

The Congress of the Mathematical Association of America

Bylaws of the Congress APPROVED 07-26-2017, AMENDED 08-07-2024

I. Name and Purpose

- A. This organization shall be known as the Congress of the Mathematical Association of America.
- B. The Congress works to support the MAA's mission to advance the understanding of mathematics and its impact on our world.
- C. The Congress serves as a conduit for communication between the Board, the Sections, and other constituencies. The Congress will recommend to the Board programmatic and social policies for the Association; advise the Board on amendments to Association bylaws; elect the Chair of the Council on Sections; and elect at-large members of the Congress. The Congress may recommend to the Committee on Committees and Councils that the Board appoint certain committees and may recommend charges and members for those committees.

II. Membership of the Congress

The Congress shall consist of up to 55 members, including all of the following.

- A. Section Representatives as identified in Article VIII, Section 2 of the MAA Bylaws, approved October 2023.
- B. Chairs of MAA Councils as identified in Article VII, Section 2 in the MAA Bylaws.
- C. Members of the Board of Directors of the MAA as identified in Article V, Section 2 in the MAA Bylaws.
- D. Members-at-Large for
 - i. Interests Pertaining to the Mathematical Education of Teachers (1)
 - ii. Connections to Business, Industry and Government (1)
 - iii. Interests of Minoritized and Marginalized Communities in Mathematics (3)
 - iv. Interests of High School Mathematics Teachers (1)
 - v. Interests of Members Residing outside the United States (1)
 - vi. Interests of Faculty at Two-Year Colleges (1)
 - vii. Other interests as determined by a majority vote of the Congress.
- E. Congress Officers as identified in Article III, Section A below.

III. Officers of the Congress and their Terms

- A. Officers
 - i. Chair of the Congress – responsible for chairing the Congress and serves on the MAA Board. The chair shall set the agenda of each meeting in consultation with other officers.
 - ii. Recorder – responsible for recording the minutes and actions of each

meeting of the Congress and communicating those minutes and actions to all of the members of the Congress and to the Secretary of the Association.

- iii. Chair-Elect of Congress or Past Chair of Congress (whichever one is in office) – duties as assigned by the President in consultation with the Chair of the Congress and serves on the MAA Board.
- iv. Vice Chair - responsible for chairing the Congress in the event that the Chair is unable to fulfill their responsibilities and chairing the Elections Committee (see Section V).

B. Terms (and term limits)

- i. Every two years, the Congress shall elect the next Chair-Elect of Congress, who will serve the MAA for four years. They will serve as Chair-Elect for one year, as Chair for the next two years, and as Past Chair during the fourth year. To be eligible to be elected Chair-Elect, a candidate must have at least two years remaining on their term on the Congress. The Chair's or Past Chair's term as a Representative on Congress ends before their term as Chair and Past Chair end, their term on Congress will be extended for one or two years as needed to complete their term as Chair or Past Chair.
- ii. The Recorder serves a two-year term and may not serve two consecutive terms. The Recorder will be a member of the Congress with at least one year remaining in their term upon the Recorder's election. If the Recorder's term on the Congress ends after one year, the Recorder's term will be extended one year.
- iii. The Vice Chair serves a two-year term and may not serve two consecutive terms. If the Vice Chair's term on the Congress ends after one year upon election, the Vice Chair's term will be extended one year.
- iv. In the event that an officer receives an extension, their replacement representative will be elected under the normal schedule, and in the year of the officer's extension the officer will be considered a Member-At-Large with voting privileges.
- v. All terms begin on July 1 and terminate on June 30 of the appropriate years. The Recorder's term will begin July 1 of even-numbered years; the Chair Elect, Chair of the Council on Sections, and Vice Chair's terms will begin July 1 of odd-numbered years.

C. Election procedures

- i. Each Section Representative will be nominated by the Section's Executive Council and elected by the members of the Section.
- ii. The Chair of the Council on Sections will be nominated by the Elections Committee, approved by the Board, and elected by the Congress. Chairs of other MAA Councils are elected by the MAA Board.
- iii. The Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, Recorder, Members-at-Large, and Election Committee members will be nominated by the Elections Committee, approved by the Board, and elected by the Congress.
- iv. There shall be at least two nominees for each office that serves on the MAA Board.
- v. Elections for all positions will be by approval voting. In the event of a tie, the winner will be decided by a random event such as a coin flip.

- vi. In the event that a member of Congress is unable to complete their term, a replacement will be selected in the following manner: If less than half of the person's term remains, the replacement should be appointed by the original nominating body, subject to approval by governing bodies noted above. If half or more of the person's term remains, the original electing body should vote to select the replacement. A person being appointed to fulfill a term with less than 2 years remaining is eligible to stand for re-election.
- vii. Persons elected to office by the Board, by the Congress, by the general membership, or by the membership of a constituency within the Association may be removed from office by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the membership of the Board or of the relevant constituency, with or without cause, if deemed to be in the best interest of the Association.

IV. Meetings of the Congress

- A. The Congress shall meet at least once each year at an annual scientific meeting of the Association.
- B. The Chair will set the agenda in consultation with the other officers, taking into account concerns of the membership.
- C. Timeline for Meeting
 - i. Preliminary agenda sent to members four weeks prior to meeting.
 - ii. Members of the Congress can suggest an item for the agenda by submitting it to the chair within one week after the initial agenda is sent.
 - iii. Final agenda sent to members two weeks prior to meeting.
 - iv. The first item on the meeting agenda will be approval of the agenda.
- D. Discussion to obtain consensus will be the prevailing procedure in the Congress. Parliamentary procedure will be used when a decision is to be made as a formal recommendation. In general, non-election votes will be decided by a simple majority of the members present.
- E. A quorum will consist of two-thirds of the members of Congress (which is necessary before any official business may occur).
- F. The Recorder will send preliminary minutes to the Congress within 3 weeks of the meeting. Members will have 2 weeks to submit corrections to the minutes, and a final approval vote will be taken at the end of the 2-week comment period. Approval of the minutes will be electronic, so that the official decisions of the Congress may be communicated to the Board in a timely manner.

V. Elections Committee and Members-at-Large

- A. Congress shall have an Elections Committee consisting of five members: the Vice Chair, the Recorder, and three members of the Congress who are not members of the Board of Directors. The Elections Committee will be chaired by the Vice Chair of the Congress.
 - i. Terms on the Elections Committee are for one year and will be determined by a vote at the summer meeting of the Congress. Members may self-nominate for this committee and election to the committee will be by approval voting.
 - ii. The responsibilities of the Elections Committee will be to (1) provide a

list of names, approved by the Congress, to the Board of Directors from which the Board of Directors will select the MAA Nominating Committee, (2) develop a slate of candidates for Chair-Elect, Vice Chair, Recorder of the Congress, and the next Elections Committee and (3) run the elections in the Congress.

- iii. The Elections Committee shall nominate candidates, subject to approval by the Board, for Members-At-Large of the Congress and Chair of the Council on Sections, to be elected by the Congress.
- B. Votes for Members-At-Large will be by approval vote and will be taken by the Congress by no later than January, and the Members-At-Large will begin their terms at the same time the Section Representatives begin their terms.
- C. For elections by the Congress, additional nominations may be made from the floor. Nominations from the floor must be supported by a signed statement from the person nominated verifying that they have reviewed the position description and are willing to serve if elected.

VI. Member Responsibilities

- A. Members of Congress are expected to make every effort to come to all meetings. In anticipation of missing a Congress meeting, a Section Representative may appoint a past Representative of that Section, and a Congress Representative-At-Large may appoint a past Member-At-Large for that constituency as a substitute for that meeting. Similarly, a Council Chair may appoint a past Council Chair or current Council member as a substitute for that meeting in the event they cannot attend. The Congress member shall notify the Recorder and the MAA Secretary of the impending absence and give the name of the substitute, who then has full voting rights at the meeting.
- B. Members of Congress are expected to represent the needs and interests of their constituencies.
- C. Members of Congress are expected to communicate decisions of the Board to their constituencies.
- D. Members of the Congress are expected to stay abreast of issues facing the MAA and to serve as ambassadors for mathematics and the MAA.

VII. Amending the Bylaws:

- A. These Bylaws may be amended by majority vote of the Congress. In order to allow for full consideration of changes of the Bylaws, any proposed changes to the Bylaws must be brought forth to the full Congress no less than one month prior to the vote. This may be done via email with the preliminary agenda or may be proposed at one meeting to be voted on at the next meeting.