

AAPM Proposed Bylaws

Comparison to Peer Societies

This document compares AAPM's proposed bylaws with those of the American College of Radiology (ACR) and the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO). It is provided as a reference to help Members understand how the proposed changes align with modern governance practices across peer medical societies.

Key Findings

- AAPM's proposed bylaws align well with modern nonprofit governance practices used by both peer societies.
- All three organizations move operational details to RULES (or an equivalent) to maintain flexibility while preserving democratic governance principles in the bylaws.
- Both peer societies explicitly authorize virtual participation and electronic voting — AAPM's proposed bylaws align AAPM with this standard.
- AAPM's proposed 25-member petition threshold for bylaw amendments is significantly more accessible than ASTRO's equivalent (approximately 240 members).

Governance Processes Comparison

Topic	AAPM Proposed	ACR	ASTRO
Amendment Approval Threshold	2/3 of ballots received (unchanged)	2/3 of Councilors present and voting at annual meeting	Simple majority of eligible members voting (changed from 2/3 in Fall 2024)
Petition Threshold for Amendments	25 Voting Members	15 Councilors (out of ~150–200)	2% of voting members OR 100 members (~240 members at current size)
Operational Details (RULES approach)	Committee structure, elections, officer duties in RULES	Commissions/Committees may be altered by BOC at any time; details in procedures	Committee composition in RULES; election procedures by any means permitted by law

Board Meeting Frequency	Minimum 2 per calendar year	Minimum 2 per calendar year	Not specified (implies annually)
Virtual Participation	Explicitly authorized: physical presence, teleconference, or video conference	Explicitly authorized for Council and BOC meetings	Explicitly authorized; voting by any means permitted by law
Officer Terms (Secretary/Treasurer equivalent)	Secretary & Treasurer: 3 years, up to 2 consecutive terms (6 years max). Note: Only the Secretary's terms are changing; the Treasurer was already at this level.	Secretary-Treasurer: 1-year terms, renewable up to 6 years total	Secretary/Treasurer: 3 years, eligible for one additional 3-year term (6 years max)
Director/Board Member Removal	Members: 2/3 vote; Board: removal for 7 specific causes with due process	Council may declare Chancellorship vacant by 2/3 vote	3/4 vote of voting Directors + confirmation by majority member vote
Special Member Meetings	Board OR 25% of Voting Members by petition	Speaker of Council on request of 20% of Councilors or majority of CSC	Board or Chair of Board only — members cannot independently initiate
Annual Meeting Notice	2 months	Not less than 20 days	120 days prior to meeting
Dues Approval	Simple majority of those voting — unchanged	Council establishes after BOC recommendation	Board sets with simple majority membership approval
Automatic Dues Increase Limitation	7-year limitation removed (neither peer has this limitation)	No equivalent limitation	No equivalent limitation
Conflict of Interest Policy	Moved to RULES/policies	Handled by Ethics Committee; not detailed in bylaws	Not explicitly in bylaws
Tax-Exempt / 501(c)(3) Language	Extensive 501(c)(3) language added to Article IX	Dissolution language aligned with tax-exempt requirements	501(c)(3) dissolution language in Article XIII
Specialty / Demographic Representation	Not required (unchanged)	Encouraged via CNC designations; institutional diversity required	Required in bylaws: minimum medical physicist, biologist, academic, community practice clinician

Early-Career Representation	Not required (unchanged)	1 dedicated YPS Chancellor position (2-year term)	Through Council Vice-Chair pathway if elected
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Bottom Line

AAPM's proposed bylaws reflect modern nonprofit governance best practices and align well with peer medical societies. The areas where AAPM differs from peers — such as specialty representation requirements — are not addressed in this proposal and may warrant separate future consideration. The proposed amendments represent a sound modernization of AAPM's governing framework.