

By-laws of the Virginia Podiatric Medical Association

Summary of Changes

For the past few months, your Board has undertaken a comprehensive review of the VPMA Bylaws. The following proposed edits are all made on the premise of making the document pertinent to the organization it is today. Most changes fall into two categories. The first is to reflect what VPMA is today and to create a simple governing document that is relevant and practical for the organization in 2025 yet flexible enough for the VPMA to grow and change. The second is to remove sections that place the organization in a position of unnecessary liability, mainly the Code of Ethics since this is the now business of the Board of Medicine.

Specifically,

- Article IV: Membership: To make the categories of membership consistent with the APMA yet allow for flexibility at the state level; simplify the application and approval process; and remove termination tied to the Code of Ethics and tie it to actions of the Board of Medicine.
- Article v: Board of Directors: To simplify the bylaws and move governance policies out of the bylaws to under the authority of the Board; simplify the terms of service; and allow the Board to vote telephonically and electronically.
- Article VI: Elected Officers: To clarify terms and qualifications of officers; correctly delegate financial business to the duties of the Treasurer but maintain responsibility of the entire Board; and clarify membership to reflect current practice and dissolution of the Region 8 Conference organization.
- Article VII: Appointed Officers: To simplify.
- Article IX: Meetings of Members: To simplify and remove overly prescriptive policies and procedures from the bylaws thereby creating flexibility under the Board;
- Article X: Committees: to bring the list of committees consistent with current practice; and create a Political Action Committee (not a PAC in the legal sense).
- Article XI: Notices: to delete because information is elsewhere.
- Article XII: Divisions: to simplify and clarify formation and activities by divisions; to give greater flexibility to the divisions on how they organize; and to eliminate liability to the VPMA for actions of the Divisions.

- Article XIII: Dues: To simplify and clarify the Board's authority to set and change dues; bring the dues structure in line with the new membership structure; and give the Board flexibility in creating dues policies.
- Article XIV: Continuing Medical Education: delete because not necessary.
- Article XV: Non-discrimination: Delete because not necessary. It is a Board policy.
- Article XVI: Violation of Bylaws: Delete because is not necessary and actually increases liability.
- Article XVII: Indemnification of Officers and Directors: Replace to comply with current Code and practice to best protect the Board. Crafted by attorney
- Article XXII: Principles of Professional Conduct: Delete because unnecessary and a liability, now a Board of Medicine issue.
- Addendum 1: Code of Ethics: Delete because is a function of the Board of Medicine and is an area of liability for the VPMA.
- NOTE: Table of contents, numeric/alphabetic listings and other editorial matters of non-significance will be corrected once a final document is approved.