Bylaws of the Game Theory Society

(July 20, 2006, *amended February 20, 2012, amended April 10, 2017, amended January 6, 2021, amended September 30, 2023, amended November 25, 2026***)**

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.

4. The *Fellows* of the Society are a group of people honored for their contributions to game theory and service to the Society, and are a source of advice for the Steering Committee.

Terms in Office

In odd-numbered years the members of the Game Theory Society will elect twelve new Council members, to replace the twelve members of the Council who are completing their terms and hence are retiring, and the members of the Game Theory Society will also elect new Council members to complete the terms of any vacancies created for other reasons.

Newly elected Council members will begin their terms on August 1 of the year they are elected, and will serve for six years or until the end of the term they are completing.

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. If an officer resigns or is unable to continue for any reason before the end of their term, then a new election is to be held as soon as possible to select a replacement for the remaining portion of the term. That replacement period counts as a term toward the maximum number of terms in office for the new officer if and only if it is more than one year. The rules for the election are as described in the section Voting Procedures, below, except that the steering committee may choose to forgo soliciting new nominations from the council. One person may simultaneously serve as Secretary and Treasurer, and an Executive Vice President may serve simultaneously in the position of any other Officer.

Officers' terms begin on August 1 of the year they are elected. Upon the succession of a new president, the previous President automatically becomes Past President. Under ordinary circumstances, the Executive Vice President is nominated for the position of President and a new Executive Vice President is elected.

Officers and Council members should be members of the Society during their terms.

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

Fellows are appointed for life. Fellowship 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.

Before an election of Council members or officers, the *Steering Committee,* consisting of the Officers and chaired by the President, shall solicit suggestions for nominees from the Council, Fellows and Advisory Board. The *Steering Committee* shall then prepare a slate of nominees. 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. 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 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. Past Presidents, upon completing their terms as Past President, will automatically become members of the advisory board.

Officers and Council members, upon completing their terms, will automatically become Fellows of the Society. In addition, the Steering Committee may, at any time, propose a person to be become a Fellow. A ballot will be sent to all members of the Council, with a specified deadline. The person will be elected a Fellow if the number of approvals constitutes at least half of the Council members who cast their vote by the deadline.

Ethical and Professional Standards

Membership in the society represents a commitment to ethical and professional standards of behavior in all matters relating to the Society. Violations by members, council members, fellows, advisory board members, or officers, should be brought to the attention of the Steering Committee who, at their discretion, can recommend a sanction to members of the Council. It will be enacted if approved by at least two-thirds of the council members who respond by the deadline. Council members involved in the recommendation will be excluded from voting, and if a violation concerns officers then it should be reported to the Advisory Board.

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.