

Kiwanis International Bylaws Modernization Revision

Summary of Key Changes

Most of the changes in the Kiwanis International bylaws revisions are not significant. They do not change the way Kiwanis operates. Rather, they update the text to be clearer or to reflect current practice or they move the text to a new location or place it in a new order. Those types of changes are not mentioned in this document. Shown below are revisions that reflect an actual change of practice in some way.

Club Appeal of Disciplinary Action (Article VII, Section 2)

An appeal process from a club that has had its charter suspended or revoked will be submitted to the Kiwanis International Board rather than the Kiwanis International convention.

Elimination of Interim Status (Article VIII, Section 5)

Interim status will be eliminated. (This is an at-large type membership that allows members who leave one club but plan to join another club within a year to maintain association with Kiwanis by payment of a fee. It has legal challenges associated with it and has not been used since its creation in 2000.)

Kiwanis International Officers' Duties (Article XII)

The stated duties of Kiwanis International Officers have been clarified. The executive director will now be specifically responsible to assure the organization complies with all governmental reporting requirements for finances, taxation, employment and any other areas of operation.

District Governor's Duties (Article XII, new Section 13)

The governor's duties have been reworded, with no change of meaning or implementation.

Kiwanis International Board Voting Details (Article XIII, Section 4)

The process used by the Kiwanis International Board to conduct business without meeting in person has been simplified and is still in compliance with applicable law.

Kiwanis International Board Responsibilities (Article XIII, Section 6 and new Section 8)

Wording has been added to specifically state that the Kiwanis International Board has fiduciary responsibility for the organization and is accountable to the membership for the organization's performance.

K.I. Council (Article XIV)

- Council meetings may only be called by the full Kiwanis International Board, not by the Executive Committee.
- Adjusted the way council may conduct business if a physical meeting is not held.
- Council may still amend the Kiwanis International Bylaws in nonsubstantive ways under particular conditions.

K.I. Convention (Article XV and Article XVII, new Section 3)

- Clarified the determination process for the time and place of conventions.
- Removed a contradiction about how business would be handled if the annual convention cannot be held any year due to special circumstances.
- A provision was added about setting and changing the agenda for special conventions.
- Clarified wording regarding registration fees to reflect long-standing practice.

- Added an option that resolutions presented less than 90 days in advance may be considered under specific conditions. This agrees with a similar provision for district conventions.

Announcement of Candidacy for Kiwanis International Offices (Article XVIII, new Section 2a)

Candidates for Kiwanis International Board offices must announce their candidacy no later than the convention opening session, rather than the “the first business session.”

Vacancy or Incapacity of International President (Art. XIX, Sec. 1)

- Filling a vacancy in Kiwanis International president was expanded to include the option of selecting a past president. Until the vacancy is filled, the immediate past president would automatically serve as acting president.
- If the Kiwanis International president is incapacitated and unable to discharge the duties of office, a two-thirds confirmation vote by the board would be required before the office can be declared vacant.
- If the immediate past president is unable or unwilling to serve as Acting president, the board would select a past president to fill that role.

Kiwanis International Board’s Authority Regarding an Incomplete Election (Art. XIX, new Sec. 7)

If the election of a Kiwanis International Board office cannot be completed for any reason, the ~~b~~Board may fill the office as a vacancy. This agrees with a similar provision for district boards regarding district officers.

Incapacity of a District Governor (Article XIX, new Section 15)

- A two-thirds votes of the entire district board is required to agree that the governor is incapacitated.
- A separate two-thirds vote of the entire district board is now required to determine whether the incapacity still exists before the office may be declared vacant.

These changes agree with the process regarding a vacancy in the office of Kiwanis International president.

Kiwanis International Committees (Article XX, new Section 1b)

- A standing committee on Membership will be required. (Such a committee is already appointed every year.)
- The mandatory composition of some committees was adjusted.
- The Past Presidents Committee may hold additional meetings at the expense of its members.

Kiwanis Administrative Year (Article XXIII, new Section 1)

The definition of the administrative year (vs. fiscal year) will now be clearly stated, rather than inferred.

Best Practices for Accounting and Finances (Article XXIII, new Section 3)

A provision now states that the organization will adhere to professional practices related to finance and accounting.

Vote Requirement to Amend the Kiwanis International Bylaws (Article XXVII, new Sections 1, 6, and 7)

Currently, parts of the Kiwanis International bylaws require a majority vote to amend, while other parts require a two-thirds vote. A two-thirds vote would now be required to amend *any* portion of the Kiwanis International Bylaws. (This is the same vote required to amend the district bylaws or club bylaws.)