



বাংলাদেশ এসোসিয়েশন ফর গ্রেটার ক্যানসাস সিটি  
Bangladesh Association for Greater Kansas City

## Constitution

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# The Constitution of the Bangladesh Association for Greater Kansas City (BAGKC)

## **ARTICLE 1**

**SECTION 1. NAME:** The name of the organization shall be the “Bangladesh Association for Greater Kansas City (BAGKC)”.

**SECTION 2. PURPOSE:**

**BAGKC is for the promotion and preservation of Bangladeshi heritage in the Greater Kansas City area within the meaning of section 501(c).**

Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

## **ARTICLE 2**

**SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP:** Membership is open to everyone residing in the State of Kansas and Missouri.

**SECTION 2. CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP:** There are four classes of memberships:

1. GENERAL MEMBER: Shall include all registered members.
2. STUDENT MEMBER: Shall include all students enrolled in the State of Kansas and Missouri.
3. PERMANENT MEMBER: The designation of permanent membership shall no longer be based on a fixed monetary contribution. Instead, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to determine membership rates on an annual basis, applicable to all membership categories, including permanent membership.
4. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES & VOTING RIGHTS: Honorary membership shall include individuals designated by the Executive Committee. Honorary members shall not have voting rights or eligibility to run for office.
  - To ensure clarity in voter qualifications, voting rights shall be assigned as follows:
  - Individual Membership: 1 vote
  - Family Membership (including permanent membership): 2 votes (husband and wife)
  - Permanent Membership: 1 vote (if single) or 2 votes (husband and wife, if family)
  - Adult children (and their spouse, where applicable) of members in the above categories (a, b, or c) are eligible for separate individual, family, or permanent membership and shall receive the corresponding number of votes.
  - Parent(s) with Legal Residency or Citizenship residing with members in categories a, b, or c above are eligible for separate individual, family, or permanent membership and shall receive the corresponding number of votes.
5. MEMBERSHIP DURATION: All non-permanent memberships shall be valid from January 1 to December 31 of the respective calendar year, regardless of the membership start date. Renewal of membership shall be required annually to maintain active status.

**SECTION 3. MEMBERSHIP DUES:** Annual membership dues shall be fixed on a year to year basis, as defined in Section 2 of Article 3, in a general meeting by majority decision. Membership shall be automatically canceled due to nonpayment of dues. Dues shall be paid to the treasurer or the membership coordinator.

**SECTION 4. RIGHTS OF MEMBERSHIP:** All members shall have the following rights:

1. Voice and vote at all general meetings of the Association.
2. Receive all publications of the Association.
3. Be eligible for election to office.

## **ARTICLE 3**

**SECTION 1. GENERAL POLICY:** The establishment of general policy of the Association in the interim between annual meetings is delegated by the membership to an Executive Committee constituted as follows:

- a) The elected officers of the Association: President, Vice-President (VP), General Secretary (GS), Additional General Secretary (AGS), Membership coordinator(MC), Treasurer, Cultural Secretary (CS), Sports Secretary, and (5) Executive Committee Members assigned to Communication, Membership, Cultural, Community Involvement and Governmental Affairs.
- b) (5) Executive Committee Advisors can be selected by the new Executive Committee and assigned to Communication, Membership, Cultural, Community Involvement and Governmental Affairs.

**SECTION 2. DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS:** The direction of the day to day business of the Association is delegated to the duly elected officers of the Association. The fiscal and operating year for BAGKC, henceforth will be called “year”, shall be defined as May 1 to April 30.

### **SECTION 3. ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

a) Annual Business Meeting & Election Timing:

- The Annual Business Meeting during election years shall be conducted exclusively for Executive Committee elections and year-end financial statement disclosures, in accordance with Rule 16 of the by-laws.
- Officers and Executive Committee members shall serve a term of two (2) years, with a one-term limit for a given post.

b) Election Notifications & Membership Requirements:

- The Executive Committee shall send an election notice 60 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting, along with reminders for membership renewal/new membership eligibility for voting.
- At least 45 days before the Annual Business Meeting, the Executive Committee shall publish an interim voter list of all members with fully paid dues as of the date of publication.
- A 7-day challenge period shall allow members to contest omissions or inclusions in the interim voter list.
- The final voter list shall be published 30 days before the election, and only those on this list

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shall be eligible to vote or run for office.

c) Election Commission Formation & Duties:

- The Executive Committee shall appoint an Election Commission (minimum 3 members, preferably an odd number) at least 45 days before the Annual Business Meeting.
- All commission activities shall involve all members, with decisions recorded and shared within 48 to 72 hours.

d) Nomination Submission:

- Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by any member. Nominations must be submitted at least 21 days before the election using a prescribed form.
- Each candidate may contest for only one Executive Committee position.

e) Candidate Eligibility & Voting Rights:

- Separate elections shall be held for the following positions: President, Vice-President, General Secretary, Additional General Secretary, Membership Coordinator, Treasurer, Cultural Secretary, and Sports Secretary.
- The five Executive Committee Member positions shall be awarded to the candidates with the highest number of votes.
- The Presidential candidates must have served in the Executive Committee for at least one full term (2 years).
- Only one member per family may hold a post, except when no other candidates are available for the position.

f) Voting Process & Election Methodology:

- Voting shall be conducted via ballot paper listing all candidate names, with the option for secure electronic voting if a platform is available.
- No 'write-in' candidates shall be permitted.
- If no candidates apply for a position, it will remain vacant and be filled through a subsequent by-election.

g) Vote Counting & Result Declaration:

- The Election Commission, with the Executive Committee's support, shall organize the meeting agenda to ensure prompt vote counting and declaration of interim results before adjournment.
- A written copy of election results shall be provided to the outgoing Executive Committee before the meeting adjourns.

h) Tie-Breakers & Appeals:

- If a tie occurs, candidates shall be encouraged to reach an amicable resolution. If unsuccessful, the Election Commission shall use a coin toss or another random selection method to determine the winner.
- Candidates may appeal the election results within 72 hours of the vote conclusion.

i) Vacancies & By-Elections:

- If one or more positions remain vacant, the outgoing incumbents shall continue until by-

elections are held within 60 days following the procedures outlined above.

- If vacancies persist beyond the scheduled by-election, the Executive Committee may appoint candidates by majority vote to fill the positions.

j) Election Integrity & Transparency:

- The Executive Committee shall adhere strictly to formal election procedures to maintain transparency and credibility.
- The Election Commission shall publish final results within 24 hours of election completion, concluding its duties unless an appeal process is initiated.

The EC members may rectify this constitution or term limit by majority of the general vote. The EC shall operate as stated in Article 3, Section 2.

## **ARTICLE 4**

**SECTION 1. ANNUAL MEETINGS:** There shall be an annual meeting of the Association at each year-end. The Executive Committee shall determine the site for the meeting with consideration given to the geographical distribution of the total membership. The annual meeting shall include reports by the Executive Committee members, special committee reports, old business, new business and any other business that is necessary.

**SECTION 2. GENERAL BUSINESS MEETINGS:** The Executive Committee by majority decision can call general business meetings any time of the year. General members are invited to these meetings. These meetings are for special circumstances such as amendments to the constitution. General Business Meetings can also be held during cultural event – to maximize the presence of general members.

**SECTION 3. EC MEETINGS:** The president and/or Executive Committee shall call the meeting monthly, or every other month, or as need arises. The president and/or Executive Committee shall determine the time and place for that meeting. Half of the executive committee members present at that meeting will be considered a quorum for EC Meetings.

## **ARTICLE 5**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS:** Any amendments to this Constitution must follow the following procedures:

1. Proposed amendment given in writing to General Secretary at least 45 days in advance of a General Business Meeting.
2. The proposed amendment shall be made available to the general members 30 days in advance of the General Business Meeting.
3. Two-third of those in attendance favoring amendment.

**SECTION 2. RATIFICATION** of this Constitution must be done by two-third of vote of the BAGKC members present at a General Business Meeting of the Association.

### **Ratification(s):**

