

# Bylaws of the Game Theory Society

(20 July 2006, amended 20 February 2012)

## Objective and Membership

The Game Theory Society (the Society) is dedicated to the promotion of research, teaching, and applications of game theory. Membership is open to anyone interested in these activities.

## Governing Bodies of the Society

1. The *Council* is the legislative and elective body of the Society. It consists of 36 individuals, elected by the members of the Society. The duties of the Council are to: (i) approve and elect candidates for Officers, (ii) elect members to the Advisory Board, and (iii) approve changes in the bylaws of the Society.
2. The *Officers* of the Society consist of the Past President, President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice President for Communications. The Officers are responsible for the ongoing operations of the Society, with ultimate responsibility and decision-making resting with the President. Officers are elected or approved by the Council.
3. The *Advisory Board* of the Society consists of a small number of senior members of the game theory profession. They act as advisors to the President.

## Terms in Office

In alternate years, the members will vote to replace one third of the longest-serving members of the Council by new members of the Council, and to fill any vacancies created for other reasons. Thus, in steady state, a newly elected member of the Council will serve a six-year term.

The election of Officers will be held every second year in those years when elections for Council are not held. Officers will be elected for two-year terms. A President may be re-elected to serve at most one additional two-year term. If this happens, the previous Past President will continue to serve in the same capacity for an additional two-year term. A Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer may serve at most four consecutive two-year terms. One person may simultaneously serve as Secretary and Treasurer, and an Executive Vice President may serve simultaneously in the position of any other Officer.

Members of the Advisory Board are appointed for life. Membership on the Advisory Board is not dependent on being a member of the Society.

## **Voting Procedures**

Unless otherwise specified by the President, the processes of voting and approving described below are the responsibility of the Secretary.

The *Steering Committee*, consisting of the Officers and chaired by the President, will nominate candidates for membership on the Council, for the position of an Officer, and for membership on the Advisory Board.

*Before an election to the Council, the President will have the discretion to appoint, with the advice of the Steering Committee, up to two people to replace retiring Council members.*<sup>1</sup> The Steering Committee will *then* nominate a number of candidates equal to the *remaining* number of members of the Council to be replaced, plus anywhere from six to twelve additional people. The Steering Committee will specify the retiring members of the Council, in accordance with the seniority rule above, and will put on the ballot the names of the candidates. These ballots will be sent to the members, with a specified deadline. The method of selection will be approval voting, with ties broken by the President. Only ballots that are returned within the given deadline will be counted.

For the election of Officers, the Steering Committee will nominate for each position at least one, but no more than two, candidates. For each position, a ballot lists the names of the candidates, as well as the option to disapprove of all candidates

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<sup>1</sup>Text in italics in this paragraph added by Council vote with effect from 2012.

for that position. These ballots will be sent to the members of the Council, with a specified deadline. Only ballots that are returned within the given deadline will be counted. The candidate with the most votes is elected, with ties broken by the president, unless more than half of the votes disapprove of all candidates for that position. In the latter case, the Steering Committee will make a new nomination or nominations for that position, and hold a follow-up election, subject to the same rules as the original election.

The Steering Committee may, at any time, propose a person to be added to the Advisory Board. A ballot describing the candidate and the case for appointment will be sent to all members of the Council, with a specified deadline. The person will be elected if the number of approvals constitutes at least two-thirds of the Council members who cast their vote by the deadline.

## **Chapters**

From time to time the Steering Committee may recognize various groups as Chapters of the Society. These may include local, national, regional or discipline-based organizations that share common interests with the Society. The mutual arrangements between the Society and the corresponding organization, which may entail partial cross privileges to the members of both organizations, will be agreed upon on an individual basis between the Steering Committee of the Society and the appropriate body of the corresponding organization. The Steering Committee has the responsibility and the authority for deciding on the termination of such arrangements.

## **Changes in the Bylaws**

The Steering Committee, or at least one half of the Council members, may, at any time, propose a change in the bylaws of the Society. Unless otherwise specified by the President, the Secretary is responsible for the process of approving the change. A ballot describing the change will be sent to all members of the Council, who will vote their approval or disapproval by the specified deadline. To take effect, the change must be approved by at least two thirds of the Council members.