other place or places as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine to be appropriate.

The registered office of U.S.T.A., an Illinois corporation, is located in the State of Illinois, as required by the Illinois Non-Profit Corporation Act at 1325 East Ash, Canton, Illinois, 61520.

The National Office is located at 6304 Bayberry Blvd. Winter Haven, Florida, 33881.

ARTICLE III

Board of Directors

Section 1. Composition. The Board shall consist of the President, Executive Director, Vice President, Technical Vice President, Technical Chairperson, Ethics Chairperson, Recording Secretary and the ten (10) Technical Committee members.

Section 2. Terms of Office. All the officers except the Executive Director shall serve on the Board during the two years that they hold their respective offices. The ten (10) Technical Committee members shall each serve on the Board during their two year term as a member of the Committee. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Executive Board.

Section 3. Meetings and Notice

(a) *Regular Meeting.* A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held without other notice than this By-law immediately after, and at the same place as, the annual meeting (hereinafter referred to as "National Congress") of members.

(b) *Special Meeting.* Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the President or a majority of the directors. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the Board of Directors may fix any place, either within or without the State of Illinois, as the place for holding any special meeting of the Board of Directors.

Notice. Notice of any special meetings, unless waived, shall be given at least five days prior thereto by written notice either delivered personally, emailed (with confirmation of receipt) or mailed to each director at his or her personal or business address. Any director may waive notice of any meeting. The attendance of a director at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except when a director attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened (except as otherwise provided in these By-laws, neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors need be specified in the notice or waiver of notice of such meeting).

Section 4. Quorum. *Quorum.* Those members present and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum, but in no event shall a quorum consist of less than three (3) members (representing at least two (2) states). The act of a majority of the Directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors unless the act of a greater number is required by the laws of the State of Illinois, the Articles of Incorporation or the By-laws.

Section 5. Voting. Any U.S.T.A. member may only cast one (1) vote on any issue. A 3/4 majority of those voting will be necessary to adopt any resolution by mail, telephone, or telegraph.

Section 6. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors or any directorship to be filled due to an increase in the number of directors, may be filled by the election of an individual by a majority of the then sitting Directors of U.S.T.A. A director so elected shall serve the unexpired term of his or her predecessor in office or the full term of such new directorship, as the case may be.

Section 7. Action by Written Consent. Any action required to be taken at a meeting of the directors, or any other action which may be taken at a meeting of the directors, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all of the directors entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof. For purposes hereof, facsimile signatures shall be adequate to show consent.

Section 8. Resignation and Removal. Any director may at any time resign by serving written notice thereof on the remaining directors. Membership on the Board of Directors may also be terminated for good cause by passage of a removal resolution by a 3/4 majority vote of the remaining Board of Directors.

Upon removal, the removed person must be notified by the Board, through the President, of such action within one week of the vote taken, which if by mail shall be the due date of the ballots. The removed person shall have 30 days to file a written appeal with the President who shall take the appeal back to the Board of Directors for possible consideration and re-vote.

Section 9. Compensation. Directors shall serve without compensation, except reasonable expenses may be paid by U.S.T.A. However, to the extent deemed necessary by U.S.T.A., U.S.T.A. may retain the services of a director other than in his or her capacity as a director and the director may be compensated for services so rendered as the Board of Directors may from time to time deem appropriate.

Section 10. Duties. The Board is entrusted with the development, promotion and general welfare of U.S.T.A. The Board has the power, authority and responsibility to manage the business and affairs of U.S.T.A. and to take the action necessary to carry forward the purposes and objectives of U.S.T.A.

Section 11. Committees. The following Committees are hereby established by U.S.T.A.: 1. Technical Committee; 2. Ethics Committee; 3. Safety Committee; and 4. NTJC Committee. The Board of Directors shall have authority to determine the size and responsibilities of said committees so long as any such determination is not inconsistent with other provisions of these bylaws. The Board of Directors may form and utilize additional committees as deemed appropriate and necessary to carry out the Board's duties and responsibilities.

ARTICLE IV Officers

Section 1. Number. The officers of U.S.T.A. shall be the President, Executive Director, Vice President, Technical Vice President, Technical Chairperson, Ethics Chairperson, and Recording Secretary.

Section 2. Terms. The President, Technical Chairperson, and Recording Secretary shall be elected every two years on even-numbered years, and the Vice President, Technical Vice President and Ethics Chairperson shall be elected every two years on odd-numbered years. The term of office shall commence immediately after the meeting of the National Congress. The Executive Director shall be selected and hired by the Executive Board.

Section 3. Nominations. Section 3. Nominations. Nominations for the President, Vice President, Technical Vice President, Technical Chairperson, Ethics Chairperson, and Recording Secretary shall be made by any USTA Member in good standing. Nominations must be submitted to the USTA National Office no later than the September 1 deadline. Names and bios of all nominees will be posted on the USTA Website by September 9 and will voted be on at Congress. Only one individual may speak on behalf of each such nominee; however, nominees may speak for themselves if they so desire. Once the draw for the order of candidates has been conducted, the nominees will be required to leave the room until their name is called. Candidates that do not win an election have the right to ask privately for the vote totals.

Section 4. Election. All elections shall take place at the U.S.T.A. National Congress Meeting. An Executive Board member not up for election plus one team representative selected from the floor will be used for counting all written ballot votes at any National Congress meeting. If there are more than two individuals nominated for an Executive Board office, once the first ballots are tallied and one of the nominees does not have a majority vote, there will be a run-off vote for the top two nominees.

Section 5. Qualifications. All nominees for office must have been members in good standing of the U.S.T.A. for at least the previous two years.

Section 6. Duties, Powers and Responsibilities. The Officers, as identified below, shall have the following duties in addition to those set forth elsewhere in these By-laws and in addition to those duties normally incident to the respective office:

President. The President shall be the principal executive officer of U.S.T.A. and, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, shall generally supervise the business and affairs of U.S.T.A. The President shall call and preside at the meetings of the Board of Directors and U.S.T.A. members. He or she may sign, with the Executive Director or any other proper officer of U.S.T.A. there unto authorized by the Board of Directors, any instrument that the Board of Directors has authorized to be executed. The President shall also perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time.

The President may retain other persons to assist him or her in performance of the President's duties. The President may also conduct polls or surveys through any form of communication available. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall take his or her place and perform his or her duties.

Executive Director. The Executive Director shall be a hired position and selected by the Executive Board. The Executive Director will be an Executive Board Member with all rights and privileges therein. The Executive Director shall:

- (1) Have charge and custody of and be responsible for all funds and property of U.S.T.A. & N.T.J.C. and receive and provide receipts for monies due and payable to U.S.T.A. or the N.T.J.C. (as applicable) from any source whatsoever, and deposit all such monies in the name of U.S.T.A. in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected in accordance with the provisions of these By-laws. In general, the Executive Director shall perform all duties incident to the office of Treasurer and work to ensure the financial stability of U.S.T.A. and N.T.J.C. The Executive Director shall also present to the U.S.T.A. Board of Directors and N.T.J.C., prior to the end of each fiscal year, a proposed operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year.
- (2) Make an annual financial report and a report of all business transactions of the U.S.T.A. Board.
- (3) See that all notices are duly given in accordance with the provisions of the By-laws or as required by law.
- (4) Be custodian of the corporate records.
- (5) Keep a register of the post office address of each member of U.S.T.A. and N.T.J.C. which shall be furnished to the Executive Director by each such member.
- (6) Compile and distribute annually to each member a report of the activities of U.S.T.A. and N.T.J.C.
- (7) Compile a file of all resolutions passed by the Board of Directors and report to the U.S.T.A. membership on such resolutions.
- (8) Prepare, print and distribute U.S.T.A. Newsletter on a quarterly basis.
- (9) In general, perform all the duties incident to the office of Executive Director and such other duties as are prescribed herein or which may be assigned to him or her by the Board of Directors from time to time.

Vice President. The Vice President shall be responsible for overseeing all State Chairpersons and shall ensure all State meets are held. The Vice President must approve all sanctioned U.S.T.A. Competitions, their dimensions, equipment, judges and number of judges. The Vice President shall also submit a list of approved sanctioned meets and a list of State Chairpersons to the Executive Director for future mailings. The Vice President shall also assist the President in the function of his or her duties whenever reasonably requested.

Technical Vice President. The Technical Vice President is an ex-official member of the Technical Committee. The Technical Vice President shall promote all U.S.T.A. competitions and the U.S.T.A. organization. In the event of any tie vote within the Technical Committee, the Technical Vice President shall cast the deciding vote. The Technical Vice President shall also assist the President in the function of his or her duties whenever reasonably requested. All petitions shall be sent to the Technical Vice President. The Technical Vice President shall also receive nominations for the Kevin Ballenger Memorial Scholarship, the U.S.T.A. Griswold - Nissen Cup Award, the Athlete Memorial Scholarship, and the U.S.T.A. Presidential Award (Coach of the Year) and display the nominations at Nationals.

Technical Chairperson. The Technical Chairperson is responsible for handling all technical matters in connection with the programs of the sport. This responsibility shall include, but not be limited to, clarifying terminology by conducting a poll of the Technical Committee members when such an issue arises, except when the National Congress or Mini-Congress is in session. (See Policy of Procedures Section for Technical and Rules Committee guidelines.)

Ethics Committee Chairperson. The Ethics Committee Chairperson shall appoint a four (4) member Ethics Committee subject to the approval of the Executive Board. He or she shall direct its actions as outlined in the Ethics Committee Handbook. The Ethics Committee is an advisory committee to the Executive Board. The Committee shall review documentation and investigate alleged violations of guidelines or any general misconduct deemed injurious to U.S.T.A. The Committee shall seek resolution and may advise the Executive Board of recommended penalties to impose. In emergency cases, the Ethics Committee Chairperson may by-pass the Ethics Committee and refer the case directly to the Executive Board. The Ethics Committee Chairperson shall promote and encourage participation at the highest possible standards for the enjoyment and the personal and professional development of all those associated with U.S.T.A.

Recording Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the U.S.T.A.'s meetings in one or more books provided for that purpose; keep a special file of all the resolutions passed by the U.S.T.A. Board and shall report to the U.S.T.A. Membership on each resolution; and perform any additional duties as appointed by the U.S.T.A. President.

Section 7. Removal. Any officer may be terminated for good cause by passage of a removal resolution by a 3/4 majority vote of the remaining Board of Directors.

Upon removal, the removed person must be notified by the Board, through the President, of such action within one week of the vote taken, which if by mail shall be the due date of the ballots. The removed person shall have 30 days to file a written appeal with the President who shall take the appeal back to the Board of Directors for possible consideration and re-vote.

Section 8. Compensation. The officers shall serve without compensation, except that reasonable expenses shall be paid by U.S.T.A. However, to the extent deemed necessary by the Board of Directors, the Board of Directors may retain the services of an officer other than in their capacity as such officers and they may be reasonably compensated for services so rendered as the Board of Directors deems appropriate.

ARTICLE V Executive Board

Section 1. Appointment. U.S.T.A. shall have an Executive Board which shall consist of the following U.S.T.A. officers: President, Executive Director, Vice President, Technical Vice President, Technical Chairperson, Ethics Chairperson, and Recording Secretary.

Section 2. Authority. The Executive Board, when the Board of Directors is not in session, shall have and may exercise all of the authority of the Board of Directors with regard to an issue, except to the extent that such powers and authority shall be limited by resolution of the Board of Directors or these By-laws. The Executive Board shall not have the authority of the Board of Directors in reference to:

- (1) Amending the Articles of Incorporation;
- (2) Adopting a plan of merger or consolidation;
- (3) Recommending to the members the sale, lease or other disposition of substantially all of the assets of U.S.T.A.;
- (4) Recommending to the members a voluntary dissolution of U.S.T.A. or a revocation thereof;
- (5) Amending the By-laws of U.S.T.A.; or
- (6) Removal of a U.S.T.A. Officer.

Section 3. Meetings. Regular meetings of the Executive Board may be held without notice at such times and places as the Executive Board may itself fix. Special meetings of the Executive Board may be called by any of the members not less than three days notice stating the place, date and hour of the meeting, which notice may be oral or written. If notice is provided via facsimile, receipt shall be confirmed. Any member of the Executive Board may waive notice of any meeting and no notice of any meeting need be given to any member thereof who attends in person. The notice of any such meeting of the Executive Board need not state the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting.

Section 4. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction at any meeting thereof and any action of the Executive Board must be authorized by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

Section 5. Procedure. The Executive Board may establish its own rules of procedure which shall not be inconsistent with the By-laws. It shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings and report the same to the Board of Directors for its information.

Section 6. National Championship, State Championships, and Team Trials. The general conduct of the National meets, State meets and Team Trials shall be the responsibility of the meet directors who shall be subject to the control and directives of the Executive Board and its committees. The Executive Board shall have the power to revoke or rescind a decision of the meet directors concerning the conduct of said meets.

Section 7. Congress Meetings. The Executive Board will plan, schedule, and host a yearly U.S.T.A. Congress to educate members, offer clinics, have discussions, and vote on rule proposals that have been passed by the Technical Committee. Only coaches and judges may submit rule proposals for consideration.

All clinician hand-outs must be pre-approved by the U.S.T.A. Executive Board.

No rule change proposals will be accepted unless they are typed, signed, and received in the U.S.T.A. National Office by the deadline.

Section 8. U.S.T.A. Executive Director. The Executive Board, upon majority vote, shall have the authority to hire a U.S.T.A. Executive Director and/or other support staff as deemed necessary to see that all essential functions of the organization are carried out appropriately. The U.S.T.A. Executive Director shall be entitled to one (1) vote at the National Congress or any special meeting of the U.S.T.A.

ARTICLE VI Membership

Section 1. Membership. Membership of the U.S.T.A. shall be open to all persons interested in actively advancing the sports of trampoline, tumbling and double mini-trampoline (hereinafter referred to as the “sport”). To qualify as a member in good standing, a club, athlete, or associate must not have any outstanding debts with the U.S.T.A. or to any of the U.S.T.A.’s affiliate organizations, clubs, businesses, or allied bodies. No state can add a surcharge to the USTA Memberships and/or to the standard set entry fees of any USTA Sanctioned event for any reason unless pre-approved by the USTA Executive Board. Any member suspended by the USTA, will not be allowed into the facility of a USTA Sanctioned Event. There shall be five (5) classifications of membership with privileges and limitations as follows:

(1) *Athlete Membership:* A Competitor member has voice privileges by courtesy of the Chair at the State level only. The cost of all U.S.T.A. individual memberships will be determined annually by U.S.T.A. Members. U.S.T.A. memberships must be paid before participation in a competition. Athletes who compete without memberships will be considered ineligible and that competition will not count as being attended; and, therefore, will not qualify athlete for further competition.

(2) *Unattached Athlete Membership:* An Unattached (UNA) Competitor member must be approved by the USTA Executive Board under extreme circumstances. After approval, the competitor has the same competition rights and privileges as a regular Competitor Member. The only difference is that the competitor is not affiliated with a specific USTA Club Member. If an Unattached Competitor is under the age of 18 years, they must have a signed letter from a registered USTA Coach who will be responsible for them on the competition floor.

(3) *Coach Membership:* A Coach Membership is required for all coaches listed on the Club Membership Form. Each membership must be remitted yearly with a picture, current USTA Safety Certification Number, a current Background Check (18 years & above), and a current Safe Sport Certification. The Minimum age is 14 years. An identification badge will be issued for each coach member. All coaches will be required to wear their membership identification badge at all times while on the competition floor at any sanctioned USTA Competition. Failure to wear the proper I.D. badge **after January 1 each year will result in a \$25 fine** by the Meet Director and admittance to the competition floor will be denied.

(4) *Club Membership:* A U.S.T.A. Club is a singular permanent organization that actively promotes and/or participates in U.S.T.A. Trampoline and/or Tumbling activities. The cost of a Club membership will be determined annually by U.S.T.A. Members. Fees for memberships submitted after April 15 each year will be doubled. The purpose of a U.S.T.A. Club is to safely teach progressive developmental trampoline and tumbling skills for recreation and to mold these athletes into a competitive team. Club membership fees must be paid by September 1 and have been a member in good standing for two concurrent years before a team shall acquire voting rights. Each Club Member must designate one contact person (coach, owner, manager) on their Club Membership Form who will be solely responsible for their club. Each Club membership fees must be paid on or before September 1 each year before a club shall have the right to vote at the National Congress and/or compete in a U.S.T.A. Sanctioned Competition. The U.S.T.A. defines a “coach” as a person or persons who instruct, teach, and/or coach competitive children or athletes in the sports of trampoline and/or tumbling.

The U.S.T.A. realizes that some clubs have instruction sites at more than one location. It is suggested that all club members be registered under one club name and compete in like uniforms. The address where the primary number of athletes train determines the club location. Two or more distinctively separate clubs shall not unite together for the sole purpose of gaining competitive power over another club or clubs.

Active clubs in good standing (have current paid memberships and at least ten active athletes) shall have the privileges of hosting U.S.T.A. competitions, competing for team championships, and one (1) vote per club membership only at the National Congress, the Mini-Congress or any special meeting of U.S.T.A. (See Section 3. Voting.) New U.S.T.A. Club Members shall be members in good standing for two full competition seasons before receiving voting rights.

(5) *Associate Membership:* An Associate Member is a singular person who is either a Technical Committee member, an Ethics Committee Member, a Safety Committee Member, a N.T.J.C. Committee Member, a State Chairperson who was *grand-fathered*, a current or a former Executive Board member that does not otherwise fall under the club membership definition. Associate members will be allowed only one (1) vote at the National Congress, or any special meeting of the U.S.T.A. The cost of an Associate Membership will be determined annually by U.S.T.A. Members. Associate Membership fees must be postmarked or hand delivered on or before September 1 each year before an Associate Member shall have the right to vote at the National Congress.

Any eligible person who desires to be an Associate Member shall make written application to the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall have the power to accept or reject any such application.

Fees. All memberships expire at the end of the fiscal year which is July 31. Memberships are not valid until properly processed.

Membership Voting Deadlines and Stipulations. Membership applications and fees must be paid on or before September 1st each year to the U.S.T.A. National Office. To vote, individuals must be a paid coach and listed on their Club Membership for State, Congress, or Mail Votes or an Associate Member. Voting privileges will be revoked if have an outstanding bill with the U.S.T.A.

Property Rights. All materials, documents, forms, tests, and other writings of any kind whatsoever submitted to the U.S.T.A. for U.S.T.A. purposes becomes the property of U.S.T.A.

Section 2. Meetings. The National Congress and other special meetings shall be held at such times as determined by U.S.T.A. Board of Directors. Any other U.S.T.A. meetings shall be held at such times and places as determined by the Board of Directors. The members of U.S.T.A. shall be given notice of such meetings as determined by the Board of Directors. All dollar amount changes will not go in effect until the following season.

Section 3. Voting. In addition to have been a U.S.T.A. Club Memberships for two concurrent years - to have voting privileges, must have a current team membership, listed on the team roster, have a current coach membership, and have had three (3) active athlete members from the previous year. A simple majority vote of those eligible voting members present and voting shall be required for all actions taken by the members at any meeting unless a greater majority is required by these by-laws, other applicable law or the Articles of Incorporation.

A three-fourths majority vote of those members present and voting at any meeting of the corporation is required to alter the number or composition (referring to positions making up the Board as opposed to removal of a specific person) of the Board of Directors, or amend the Articles of Incorporation. The members shall be entitled to vote on the following matters whether such matters are voted upon at the National Congress or a special meeting:

- 1) Election of U.S.T.A. officers;
- 2) Election of the two (2) at-large Technical Committee members;
- 3) Rules of Competition;
- 4) Team Trial Sites;
- 5) Locations and Dates for National Congress;
- 6) Such other matters as the Board of Directors deems appropriate or to which they are entitled to vote pursuant to applicable law.

No one person shall have more than one (1) vote on any matter.

ARTICLE VII State Chairpersons

Section 1. Election. State Chairpersons shall be elected in even years, e.g., 2002, 2004, etc., by the U.S.T.A. State Club membership at any annual meeting for that state. Nominations for the State Chairperson shall be made from the floor of the annual State meeting. The incumbent State Chairperson shall conduct the election under the direction of the Vice President. Election of the State Chairperson shall be by majority vote of those eligible State U.S.T.A. Club Memberships present and voting.

Section 2. Qualifications. All nominees for the office of State Chairperson must have been a member of U.S.T.A. in good standing for the preceding two (2) years.

Section 3. Terms. State Chairpersons terms are two years.

Section 4. Compensation. State Chairpersons will receive a fifty-cent (50¢) stipend annually for each member athlete of their State as long as they fulfill the requirements of their position which includes attending the entire U.S.T.A. Congress. State Chairpersons who are unable to attend the U.S.T.A. Congress may send someone in their place with U.S.T.A. Executive Board approval.

State Chairpersons can send a representative to Congress, but will NOT receive the fifty-cent (50¢) stipend for the upcoming year unless approved by the U.S.T.A. Vice President. If State Chairpersons attend the entire yearly National Congress, they will receive an additional five-cent (5¢) for each member athlete of their state.

Section 5. National Congress Attendance. All U.S.T.A. Congress entry fees will be waived for all State Chairpersons. The State Chairperson or a designee shall attend the *entire* National Congress Meeting or be subject to an appropriate penalty as determined by the Executive Board. The current penalty is fifty-cents (\$.50) per member athlete from that State.

Section 6. Vacancy. If a State Chairperson position becomes vacant, the Vice President may appoint an acting State Chairperson to serve until a new State Chairperson is elected.

Section 7. Duties.

Annual State Meeting. The State Chairperson shall call for an annual State meeting for elections and to set the State Calendar. Any changes to the calendar after it is published must be pre-approved by the U.S.T.A. Vice President who approves all sanctions. At State Meetings, only those listed as a coach or club owner of a current paid team can vote on elections, meets and rulings. State meeting information must be postmarked to all registered state coaches/teams at least two weeks prior to the meeting. The state does not have the right to withdraw voting privileges from any currently paid individual team in good standing in that state during the State meeting.

Annual State Competition. The State Chairperson shall organize an annual State Competition under the direction of the Vice President and subject to the approval of the Executive Board. The State Chairperson shall submit a written summary of the plans for the State Competition to the Executive Board for approval no later than the beginning of the National Congress, unless a later date is approved by the Board. The State Chairperson shall provide, in a timely manner, such information regarding the State Competition to the Executive Board as the Executive Board may request. The State Chairperson must verify all athletes entered in their State Championships have met their qualifications, all elite athletes have met their difficulty qualifications, and all advanced and elite athletes receiving patches and chevrons are competing in the state competition.

The State Chairperson and State Meet Director shall assist the National Championship Meet Director to determine athlete eligibility.

States with less than five member clubs have the option to: 1) Vote to co-sanction their State Competition; 2) Hold their own State Competition; or 3) Divide, giving each club the option to attend the State Competition of their choice. States with five member clubs or more shall not deny entry of smaller clubs in good standing to their State Competition as provided for in the preceding subsection 3). States with five or more member clubs must attend their own State Competition.

Sanctioning. The State Chairperson shall ensure that all U.S.T.A. competitions in their State are Sanctioned.

Section 8. Removal From Office. A State Chairperson may be subject to a vote of removal upon receipt by the President of a petition containing the names of the majority of club registered U.S.T.A. members in their State stating their grievances. The President may conduct a vote by mail of the U.S.T.A. membership in that State with a 3/4 majority vote required for removal, as required by the Articles.

Each State Chairperson must send at least one athlete (and coach) from their club to the USTA Nationals (if applicable) or they can be replaced by the USTA Vice President.

Upon removal, the removed person must be notified by the Board, through the President, of such action within one week of the vote taken, which if by mail shall be the due date of the ballots. The removed person shall have 30 days to file a written appeal with the President who shall take the appeal back to the Board of Directors for possible consideration and re-vote.

ARTICLE VIII **Technical Committee**

Section 1. Technical Chairperson. Nominations for The Technical Chairperson shall be made from the floor of the National Congress. Only one individual may speak on behalf of each nominee; however, nominees may speak for themselves if they so desire. The Technical Chairperson shall be elected by the U.S.T.A. Members at the National Congress.

Section 2. Composition. In even numbered years, the Chairperson shall appoint six (6) Technical Committee members from U.S.T.A. membership subject to the approval of the Executive Board. In odd-numbered years, the U.S.T.A. members will elect two (2) *members-at-large* at the National Congress. In odd-numbered years, interested N.T.J.C. members (who are certified in all three (3) events and are not also a coach) will submit letters of interest and resumes for consideration by the Technical Chair and approval of the Executive Board to fill the two (2) N.T.J.C. positions on the Technical Committee. The N.T.J.C. members to be considered must include the NTJC Judging Coordinator.

ARTICLE IX **Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on the 1st day of August each year and end on the last day of July the following year.

ARTICLE X **Seal**

The Corporation shall have no corporate seal.

ARTICLE XI **By-Law Amendments**

These By-laws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new By-laws may be adopted by a 3/4 majority vote of the U.S.T.A. members present at the National Congress, Mini-Congress, or other meeting of U.S.T.A. members provided that all members are given a minimum of fifteen (15) days notice in writing of the character of the proposed alteration, amendment or repeal.