
AAPM Bylaws Modernization

Frequently Asked Questions

This document addresses questions that Members may have about the proposed amendments to the AAPM Bylaws. For additional information, please attend one of the Member Q&A Sessions in July and August 2026. The proposed amendments are modernizations, not restructurings — the fundamental rights and governance structure of AAPM are preserved.

Table of Contents

General	1
Membership	2
Governance and Board	3
Meetings and Voting	4
The Vote	5

General

Why are the bylaws being updated?

AAPM's current bylaws were written when the organization had approximately 200 members and conducted all business by paper ballot and in-person meetings. Today, AAPM has more than 10,000 members. The proposed amendments update the governing documents to reflect AAPM's current scale, ensure compliance with DC nonprofit law, and modernize operational provisions, including the formal authorization of virtual meetings and electronic voting.

Has this been in development for a long time, or is this a sudden change?

This has been in development since 2024. The Governance Committee and Rules Committee, working with AAPM's legal counsel, prepared an initial draft over the course of 2024 and into 2025. The Board reviewed the draft at its December 2, 2025, meeting, provided feedback, and approved the revised proposal for presentation to the membership on April 21, 2026.

What is the difference between the Bylaws and the RULES?

The Bylaws are AAPM's foundational governing document. They establish member rights, the Board structure, officer roles, and the amendment process — the core elements that require broad approval to change.

The RULES are a separate operational document that the Board can update without a full membership vote. Under the proposed amendments, operational details such as committee structures, nomination processes, and officer duties would be moved from the Bylaws to the RULES. This is consistent with best practices in nonprofit governance and

allows AAPM to adapt efficiently to changes in the profession. All fundamental member rights remain in the Bylaws.

How do AAPM's proposed bylaws compare with those of peer societies?

AAPM's proposed bylaws align well with modern governance practices used by peer societies, including the American College of Radiology (ACR) and the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO). All three organizations use a RULES-based approach for operational flexibility, authorize virtual participation, and require membership approval for dues changes. A detailed comparison is available in the companion document: "AAPM Proposed Bylaws Compared to Peer Societies."

Membership

My membership category is Full Member. What does this mean under the proposed amendments?

Full Members and Full-Lifetime Members are collectively referred to as "Voting Members" in the proposed bylaws, consistent with the terminology used in DC nonprofit law. Full Members retain all current voting rights. The term "Full Member" is also still recognized in the proposed bylaws.

Will my dues change?

No changes to dues are proposed. The proposed amendments preserve the requirement that changes to dues be approved by a membership vote. The terminology for dues approval is updated from "favorable majority" to "simple majority" — a clarification only, with no substantive change.

Note: The proposed amendments remove a provision that prevented automatic dues increases if more than seven years had passed since the last membership-approved increase. Any change to dues would still require membership approval.

What does the updated definition of 'Member in good standing' mean?

The current definition covers Members whose dues are not in arrears. The proposed definition expands this to include compliance with all applicable membership criteria and aligns it with AAPM's existing practices, including compliance with the AAPM Code of Member Conduct.

How does the membership termination process change?

The proposed amendments update the termination process to reference AAPM's Codes of Member Conduct as the governing framework. This provides a comprehensive process with clear grounds and appropriate due process protections.

Governance and Board

What new accountability measures are being added?

The proposed amendments introduce two accountability provisions not currently in the bylaws:

- **Member removal of Directors:** Members may remove an elected Director by a two-thirds vote.
- **Board removal for cause:** The Board may remove a Director on seven specifically defined grounds, subject to clear procedures.

These provisions provide a formal accountability framework that the current bylaws lack. AAPM's approach is the most comprehensive among peer societies reviewed.

Why replace the whole document rather than amend it?

AAPM's current Bylaws have been amended over the years, but those amendments have left behind language that is ambiguous, outdated, or silent on matters now central to how the organization operates. Rather than continue adding to a patchwork document, the Governance Committee and Rules Committee developed a clean replacement that is more clearly organized and easier to navigate. A full replacement also allows AAPM to address legal compliance, operational flexibility, and member rights comprehensively in a single coherent document. The changes are modernizations, not restructurings — the fundamental rights and governance structure of AAPM are fully preserved.

Has AAPM tried to rewrite its bylaws before?

Yes. Previous efforts to comprehensively update the bylaws were combined with proposals to change the size of the Board of Directors. This proposal does not address Board size or composition. It focuses solely on modernizing the governing document to comply with current DC law, improve operational flexibility, and strengthen members' rights.

Why are Chapter-elected Directors no longer called "Representative Board Members"? Does this mean they will stop representing their chapters?

The name change from "Representative Board Members" to "Chapter-elected Directors" is a matter of legal precision, not of how chapter directors serve or what they care about.

Under DC nonprofit law, all Directors, regardless of how they are elected, owe their legal duty to the organization rather than to a specific constituency. The term "Representative Board Member" created potential ambiguity about that legal duty. "Chapter-elected Director" more accurately describes how these Directors reach the Board, through election by regional chapters, without implying a legal obligation that conflicts with their duty to the national AAPM.

In practice, nothing changes. Chapter-elected Directors are still elected by their regional chapters, bring regional perspectives and priorities into Board discussions, and remain a

vital link between chapters and national AAPM. The proposed amendments do not alter how these Directors are selected, how long they serve, or how they engage. The change is in terminology only, and it better reflects and protects the Directors who serve in these roles.

What is a Special Member Meeting, and can Members call one?

A Special Member Meeting is a formal meeting of the membership held outside the Annual Business Meeting. Under the proposed amendments, 25% of Voting Members may petition to call one. This is a new member right not currently in the bylaws, providing Members a formal mechanism to raise urgent matters between Annual Business Meetings.

Why are the councils and committees being moved out of the bylaws?

The current bylaws specify in detail the composition, purpose, and duties of all five Councils and eight committees, requiring a full bylaw amendment for even minor structural changes. The proposed amendments move these details to the RULES, which the Board can update as organizational needs evolve. Member participation in governance is not affected — only the administrative specifics are relocated.

Will Board meetings increase?

The minimum required Board meetings per year increased from one to two, indicating a move towards more consistent engagement. Presently, the Board meets at least three times annually.

Why wasn't there more member input in shaping the proposed changes?

AAPM's governance model is designed to be representative. Members elect the Board of Directors, which then supervises the Governance Committee. This setup ensures that knowledgeable and responsible representatives handle complex issues for the entire membership. The proposed amendments went through over a year of detailed legal and governance review, including feedback from AAPM's legal counsel and multiple revisions by the Board. While involving all 10,000 members in drafting may not be feasible, it is appropriate to rely on their input in making the final decision.

Moreover, member involvement extends beyond voting. Members can submit written arguments for or against the amendments, participate in discussions at the Annual Business Meeting on July 9, attend Member Q&A Sessions in July and August 2026, and directly ask the Governance Committee questions. All contributions are recorded as part of the official record. The requirement for two-thirds approval of adoption acts serves as a robust democratic safeguard, ensuring that significant changes occur only with widespread member support.

Meetings and Voting

Are virtual meetings formally authorized?

The proposed amendments explicitly authorize Members and Directors to participate in person, by teleconference, or via video conference.

Why is the Annual Business Meeting notice period being reduced from four months to two months?

The four-month notice requirement reflects an era of postal mail distribution. With electronic communication, two months' advance notice is sufficient and consistent with current practice.

Why is the Robert's Rules requirement being removed?

The proposed amendments give the President discretion to establish rules for meeting conduct, rather than requiring Robert's Rules of Order.

The petition threshold for bylaw amendments is going from 5 to 25 members. Isn't that a reduction in member rights?

The Board does not view this as a reduction in member rights. When the five-member threshold was established, AAPM had a small membership, and five members represented a meaningful percentage of the total. With more than 10,000 current Members, five members represent a fraction of a percent. Twenty-five members is still a very accessible threshold and, as a percentage of membership, is lower than the original threshold was intended to be.

The Vote

What is the timeline for the vote?

Date	Milestone
By June 9, 2026	Materials distributed to all Voting Members (at least one month before Annual Business Meeting per Article IX)
July 9, 2026, 3:30–5:00 pm ET	Annual Business Meeting – formal presentation and discussion
July – August 2026	Q&A Sessions – Member virtual Q&A sessions open to all Members
By September 9, 2026	Ballots distributed to all Voting Members in good standing
15–30 days after distribution (September 30, 2026)	Vote closes (date set by Secretary; outer deadline November 9, 2026)

What is the threshold for adoption?

Adoption requires a favorable vote of two-thirds of ballots received, as specified in Article IX of the current bylaws.

What happens if the amendments are not adopted?

If the proposed amendments do not receive the required two-thirds vote, the current bylaws remain in effect. The Governance Committee and Board would consider member feedback in determining next steps.

How can I submit a formal argument for or against the proposed amendments?

Members wishing to submit a formal statement for or against the proposed amendments should fill out this [form](#) by September 1, 2026, to specify their stance. These statements will be collected and included with the ballot materials as mandated by Article IX. Members may also make verbal statements during the Annual Business Meeting on July 9, 2026.

Where can I find the full text of the proposed and current bylaws?

Both documents are available on the [bylaws website](#), along with a summary of major changes and a detailed change list. If you have difficulty accessing these materials, please email the [helpdesk](#).