

# **The Constitution of the High School Computer Science Clubs Association**

## **Preamble**

We, the members of the High School Computer Science Clubs Association (HSCSA), in order to foster a stronger community of high school CS clubs, to spearhead initiatives that are for the clubs and by the clubs, to establish a fair system of appointing leadership, and to give all members a voice in organizational matters, hereby ordain and institute this Constitution for the High School Computer Science Clubs Association.

## **Article I: Membership**

Individual clubs shall constitute the fundamental units of the High School Computer Science Clubs Association, upon which all powers and governing structures of HSCSA shall be derived. All clubs that have participated in an official HSCSA event, unless actively expelled or resigned, shall automatically be admitted into the Association. In addition, clubs that are admitted by the executive or legislative process shall be considered equal members of HSCSA.

Representatives shall act as the liaison between their respective clubs and the Association. They shall engage in HSCSA proceedings on behalf of their clubs. Once admitted, clubs shall reserve the sole right to appoint their representatives.

Representatives are hereby endowed with the rights to hold office, to participate in and be informed of ongoing initiatives, and to voluntarily resign.

## **Article II: Organization and Structure**

The governing members of this Association shall be unified to work towards the common mission of HSCSA as established by the Preamble. The Representatives, The Executives, and

The Board of Elders are hereby vested with executive, legislative, and judicial privileges to fulfill their respective duties.

### **Section A: The Representatives**

1. The Representatives shall hold the governing bodies accountable to the Association. They shall be responsible for all legislative proceedings of HSCSA.
2. The Representatives shall have the sole right to voice the decisions, interests, and opinions of the respective clubs they represent.
3. The Representatives shall have the right to create initiatives and vote in all ongoing initiatives, which, if passed, shall have the force of law.
4. The Representatives shall have the power to elect the Executives.
5. The Representatives shall be responsible for ensuring the integrity and timeliness of executive elections and initiative proceedings.
6. An Active Representative shall have the right to register themselves as an executive candidate for an ongoing election.
7. The Representatives shall have the right to veto the Executives' decisions through an initiative with a simple majority.
8. The Representatives shall have the right to recall an Executive through an initiative with a simple majority.
9. The Representatives shall have the right to expel a club from the Association through an initiative with a two-thirds majority.
10. The Representatives shall have the right to dissolve the Board of Elders through an initiative with a two-thirds majority with unanimous approval from the Executives.
11. An Active Representative must be a high school student and an attending member of the club they represent.
12. A club may be represented by no more than two Active Representatives at any moment.
13. If a former Active Representative no longer satisfies the outlined requirements, their respective club may confer the status of a Retired Representative upon them.
14. A club may confer the status of a Retired Representative to no more than two former Active Representatives in any calendar year.

15. A Retired Representative shall have the same rights as an Active Representative unless those rights are restricted to Active Representatives.
16. A Retired Representative shall have the right to register as a candidate for an election of the Board of Elders.
17. If the Retired Representatives' votes prove decisive in an initiative or election, a Representative may challenge the results by submitting a petition to the Board of Elders. The Board of Elders shall subsequently determine whether the results conflict with the values of HSCSA or unfairly represent the interests of HSCSA members.
18. All decisions that affect the financials of HSCSA, such as budgetary allocations for Executives programs, must first be approved by the Representatives through an initiative.
19. The Representatives shall have the right to self-resignation.
20. Through a unanimous agreement from all its Active Representatives, a club may withdraw itself from the Association.

## **Section B: The Executives**

1. The Executives shall consist of three Executives, one of whom shall further be conferred the title of Premier Executive as determined by Article V, Section A.
2. The Executives shall oversee all executive proceedings and be responsible for implementing the Representatives' decisions.
3. The Executives shall be elected through an election as described by Article V, Section A.
4. The Executives' term shall last for half a year or 183 days, and a new election must be held within 14 days of the date of termination or vacancy.
5. The Executives shall have the privilege of issuing Executive Order, which has the force of law but must not conflict with existing statutes.
6. In the case of dispute, The Executives' final decision shall be determined by the simple majority among the Executives.
7. The Premiere Executive shall be the chief executive officer of the Association.
8. The Premiere Executive shall be the general Spokesperson of HSCSA unless otherwise decided.
9. The Premiere Executive's obligations are as follows:

- a. The Premiere Executive shall be responsible for maintaining and updating a list of all member clubs, Active Representatives, Retired Representatives, Executives, and members from the Board of Elders at the start of each term.
  - b. The Premiere Executive shall be responsible for safeguarding the smooth running of governmental proceedings, informing all eligible members of ongoing elections and initiatives, and ensuring that the formation and participation related to elections and initiatives are easily accessible to all eligible members.
  - c. The Premiere Executive shall be responsible for maintaining all important documents of HSCSA – which include but are not limited to the Constitution, bylaws, initiative results, and election results – and ensuring their access to all eligible members.
10. The Executives shall be responsible for ensuring the success of HSCSA programs and the running of their services, which include but are not limited to websites, crucial accounts, means of communication, and cloud servers.
11. The Executives shall have the right to admit new clubs into HSCSA.
12. Upon a recall petition signed by at least five members of a club, the Executives may conduct an investigation of the situation with further details and decide whether or not to dismiss or replace the Representative in question.
13. The Executives shall have the right to request and utilize budgets authorized by the Representatives.
14. The Executives shall have access to all critical accounts and utilities of HSCSA.

### **Section C: The Board of Elders**

1. The Board of Elders, as a collective council, reserves the supreme right to interpret the Constitution and bylaws of HSCSA.
2. The Board of Elders shall have final authority over all judicial proceedings and in adjudicating conflicts between governing bodies according to the statutes.
3. The Board of Elders shall safeguard HSCSA and its initial visions as the representation of all past leadership, offering guidance but refraining from active interference.
4. The Board of Elders shall consist of no more than eight and no less than three members.
5. Members of the Board must not be an Active Representative.

6. The head of the Board shall be conferred the title of the Eldest as determined by Article V, Section A, who shall act on behalf of the board.
7. All members of the Board of Elders may challenge the Eldest's decision by calling for a referendum, for which all Board members are eligible to vote. The simple majority shall determine the Board's final collective decision.
8. The Board of Elders' term shall last 365 days, and a new election must be held within 14 days of the date of termination or vacancy.
9. If a preceding Board of Elders exists and is not dissolved by the Representatives, they shall be the sole voting members of the election of the new Board. The Eldest from the preceding Board shall determine the number of members on the new Board.
10. If a preceding Board does not exist or if the preceding Board was dissolved by the Representatives, all Representatives shall have the right to vote in the new election. The number of members on the new Board shall be three.
11. The Board of Elders may admit or expel members through a referendum with a simple majority and support from the Eldest.
12. The Board of Elders shall have the right to veto any Executive or Legislative decisions through a unanimous vote, except in the case of their dissolution.
13. In the event that the Executives or the Representatives are absent, the Board of Elders shall be empowered to act in lieu of the absent governing body.
14. In the event that a governing body fails to initiate a new election past the outlined deadline, the Board of Elders shall be empowered to take control of electoral proceedings and force-start the election.

### **Article III: Initiatives and Amendments**

The initiatives and amendment process outline procedures for representatives to reach a consensus on crucial Association decisions and amend the Constitution in alignment with the Association's contemporary needs. Under the constitution, the scope of initiatives refers to laws, repeals, and anything requiring a final decision that would impact HSCSA. They include but are not limited to the expulsion and naturalization of HSCSA clubs, the impeachment and appointment of public offices, the direction of HSCSA missions, creating or dissolving sub-organizations, bylaws, etc.

## **Section A: Initiatives**

1. All representatives shall have the right to form new initiatives and participate in all ongoing initiatives.
2. The Premier Executive shall be responsible for informing all representatives of all ongoing initiatives and the means to vote.
3. An initiative shall only be binding with a quorum of at least five members.
4. An initiative may be resolved by any Representative once it reaches the quorum of five members.
5. Once an initiative concludes, a retroactive voting period of one week shall commence, during which representatives shall have the right to cast new votes or modify their existing votes. The results of the ballot shall be readjusted based on the results after the retroactive voting period.
6. All legislative proceedings ordained through this section must not conflict with the standing Constitution.

## **Section B: Amendments**

1. If an amendment does not conflict with the standing Constitution, an initiative with a two-thirds majority shall suffice in its passage.
2. If an amendment does conflict with the standing Constitution, an initiative with a two-thirds majority, along with the unanimous approval of the Board of Elders, shall suffice in its passage.

## **Article IV: Sovereignty and Sub-organizations**

### **Section A: Sovereignty**

1. The High School Computer Science Association is indissoluble and must forever remain sovereign in all its proceedings as outlined by the Constitution.
2. The High School Computer Science Association may collaborate with external parties and delegate powers when necessary and proper. However, HSCSA must retain the ultimate authority over its decisions in all collaborative affairs. Any agreement or

delegation of powers must not compromise the ability of the Association to retract its powers or resources.

## **Section B: Committees and Programs**

1. The governing bodies of the Association may freely delegate their powers into committees when necessary and proper. These include but are not limited to a budgetary committee from the Representatives to discuss financial terms with the Executives and an electoral committee from the Representatives to investigate election results.
2. The Executives may establish new programs as part of the expansion of HSCSA. These include but are not limited to organizing a new contest, compiling a new set of resources, and starting a new forum. A program must have a name, a stated purpose, and at least one manager.
3. The Executives may appoint or dismiss program managers. The Executives may delegate executive powers to program managers so that they can fulfill the purpose of their respective programs.

## **Article V: Electoral and Voting Procedures**

The Electoral and Voting procedures ensure the integrity of the system of appointing leadership and reaching final decisions. These procedures shall apply to all matters that require the input of multiple members.

### **Section A: General Elections**

1. A general election must state the purpose of the election and the number of elected officials it seeks.
2. All eligible members shall have the ability to cast a ballot, which ranks candidates in the order of preference. The number of candidates ranked is dictated by the number of elected officials the election seeks.
3. The first choice of a ballot is hereby defined as the most preferred candidate that has not yet been elected. The election then proceeds in rounds. In each round, the candidate

whom most ballots register as their first choice is elected. The rounds repeat until the number of elected officials is met or if no more candidates can be elected.

4. In the event of ties, the Board of Elders shall have the right to break ties.
5. The candidate chosen in the first round of the election shall be designated as the most preferred candidate. For the Executive Election, this candidate shall be the Premier Executive. For the Board of Elders Election, this candidate shall be the Eldest.
6. A general election shall conclude six days from its commencement. The subsequent seventh day shall be reserved for challenges before the results take effect.

## **Section B: Implementation**

1. The implementation of these procedures, unless specified otherwise, shall be the responsibility of the following governing bodies, from highest to lowest precedence:
  - a. The Premiere Executive
  - b. The Board of Elders
  - c. The Representatives

## **Article VI: Ratification and Precedence**

### **Section A: Ratification**

1. This Constitution shall be treated as an amendment to the previous *Initiatives and Amendments* guidelines and shall be ratified according to the procedures therein for amendments as an initiative.

### **Section B: Precedence**

1. In case of discrepancies between HSCSA statutes, the following order of precedence, from highest to lowest, shall apply:
  - a. The Constitution of the High School Computer Science Clubs Association
  - b. All bylaws ordained by the HSCSA Constitution
  - c. Executive Orders
  - d. All sub-organizational bylaws