

**Constitution and By-Laws  
of  
Sokol USA  
Organized July 4, 1896**

**Revised, Adopted, and Amended  
at the**

**XXXVI Convention**

**held at**

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

**August 4 through August 7, 2022**

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**ARTICLE I**  
**Name, Mission, Objectives and Motto**

- Section 1.** The name of this organization is Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of the United States of America, hereinafter referred to as “Sokol U.S.A.”, with its headquarters at 408 Main St., Suite 402 P.O. Box 677, Boonton, NJ 07005-0677
- Section 2.** The mission of Sokol U.S.A is to promote a sound mind in a sound body through physical, cultural, moral and educational development of its members.
- Section 3.** The Objectives of Sokol U.S.A. are:
- a) To promote Sokol physical culture and sports, fitness and wellness to its members.
  - b) To educate its members in the Sokol ideals and history, and to support Sokol literature.
  - c) To promote the democratic tradition and patriotic spirit of the United States of America.
  - d) To provide social and fraternal activities.
  - e) To maintain classes or schools for the instruction of members.
  - f) To aid its members and their dependents in case of accident, sickness and death.
  - g) To promote social, cultural and charitable interactions between our members and their communities.
- Section 4.** The motto of Sokol U.S.A. is “Break through, jump over, but do not crawl under.”

**ARTICLE II**  
**Organization of Sokol U.S.A.**

- Section 1.** The aims of Sokol U.S.A. shall be attained by:
- a) Establishing a Governing Body Referred to as the “National Board” in these By-Laws.
  - b) Establishing subordinate lodges and Districts which shall implement the mission and objectives set forth in Article I.
  - c) Creating and maintaining funds for the purpose of paying obligations of Sokol U.S.A.
  - d) Owning and holding real estate and other property as necessary for the fulfillment of the aims and purposes of Sokol U.S.A.

**ARTICLE III**  
**Management of Sokol U.S.A.**

- Section 1.** The management of Sokol U.S.A. consists of:
- a) The Convention which shall be the legislative and appellate body of Sokol U.S.A.
  - b) The National Board which shall be the executive and managing body of Sokol U.S.A.
  - c) The Dispute Resolution Committee which shall be the judicial body of Sokol U.S.A.
  - d) The subordinate local lodges to which members belong.
  - e) The Districts in which the subordinate local lodges shall be grouped.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **The Convention**

- Section 1.** The Convention is the highest legislative body and judicial tribunal for Sokol U.S.A., and shall consist of the National officers, delegates of the local lodges, representatives of the Districts, Honorary officers, appointive officers, and guest delegates.
- Section 2.** Each lodge in good standing is entitled to one (1) delegate for every fifty (50) adult and junior members in good standing or major fraction thereof, i.e. twenty-six (26), as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year preceding the Convention. Each lodge having less than fifty (50) adult and junior members is entitled to one (1) delegate. A lodge may not be represented by a National officer or Honorary officer. The National Board will reimburse the traveling and lodging expenses of not more than two (2) lodge delegates.
- Section 3.** A lodge delegate shall be an adult member in good standing of the lodge for at least one year, except delegates of newly organized lodges shall be members in good standing for at least six months prior to the opening of the Convention. A member need not be present at the meeting called for election of delegates to be elected a delegate if the lodge so determines.
- Section 4.** District Representation
- (a) Each District having a regular program of gymnastic, sports, fitness, or wellness, is entitled to one delegate having all the same rights and responsibilities as a Lodge delegate, including voting on all matters that come before the Convention and running for any office on the National Board.
  - (b) A District, at its own expense, may send one of its officers, having qualifications the same as a delegate, as a representative who shall not be eligible for election to any office.
  - (c) A District may not be represented by a lodge delegate, National officer or an Honorary Officer.
- Section 5.** Lodges shall have one (1) vote for every twenty-five (25) adult members in good standing or fraction thereof, as of the statement of membership for the last month preceding the Convention. Lodges having twenty-five (25) or fewer adult members, National officers, Honorary officers, guest delegates and District representatives shall each have one (1) vote.
- Section 6.** The National Assistants to the Co-Directors when attending the SFW Committee meeting immediately preceding the Convention may attend the Convention without the right to vote but with expenses paid the same as delegates.
- Section 7.** Sokol USA shall pay all transportation and lodging costs for each lodge delegate, District representative, National officer, Honorary Officer, appointive officer, and guest delegate attending the Convention. An individual lodge may subsidize the per diem expenses of its delegates as determined by the lodge prior to election of the delegates.
- Section 8.** The Convention shall be held at least every four years at the time and place determined by the previous Convention. In the event that suitable arrangements cannot be made at the site selected, the National Board shall be empowered to select another convention site. The sessions of the Convention shall be open to all members of Sokol U.S.A. Non-members may enter the Convention only with the permission of the Convention chairperson or with the approval of a majority of the delegates.
- In the event of extraordinary circumstances, the National Board may vote to hold the convention via alternate method such as voice or video conference. Every effort will be made to hold an in-person convention as a first choice
- Section 9.** The delegates in attendance at the Convention must never represent less than the voting power required to amend the Charter or the Constitution and By- Laws of Sokol U.S.A., i.e. two-thirds.
- Section 10.** The National Board shall establish the operating procedures for the National Convention. These procedures shall be distributed to the Districts and lodges no later than six months prior to the National

Convention.

**Section 11.** The President, or in the President's absence, the Vice-president shall open the Convention. The Convention shall elect from its members a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson to conduct its sessions. The Fraternal Secretary shall appoint Convention Secretaries to keep minutes of the Convention.

**Section 12. Powers of the Convention.** The Convention shall be the sole judge of the election, qualification and constituency of its own members and in addition to other powers herein specified shall have the power to:

- (a) Possess Jurisdiction over the National officers, Dispute Resolution Committee, Districts, local lodges and all other subordinate bodies and officers provided in the By-Laws.
- (b) Make laws, rules and regulations for the government of Sokol U.S.A. which shall not be in conflict with the Articles of Incorporation of Sokol U.S.A. or the laws of the United States of America or its States.
- (c) Pass upon the reports of the officers and committees.
- (d) Nominate, elect, and fix the salaries and bonds for National officers, and for the Chairperson of the Dispute Resolution Committee, as provided in these By-Laws.
- (e) Fix membership dues to various funds, and specify the financial means necessary for the fulfillment of the aims and purposes of Sokol U.S.A.
- (f) Affirm, reverse or modify decisions of the National Board.
- (g) Redress grievances and prefer and determine charges of wrong doing or By-Laws violation against a member or delegate.
- (h) Designate and elect as honorary National officers, guest delegates and Honorary members, persons who have rendered a special service to Sokol U.S.A. or to our Nation.
- (i) Amend, enact or repeal these By-Laws or the Articles of Incorporation of Sokol U.S.A. in the manner provided in these By-Laws.
- (j) Do and perform any and all acts and things deemed necessary or expedient for the welfare and perpetuity of Sokol U.S.A., and to carry out its objectives.

**Section 13.** All revisions of and amendments to the By-Laws require the sanction of a two-third majority vote.

**Section 14.** A special convention shall be called by the President upon the written request of two-thirds of the National Board, or upon the written request of a majority of the local lodges. Upon the receipt of a sufficient number of such written requests, the President shall within thirty (30) days, order a special convention and publish the call for such convention in the official publications and communicate the same to each lodge and District. Such convention shall be held within ninety (90) days from the date of the call. In the event the President refuses to comply with this provision within thirty (30) days from receipt of such sufficient number of written requests, then the Fraternal Secretary shall issue such a call and publish same in the official publication. All written requests shall be sent in duplicate, one copy to the President, and the other to the Fraternal Secretary. Delegates to a special convention shall be elected by each lodge and National as provided for the election of the delegates to a regular convention.

**Section 15.** In the event of a special convention, if there be charges pending against the President, then the Vice-President shall preside and appoint such of the pre-convention committees provided in the By-Laws as may be necessary.

**Section 16.** In time of grave necessity, the President may recommend the call of a special convention. In this event, the Fraternal Secretary shall send ballots to the lodges, and if a majority of the lodges approve, the National Board shall fix and order the time of the holding of such special convention.

**Section 17.** The call for the special convention published in the official publications shall state the purposes for which such special convention is to be held, and the first order of business to be considered and acted upon shall be such matters. The special convention may also consider and act upon all other matters

coming before it, and has the same powers as a regular convention.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **National Board**

- Section 1.** The National Board of Directors consists of the following officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Fraternal Secretary, Recording Secretary, five (5) Financial Trustees, Fraternal Activities Director and two (2) Co-Directors of Sports, Fitness & Wellness (SFW).
- Section 2. Nomination by Petition.** Any adult member in good standing can be nominated for a position on the National Board at least four (4) months prior to the Convention by submitting the following to the National Board:
- a) A letter of nomination by an adult member in good standing for the proposed candidate stating the position for which the member would like to run. The candidate may self-nominate.
  - b) A letter authenticated by an officer of the proposed candidate's lodge verifying that they are a member in good standing.
  - c) The proposed candidate will include a brief biography including qualifications and a statement explaining why they would like to be a candidate.
- Section 3. Vetting by the National Board.**
- a) The National Board will validate the proposed candidate's biographical submission and will notify the candidate of their findings. If validated, the member's biography and statement for election will be distributed to the delegates and lodges, and the candidate's statement will be published in the *Sokol Times*.
  - b) Members verified to run for office must attend the Convention. If a member is not a convention delegate, the member will be responsible for his/her expenses.
  - c) The above procedure does not preclude nomination from the Convention floor. Any delegate to the Convention may be nominated from the floor for a National Board position. If a delegate is nominated for a position from the Convention floor, they must furnish a candidate statement and summary of qualifications to the President of the National Board by the beginning of the next Convention session so that it may be distributed to the Convention delegates.
- Section 4.** Between conventions the National Board shall exercise all administrative and executive powers of the Convention necessary to conduct the business of Sokol U.S.A.
- Section 5.** The term of office of the National Board officers shall begin on the first day of January next following the Convention. All officers shall be elected for a term of four (4) years.
- Section 6.** The official year of the National Board begins January 1<sup>st</sup> and ends December 31<sup>st</sup>, and annual reports of Sokol U.S.A. are made accordingly.
- Section 7.** The National Board shall hold a minimum of seven (7) meetings per year including an annual meeting in the spring and semi-annual meeting in the fall of each year; the remainder of the meetings will be a combination of conference calls, committee meetings and District meetings. In the case of necessity, the President shall call a special meeting.
- Section 8.** Two- thirds of the National Board shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business. The sessions of the National Board except as modified in these By-Laws shall be conducted according to "Robert's Rules of Order."
- Section 9.** The meetings of the National Board shall be open to members of Sokol U.S.A. When the welfare of

Sokol U.S.A demands, a closed executive session may be held upon a two-thirds vote of the National Board present. A report of all proceedings of each meeting shall be published complete in a single issue of the *Sokol Times* as soon as practicable following each meeting.

- Section 10.** At meetings of the National Board, when the suspension of a National officer or a grave matter is under consideration, the balloting must be open and recorded in the minutes of such meeting so that the membership may know how each officer voted. Upon motion of a member of the National Board, seconded by two (2) other members, the President shall order a roll call on any question.
- Section 11.** The National Board shall have the power to waive the dues and assessments payable to Sokol U.S.A. from all members after they reach age 80. The dues for these members will be paid from the surplus funds of Sokol U.S.A. These members will retain the status of members.
- Section 12.** The National Board shall approve or disapprove the National's annual budget, all bills and payable obligations, and the purchase, sale or exchange of real estate, mortgages, bonds and other investments of Sokol U.S.A. as may be presented by the Trustees.
- Section 13.** The National Board shall have the power to establish and induct new lodges and Districts where needed or deemed advisable. It shall assign to each new lodge and District its number and furnish it with a charter.
- Section 14.** The National Board shall enforce the By-Laws of Sokol U.S.A and enactments of the Convention, and shall supervise all the lodges and Districts and their officers.
- Section 15.** The immediate past President of Sokol U.S.A. shall be invited to attend meetings of the National Board with right to speak but no voting privilege.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Duties and Rights of National Board Officers**

- Section 1.** Every officer of the National Board shall devote as much time and skill as may be necessary to carry on the affairs of Sokol U.S.A; shall and obey enforce the By-Laws of Sokol U.S.A. and carry out the mandates of the Convention; shall counsel and assist the National Board, the local lodges and Districts and the members of Sokol U.S.A. in their respective activities; and shall promote and keep harmony and good will among the members. In addition to the duties herein specified, every officer of the National Board shall:
- (a) Attend as many of the local lodge meetings in such officer's area as may be practicable and help to stimulate fraternal activities of the local lodges.
  - (b) Be familiar with the fraternal certificates issued by GBU, and acquaint and assist the local lodges in such officer's area in understanding the benefits of the fraternal insurance programs and certificates.
  - (c) Assist the local lodges in such officer's area during membership drives.
  - (d) Report to the National Board meetings such officer's involvement in the activities related to Sokol U.S.A which occurred between the meetings of the National Board.
  - (e) When delegated by the President to do so, install new local lodges, and when occasion demands, shall instruct local lodge officers in the method of conducting affairs of the local lodge and of keeping its books properly; shall attend meetings of local lodges to ensure that the local lodges are conducted as provided in these By-Laws; and shall be liaison officers between the National Board and local lodges.
- Section 2.** Every officer of the National Board must be a member of Sokol U.S.A. and a citizen of the United States. A member who is a national officer in another fraternal organization may not be an officer on

the Sokol U.S.A. National Board. An officer of the National Board may hold office in a local lodge or District of Sokol U.S.A.

- Section 3.** Every officer of the National Board and responsible employee is obligated to reveal to the National Board any interests or affiliations that they may be engaged in which would be in conflict with their official duties and will so certify each year on a form provided for this purpose.
- Section 4.** An officer of the National Board against whom a complaint has been filed by a majority of the members of the National Board shall be suspended immediately upon the filing of such complaint. A hearing shall be held to hear such complaint within thirty (30) days.
- Section 5.** In the case of resignation, suspension or death of the President, the Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President. Vacancies in any other National Board office shall be filled by an election among the local lodges in meetings assembled from two or more candidates nominated by the National Board with the defeated candidate or candidates who received the next highest votes for these offices at the preceding convention having priority in the nomination to fill such vacancies. In the case of emergency, such vacancies may be filled temporarily by Executive Committee appointment and said temporary appointee shall act until a successor is elected as provided herein.
- Section 6.** The per diem of National Board officers during the Convention, regular or special meetings, or any other occasion, as ordered by the President or National Board shall be as determined by the Convention Committee on Expenses and Salaries plus lodging and travel expenses. Mileage shall be in accordance with current Internal Revenue Service Allowance.
- Section 7.** Sokol USA shall furnish fidelity bonds covering all officers of the National Board in the amount of \$50,000 with the exception of the President, Fraternal Secretary, Treasurer and the Financial Trustees which will be for \$200,000. Such bonds shall be obtained by Sokol USA before any officer takes office. Any officer failing to qualify for such bond within fifteen (15) days before taking office may be declared ineligible by the National Board and in that event such officer's vacancy shall be filled as provided for in case of a vacancy. Similarly, an officer whose bond has been cancelled and who fails to furnish Sokol USA with satisfactory fidelity bond before the day of cancellation of such officer's original bond, shall be declared ineligible by the National Board and such office declared vacant. The bonds of all officers furnished to Sokol USA shall be in the custody of the Fraternal Secretary.
- Section 8.** Every officer shall at the conclusion of such officer's term of office and upon election or appointment of such officer's successor, turn over to the successor all records, monies, bonds, securities, instruments, papers and property of every kind pertaining to such officer's respective office.
- Section 9.** Each present and future officer of Sokol U.S.A. and the legal representative of each officer shall be indemnified by Sokol USA against reasonable costs, expense (exclusive of any amount paid to Sokol U.S.A. in settlement), and counsel fees paid or incurred in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding to which any such officer, or such officer's legal representatives, may be made a party by reason of such officer being or having been such officer, to the maximum extent permitted by New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Law; provided, however, that indemnification for any such costs, expenses or counsel fees paid or incurred prior to such individual having submitted written notice thereof to Sokol U.S.A shall be subject to approval of the National Board.
- (a)** The National Board in its discretion shall have the power to indemnify any employee or agent of Sokol U.S.A. against reasonable costs, expenses (exclusive of any amount paid to Sokol U.S.A. in the settlement), and counsel fees paid or incurred in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding to which such employee or agent may be made a party by

reason of such employee or agent being or having been an employee or agent of Sokol U.S.A., to the maximum extent permitted by the New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Law.

- (b) Such right of indemnification shall be in addition to, and not in restriction or limitation of, any other privilege of the officers, agents or employees.
- (c) Expenses incurred by a present or future officer pursuant to this Article shall be paid by Sokol U.S.A in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such person to repay such advanced amount if it shall ultimately be determined that the person is not entitled to be indemnified pursuant to application of New Jersey law.
- (d) Sokol U.S.A may purchase and maintain insurance to protect itself and any person eligible to be indemnified hereunder against any liability or expense asserted against or incurred by such person in connection with any action, suit or proceeding.

**Section 10. Honorary Officer.** The title of Honorary Officer is bestowed upon an individual by vote of the Convention. An Honorary officer shall be entitled to a seat and voice in the Convention, and shall be entitled to vote. An Honorary officer shall be eligible to run for any elected office, and if elected must relinquish the honorary title.

**Section 11. Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the following officers: President, Vice President, Fraternal Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Financial Trustee.

The Executive Committee administers the affairs of the Sokol U.S.A. in the interim between meetings of the National Board as circumstances require, and it shall have all powers and authority necessary to conduct the affairs of Sokol U.S.A properly and in accordance with the decisions and directives of the National Board and the Convention.

- (a) The Executive Committee shall have access any and all vault and safe deposit boxes held in name of Sokol U.S.A.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall have veto power over all officers of Sokol U.S.A in the interpretation of their duties in the interim between the meetings of the National Board.
- (c) Four members of the Executive Committee must be present to constitute a quorum for the conducted business.
- (d) All business conducted by the Executive Committee must be approved by majority of those present and the full Board shall be notified of such decisions as soon as possible.
- (e) Minutes of meetings of the Executive Committee shall be presented to the next meeting of the National Board.

**Section 12. President.** The President is the Chief Executive Officer of Sokol U.S.A. and as such shall have the usual responsibilities associated with such office in general. The President shall promote the growth of Sokol USA., strive to fulfill its aims and objectives and lead strategic planning initiatives. The specific responsibilities of the President shall be detailed further in the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual approved by the National Board of Directors.

**Section 13.** If the President fails to perform the duties of the Office as provided in the By-Laws, the National Board may ask for the President's resignation. If the President commits a serious misdeed contrary to the By-Laws and the welfare of Sokol U.S.A, the misdeed shall be reported to the National Board which may, if deemed necessary, file a complaint with the Dispute Resolution Committee of Sokol U.S.A. for disposition.

**Section 14. Vice President.** In the absence or incapacity of the President, the Vice President shall assume the

duties of the President on a temporary basis. In the event that the office of the President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall immediately fill such vacancy, and the office of Vice President shall be filled as otherwise provided in these By-Laws. **(See Article VI, Section 5).**

The Vice President shall perform all duties listed but not limited to those set forth in these By-Laws and by the National Board in general. In particular the Vice President shall:

- (a) Formulate and initiate programs to increase Sokol U.S.A. membership in conjunction with the Membership/Marketing and Digital Committees.
- (b) Supervise the Membership/Marketing and Digital Chairpersons.
- (c) Prepare and submit annually a proposed budget to the treasurer, with the assistance of the Membership/Marketing and Digital Chairpersons.
- (d) Perform such other duties as the President or National Board shall direct.

**Section 15. Fraternal Secretary/CFO.** The Fraternal Secretary shall serve as the Chief Financial and Operating Officer for Sokol USA. The Fraternal Secretary serves as the liaison between the National Board and GBU Financial Life. The specific responsibilities of the Fraternal Secretary shall be detailed further in the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual approved by the National Board of Directors.

**Section 16. Recording Secretary.** The Recording Secretary shall perform all duties listed but not limited to those set forth in these By-Laws and by the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual. In particular the Recording Secretary shall:

- (a) Record all minutes of the National Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings and maintain same; shall publish in the official publications the minutes of all meetings of the National Board and Executive Committee, and shall mail the minutes of all meetings to the members of the National Board.
- (b) Serve as the Editor of the *Sokol Times*, solicit and collect articles for submission to the *GBU Reporter*, *Sokol Times* and Sokol USA website, interface with the printer of the *Sokol Times* and the editor of the *GBU Reporter*.
- (c) Coordinate print communications to the lodges and Districts and work in conjunction with the Digital Committee Chairperson.
- (d) Prepare and submit annually a proposed budget to the Treasurer.
- (e) Perform such other duties as the President or National Board shall direct.

**Section 17. Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall perform all duties listed but not limited to those set forth in these By-Laws and the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual. In particular the Treasurer shall:

- (a) Receive from the Fraternal Secretary quarterly reports of receipts and disbursements and verify same to the National Board.
- (b) Have charge of the official seal of Sokol U.S.A. and impress with it all official papers and documents; keep all accounts and receipts and keep a full inventory of all property belonging to Sokol U.S.A.
- (c) Have custody of notes, mortgages, insurance policies and all documents pertaining there to.
- (d) Receive, have care and custody of all funds of Sokol U.S.A. and deposit same in the name of Sokol U.S.A in such bank or banks or savings institutions as the National Board may elect. Such banks and saving institutions shall be members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or Federal Saving and Loan Insurance Corporation

- (e) Countersign all checks for payment of all bills for regular expense when approved by the Fraternal Secretary, and also bills for extraordinary expense upon approval by the National Board.
- (f) Shall work as Chairperson of the Budget Committee to formulate the National Budget which shall be subject to approval by the National Board.
- (g) Perform such other duties as the President or National Board shall direct.

**Section 18. Financial Trustees.** There shall be five (5) financial trustees. The Financial Trustees shall perform all duties listed but not limited to those set forth in these By-Laws and by the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual. The duties of the Financial Trustees are to protect the assets of Sokol USA from misuse and to provide a financial oversight of activities and operations.

The Financial Trustees shall elect an Executive Financial Trustee from the elected Financial Trustees at a meeting called by the President-elect solely for this purpose following their election and prior to the end of the Convention. In particular the Financial Trustees shall:

- (a) Perform an inventory of property belonging to the Sokol USA and report at the last meeting of each year. Property of Sokol USA must have the title “GBU” as well as the National number affixed to it. Should a lodge or District disband or transfer as a whole to another lodge or District, all assets are to be transferred with the membership by GBU’s home office.
- (b) Serve as the Audit Committee and audit the records of any and all officers of the Sokol USA and any committee thereof and at year-end review the preparation of the Annual Report to GBU’s home office, and report their finding at the next National meeting.
- (c) Verify that the National Officers are bonded as provided by GBU Financial Life.
- (d) Of the remaining four (4) Financial Trustees, one Financial Trustee will be responsible to explore, initiate and share fundraising opportunities on the national and local levels to help promote and support Sokol activities. The other Financial Trustee will be responsible to research, apply for and share grant opportunities on the national and local levels to help promote and support Sokol activities.
- (e) Perform such other duties as the President or National Board shall direct.

**Section 19. Fraternal Activities Director.** The Fraternal Activities Director shall perform all duties listed but not limited to those set forth in these By-Laws and by the National Board in general. In particular the Fraternal Activities Director shall:

- (a) Develop and organize necessary programs and committees to achieve and promote fraternal activities.
- (b) Coordinate with District and/or lodge officers and develop programs based on available venues, equipment and expertise specific to the District or lodge.
- (c) Develop non-sport activities that can be accomplished during District or lodge meetings.
- (d) Assist in the establishment of cultural displays (i.e. libraries, museums, etc.) for lodges.
- (e) Interface with the Co-Directors of Sports, Fitness and Wellness regarding any fraternal activities or aspects which may arise in the SFW Department.
- (f) Interface with GBU Fraternal Department to involve Sokol USA in GBU-wide fraternal events.
- (g) Interface with the Recording Secretary to promote all fraternal activities in print, digital and social media.
- (h) Supervise the Education Chairperson and together coordinate educational activities.
- (i) Prepare and submit annually a proposed budget to the Treasurer, with the assistance of the

Education Chairperson.

- (j) Perform such other duties as the President or National Board shall direct.

**Section 20. Co-Directors of Sports, Fitness, and Wellness.** The Co-Directors shall perform all duties listed but not limited to those set forth in these By-Laws and by the National Board in general. In particular the Co-Directors shall:

- (a) Develop and coordinate the activities of the Sports, Fitness and Wellness (SFW) Department.
- (b) Upon their election to office, the Co-Directors shall each appoint two National Assistants subject to approval of the Convention.
  - i. The National Assistants shall assist the Co-Directors in their official duties, and in the absence or incapacity of the Co-Directors shall temporarily assume full rights and responsibilities pertaining to the office of such Director, with the exception of having voting privileges on the National Board.
- (c) Call and preside over the meetings of the SFW Department; and in accordance with the decisions of such meetings shall recommend to the National Board dates and places for sports competitions, tournaments, Sokolfests (slets), and schools for gymnastic instructors, and shall recommend whether or not Sokol U.S.A. should participate in the sport activities of other organizations.
- (d) Direct all SFW activities conducted by Sokol U.S.A., at which they ensure that all rules and regulations are kept, appoint judges, and provide everything necessary for meets and contests.
- (e) Provide to District and lodges instructions and directives related to SFW activities, and ensure that the SFW activities of Sokol U.S.A. are conducted according to the Sokol system of physical education.
- (f) Have responsibility for technical publications of the SFW Department and for coordinating the gathering of all material on physical training and other material in the *Sokol Times*, and shall assist with other official publications created as a result of future national commitments or contracts.
- (g) Prepare reports of member participation in physical training and statistics of physical activities in Sokol U.S.A., and submit these reports to Annual Meetings of the National Board and the Convention.
- (h) Maintain membership in professional sports organizations.
- (i) Annually prepare and submit a proposed budget to the Treasurer.
- (j) Perform such other duties as the President or the National Board shall direct.

## ARTICLE VII

### Sports, Fitness, and Wellness Department

- Section 1.** The Sports, Fitness and Wellness (SFW) Department is comprised of the two Co-Directors; four Assistants (two Assistants for each Director); the Honorary Directors; and, if any, two District Directors from each gymnastics or sports active District; and two lodge Directors from each gymnastics or sports active lodge.
- Section 2.** The SFW Department is responsible for developing and organizing programs to achieve and promote gymnastics, sports, fitness, and wellness activities.
- Section 3.** A meeting of the Sports, Fitness and Wellness Department shall be held annually to formulate programs of gymnastics, sports, fitness and wellness activities for all components of the membership of Sokol U.S.A. The Department shall plan training sessions, competitions, schools for gymnastic instructors and physical training. It shall also select subjects of instruction and formulate regulations thereof.
- Section 4.** The Sports, Fitness and Wellness Department, at a meeting prior to each Convention, shall nominate

candidates for the offices of Co-Directors and shall recommend to the Convention that the nominees be elected by the Convention to their respective offices.

**Section 5.** Minutes of all Sports, Fitness and Wellness Department meetings will be sent to the National Board or Convention and published in the Sokol Times as soon as practical following the meeting.

**Section 6.** Proposals concerning SFW Department activities are subject to approval by the Sokol U.S.A. National Board or at the Sokol U.S.A. Convention.

## **ARTICLE VIII National Board Committees**

**Section 1.** The National Board consists of six structural committees: Administration; Audit; Budget; Membership/Marketing; Fraternal Activities; and Milan Getting Scholarship.

**Section 2.** Each National officer is a member of one of the structural committees:

- (a) The **Administration Committee** is comprised of the President, Vice President, Fraternal Secretary, Treasurer and Recording Secretary. The **Administration Committee** is responsible for establishing and maintaining the Home Office, handling meetings, setting agendas, leading strategic planning, and requesting and receiving reports.
- (b) The **Membership/Marketing Committee** is comprised of the Vice President, Fraternal Secretary, Membership/Marketing Chairperson and the Digital Chairperson. The Membership/Marketing Committee is responsible for addressing communication with membership, coordinating marketing efforts and promoting Sokol USA membership and programs.
- (c) The **Audit Committee** is comprised of five (5) Financial Trustees. The **Audit Committee** shall meet in conjunction with each Annual and Semi-annual Meeting of the National Board and at such other times as circumstances may require, and is responsible for supervising the property of Sokol U.S.A. and management thereof.
- (d) The **Budget Committee** is comprised of the Treasurer, Vice President, Fraternal Secretary, Fraternal Activities Director and one of the Sports, Fitness, and Wellness Co-Directors. **The Budget Committee** is responsible for preparing an annual budget for submission the National Board.
- (e) The **Fraternal Activities Committee** is comprised of the Fraternal Activities Director and the Education Chairperson. The Fraternal Activities Committee is responsible for developing and organizing programs to achieve and promote fraternal activities.
- (f) The **Milan Getting Scholarship Committee** is appointed by the National President. The Milan Getting Scholarship Committee is responsible for promotion and approval of the Milan Getting Fund scholarships and the promotion of the GBU Foundation scholarships to Sokol USA members.

## **ARTICLE IX National Non-Board Committees**

The need for specialized assistance to the National Board is met by the establishment of the three following non-Board positions that will serve the National Board and Sokol USA: Membership/Marketing Chairperson, Digital Communications Chairperson, and Education Chairperson, who will recruit the members of their respective committees.

Non-Board Committee Chairpersons, except for the Chair of the Dispute Resolution Committee, who shall be elected at the Convention, will be appointed by the National Board. They will be invited as needed to meetings of the National Board to report their activities. They will have voice but no vote at the meetings. They shall receive

proper compensation and expense reimbursements.

They shall perform all duties assigned by the Board but not limited to their specific responsibilities detailed in the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual.

## **ARTICLE X Resolutions of Disputes**

- Section 1.** The purpose of the Dispute Resolution Committee is to provide a method for fair resolution of disputes consistent with the fraternal nature of Sokol U.S.A. without the delay and expense of formal legal proceedings. The Convention shall elect one of its Members to be Chairperson of the Dispute and Resolution Committee. Six (6) additional Members of Sokol USA, each from a different lodge, shall be chosen by the Chairman to constitute the Committee as need arises.
- Section 2.** The Chairperson of the Dispute Resolution Committee is the Chief Judicial Officer of Sokol U.S.A. and as such shall:
- (a) Preside over all cases and appeals as may be filed in accordance with these By-Laws.
  - (b) Assemble a committee into session from time to time as circumstances may require.
  - (c) Determine times and places of sessions.
  - (d) See that all cases and appeals are impartially and justly tried.
  - (e) Report findings and decisions to the National Board and the Convention.
- Section 3.** The Jurisdiction of the Dispute Resolution Committee within Sokol U.S.A. extends to the following:
- (a) Complaints against the National Board, a National Officer, individual lodges, individual lodge officers, individual members for violation of the By-Laws, or for inappropriate conduct not consistent with the aims of Sokol U.S.A.
  - (b) Appeals of judicial decisions of the National Board.
- Section 4.** The procedures and duties of the Juries are detailed in the Specific Duties and Responsibilities Manual and in accordance with the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

**ARTICLE XI**  
**The Official Publications**

- Section 1.** The official publications of Sokol U.S.A. are the *Sokol Times*, which shall be published on a regular basis, and the Sokol U.S.A. website. In both, among other things, will be published reports of National Board financial reports, minutes of the SFW Department, other matters pertaining to the management and direction of Sokol U.S.A., and instructive articles expounding Sokol principles and national ideas.
- Section 2.** All members who pay administration dues are entitled to receive the *Sokol Times* at no cost. All other members may receive the *Sokol Times* only upon request to the Fraternal Secretary at a fee fixed by the National Board.
- Section 3. Editor.** The National Board Recording Secretary shall serve as the Editor of the *Sokol Times*. The Editor's duties are to edit and publish the *Sokol Times* according to the purposes and objectives of Sokol U.S.A.
- Section 4.** The Editor may not publish:
- (a) Any political or religious articles of partisan nature.
  - (b) Any libelous or other articles detrimental to the welfare of Sokol U.S.A.
  - (c) Any article, controversial or otherwise, that does not bear the writer's name.

**ARTICLE XII**  
**Treasury**

- Section 1.** The treasury of Sokol U.S.A. is a Consolidated Fund consisting of operating funds and the Milan Getting Scholarship Fund.

**Consolidated Fund**

- Section 2.** The Consolidated Fund consists of the following:
- (a) All dues received from members.
  - (b) All monies accrued from investments of the Consolidated Fund.
  - (c) All other regular and special income.
- Section 3.** All necessary payments for the administrative and activities of Sokol USA are paid from the Consolidated Fund.

**Milan Getting Scholarship Fund**

- Section 4.** The Milan Getting Scholarship Fund is established to provide scholarships for post-secondary education to deserving and qualified members who are and intend to be active members. Monies for this fund shall be obtained by contributions from all available sources.

**ARTICLE XIII**  
**Validity of By-Laws**

- Section 1.** The Convention of Sokol U.S.A. is authorized to change, add to, amend, or suspend these By-Laws as it deems necessary. With the legal adoption of such amendments, the former section pertaining to the same shall become void.
- Section 2** These By-Laws were revised and adopted by the XXXVI Convention of the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol held from August 4 through 7, 2022 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and shall remain in full force effective August 7, 2022.
- Section 3.** These By-Laws shall be observed by the National Board, National Board Officers, Districts, Subordinate Lodges, their Officers and all Membership without exception.
- Section 4.** Unless otherwise specified, the provisions of these By-Laws in which the word “member” occurs shall apply to both male and female members.
- Section 5.** The National Board President shall have authority to decide matters involving the interpretation of these By-Laws and in matters not adequately covered in the By-Laws, but such decisions may be appealed to the Dispute Resolution Committee and further appealed to the Convention of Sokol U.S.A. by any party or parties affected thereby.
- Section 6.** A copy of the By-Laws duly certified by the National Board President and attested by the National Board Fraternal Secretary shall be received as evidence in all matters and suits arising before any Civil Court.
- Section 7.** All contested points of procedure at Conventions and all other meetings not addressed by these By-Laws shall be decided on the basis of *Robert’s Rules of Order*.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned Officers, hereby certify that the foregoing By-Laws were approved and legally adopted by the 35th Convention of the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of the U.S.A. held from August 4 through 7, 2022 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and that the same have been declared the legal By-Laws of the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of the United States of America effective August 7, 2022.

**Attested by;**

Joseph Bielecki, President

John Kennedy, Fraternal Secretary

**Constitution and By-Laws  
of  
Subordinate Lodges and Districts**

**Revised, Adopted, and Amended  
at the**

**XXXVI Convention**

**held at**

**Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

**August 7 through August 22, 2022**

## ARTICLE I

### Subordinate Lodges

#### Organizing of Lodges and their Purpose

- Section 1.** Subordinate lodges admit and hold together members of Sokol U.S.A. living in and about a certain locality for the purpose of carrying out the mission, aims and objectives of Sokol U.S.A. as defined in its Charter, Constitution and By-Laws, and according to the Sokol principles.
- Section 2.** A new lodge may be organized in any place in the United States where there is no existing lodge upon petition of at least twelve (12) applicants having qualifications to become members of Sokol U.S.A. The petition for organizing a new Lodge shall be sent to the President with applications for membership and the medical examiner's reports when required. The President, upon examination and approval of all applications for membership, shall publish in the Official Publication the establishment and admittance of the new lodge, and, if no objections are made within 30 days from such publication, shall grant a charter to such lodge.
- Section 3.** A new lodge shall enjoy the rights and privileges, and incur the obligations provided in the By-Laws on the day and hour of its installation into Sokol U.S.A. The President, or an officer or member delegated by the President shall conduct the installation of the new lodge.
- Section 4.** Every lodge shall be considered to be a constituent part of Sokol U.S.A. and, as such cannot withdraw from Sokol U.S.A. No lodge shall be permitted to have any By-Laws and regulations contrary to the provisions of the By-Laws of Sokol U.S.A., nor shall a lodge be considered a separate body. A lodge shall conduct its business only on the basis of the charter issued to it by Sokol U.S.A. The powers and duties of the lodge are set forth in the By-Laws of Sokol U.S.A. which apply equally to all lodges.
- Section 5.** Any lodge which in conjunction with its social activities owns or operates a club, may adopt regulations for the election, admission and expulsion of social members and for the government of such club. All regulations shall be first submitted, in writing, to the National Board for its approval and shall not be valid until duly approved by the National Board over the signatures of the President and Fraternal Secretary of Sokol U.S.A. A social member shall not participate in Sokol U.S.A.'s or lodge's benefit funds and shall have no voice or vote in the affairs of the lodge in operation of the club.
- Section 6.** These By-Laws require any lodge that sells or dispenses liquor to have the liquor license and related business activity in a separate legal corporation entity not connected to GBU, the Sokol U.S.A. National or a Sokol U.S.A. lodge.

#### Duties of the Lodges

- Section 7.** A lodge is an intermediary between its members and the Sokol National Board. Every lodge shall have its officers and official seal.
- Section 8.** Every lodge shall hold regular meetings and should conduct regularly SFW activities for its members. Furthermore, the lodge should provide for educational, cultural and fraternal activities for its members.
- Section 9.** Every lodge shall strive to aid its members and their families in sickness and misfortune, and to cultivate social and fraternal life.
- Section 10.** Every lodge must timely pay to the National Board all assessments for premiums, National dues and all other dues prescribed by the Convention or these By-Laws for each and every adult and juvenile member.
- Section 11.** A lodge shall receive and admit a member with a valid Certificate of Transfer from another lodge.
- Section 12.** A lodge shall deny all lodge privileges to a member punished with separation from all fraternal relationship in accordance with these By-Laws upon receipt of notice of such punishment from the Fraternal Secretary. If the lodge refuses to comply with such punishment, the National Board shall promptly file a complaint against such lodge before the Dispute Resolution Committee for insubordination. Upon conviction, the offending officers or members of such insubordinate lodge

shall be punished with suspension or otherwise as provided in these By-Laws, and if the circumstances warrant, the charter of such lodge may be revoked and it be dissolved.

The suspension of a lodge shall not affect the membership certificates of the members who were in good standing at the date of such suspension. (See Article I, Section 24).

**Section 13.** Every lodge shall file with the Fraternal Secretary required forms annually, namely:

- (a) Elected officers reports.
- (b) Annual Financial reports including name of bank and authorized signatures.
- (c) Any other reports which may be required in the future.

**Section 14.** In conducting meetings and the initiation of new members, the lodge shall comply with the provision of these By-Laws. All written or printed matters received from the National Board shall be read to the membership and acted upon if any action be necessary.

**Section 15.** A lodge shall not retain and use for any other purpose the monies collected from the members for the National Board. Lodge funds shall not be distributed among its members for pecuniary gain or expended for any other purpose except those specified in these By-Laws. A lodge may disburse its funds only for the following purposes:

- (a) Local administration expenses.
- (b) Fraternal and Charitable aid to destitute and distressed local members.
- (c) Any special assessment levied by the National Board.
- (d) Donations of reasonable amounts to any Charitable or Volunteer entity.
- (e) Donations to subsidize local, District or National social and/or fraternal events.

**Section 16.** A lodge shall not send a request or appeal in any form to another lodge for financial aid without first obtaining the written approval of the Sokol President to do so.

#### **Duties of Lodges toward the District**

**Section 17.** Every lodge is a member of the District to which it has been assigned by the National Board. The lodge shall receive all District communications and correspondences as official, and shall fulfill all its duties towards the District.

**Section 18.** Every lodge shall collect and promptly pay over to the National Board all dues.

**Section 19.** Every lodge shall send its delegate or delegates to the annual meetings and other meetings of the District. The delegate or delegates shall be selected from members of the lodge.

**Section 20.** Lodges shall report on their work in regularly-scheduled sports, fitness and wellness activities to the District Director.

**Section 21.** Every lodge is encouraged to take an active part in and support every undertaking of its District.

#### **Dissolution, Suspension and Expulsion of Lodges**

**Section 22.** A lodge shall not be dissolved so long as it has at least five (5) members, who are paying their dues and complying with all provisions of the By-Laws.

A lodge shall be considered abandoned if it meets any of the following criteria:

- (a) The lodge cannot fill the five (5) required positions necessary to conduct the business of the lodge as defined in these By-Laws.

- (b) The lodge does not hold annual meetings to elect officers.
- (c) The lodge fails to reply to critical correspondence from the National Board regarding the status of the lodge.

If a lodge's membership drops below the five (5) member threshold or the lodge has been abandoned, the District Board shall take the following action to dissolve or merge the lodge:

- (d) The National Board shall seek to obtain all funds, books, legers, and other assets of the lodge.
- (e) The National Board shall determine if there is another lodge in the same locale that would be appropriate to merge with the dissolved or abandoned lodge.
  - 1. If an appropriate lodge is identified, the District Board shall distribute the assets of the dissolved or abandoned lodge to the surviving lodge and issue transfers for the dissolved or abandoned lodge's remaining members.
  - 2. If no appropriate lodge is identified, the District Board shall retain the assets of the dissolved or abandoned lodge and take over administration of the dissolved or abandoned lodge's remaining members.
- (f) National Board shall notify the membership of these actions in the Official Publication of Sokol USA.

**Section 23.** A lodge may have its Charter revoked or suspended for any one or more of the following causes:

- (a) For not holding the required regular meetings.
- (b) For refusing to be governed by the By-Laws or the mandates of a convention.
- (c) For permitting such discord and dissension to exist as to prevent the lodge from carrying on its function in an orderly manner.
- (d) For not obeying an order of the National Board.
- (e) For paying out of its treasury money for purposes not permitted under these By-Laws or the laws, rules and regulations of the United States and the several States.

**Section 24.** Before revoking the Charter of a lodge violating one or more of the foregoing provisions, the President shall by letter and notice in the *Sokol Times*, call and hold a meeting of the members and there make an attempt to re-establish discipline and order. Failing in that attempt the National Board shall revoke the Charter of such lodge and assign its members to other lodges in the same or neighboring locality and in that event the property and funds of such shall be disposed of as provided in the Section of these By-Laws dealing with property of dissolved lodges.

**Section 25.** If there are at least twelve (12) remaining members, innocent and free from fault to establish a new lodge, the National Board may grant them a Charter under a new number and name and shall disburse to each new lodge a share of the property and funds of the dissolved lodge proportioned to its membership after all debts and obligations of the dissolved lodge shall have been paid.

**Section 26.** If an officer of a lodge fails to perform such officer's duties as provided in the By-Laws, embezzles the money of the lodge, disobeys an order of the National Board or of such officer's own lodge, or if such officers' activities are detrimental to the lodge of Sokol U.S.A., the President shall suspend such officer from office and appoint an interim successor pending election of a new officer.

**Section 27.** If the violation for which a lodge officer is suspended is so serious that such officer may be separated

from all fraternal relationship for life for the same, the President shall file a complaint against such suspended officer to the Dispute Resolution Committee.

- Section 28.** A lodge officer suspended by the President may appeal such suspension to the National Board within twenty (20) days from the day of suspension but the suspension shall remain in force and effect until a decision is rendered.
- Section 29.** If the misbehavior of an officer of a lodge be so grievous that its very existence shall be threatened, the President shall suspend such officer and take over the management of the affairs of the lodge until order is re-established in the lodge or until the National Board renders its decision.
- Section 30.** A lodge against which complaint is pending shall not pay any money out of its treasury for any other purpose except to pay administrative expenses; and shall not issue transfer forms until the complaint is disposed of and concluded.
- Section 31.** No communication which by its nature is certain to cause discord and dissension among the membership and thus jeopardize the welfare and the future of Sokol U.S.A. shall be circulated by any member or members, officer or officers of a lodge.

### **Merger of Lodges**

- Section 32.** A lodge organized and chartered for a certain locality shall not be removed therefrom so long as it has the necessary five (5) members for sustaining it.
- (a) Two lodges located in the same town or in proximity to each other may merge into one lodge, provided that at least ten (10) days' notice of a meeting called to consider such merger is given in writing to all lodge members, and that a majority of the members present at such meeting of each lodge called for that purpose vote in favor of such merger by both. The merger must then be reported to the National Board for its approval.
- (b) In consummating mergers, all assets, records and all other property of the lodge requesting merger shall be transferred to the surviving lodge.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **Lodge Officers**

- Section 1.** The required officers of a local lodge shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee. Other common lodge positions include SFW Directors(s), Instructor(s) Lodge Reporter, and necessary committees. With the exception of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Trustee positions, all other positions may be combined. All Lodge Officers shall be comprised of duly elected Adult Members from each respective Lodge. Lodge Officers must be at least 18 years of age.
- Section 2.** Each lodge shall hold an annual meeting at which officers shall be elected for a period of one year or until their successors are elected and qualified. Remuneration of officers shall be fixed prior to the election. Members in good standing who have been members of their lodge for at least six (6) months may be elected to office. The election shall be by secret ballot or, if all present agree, by open ballot, and the candidate receiving a majority of the votes shall stand elected.
- Section 3.** Upon the expiration of office, or in the event of suspension from office, every officer shall promptly deliver to such officer successor all property and belongings of the lodge in his possession.
- Section 4.** Every officer who manages or handles the lodge's monies shall be covered by a Surety Bond.
- Section 5.** No lodge or any of its officers may contribute, distribute or dissipate the assets of the lodge to any organization or person, charitable or non-charitable, except it be consistent with the By-Laws of Sokol U.S.A. and the laws of the State in which it is domiciled.

## **Duties of Lodge Officers**

### **President**

- Section 6.** The president shall have the following powers and duties:
- (a) To preside and maintain decorum at all meetings.
  - (b) To see that the By-Laws, rules and regulations are followed and carried out.
  - (c) To authorize and sign all official documents.
  - (d) To sign all vouchers and checks properly submitted by the Financial Secretary or Treasurer and which have been approved by the lodge meeting.
  - (e) To inspect the books of the lodge at any time to see that the lodge's money is regularly deposited in the bank and that the lodge's property is in proper condition.
  - (f) To call special meetings when deemed necessary, or when requested by 25% of the members.
  - (g) To cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie.
  - (h) To appoint all committees, standing or otherwise, which are necessary to carry out objectives of Sokol U.S.A.
  - (i) To perform all other duties as provided in the By-Laws.

### **Vice-President**

- Section 7.** The Vice-President shall have all the power and duties of the President in the President's absence. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice-President shall become President and hold such office until the next election.

### **Recording Secretary**

- Section 8.** The duties of the Recording Secretary are as follows:
- (a) To record and keep minutes of every meeting of the lodge.
  - (b) To keep a list of names of the lodge officers and committees.
  - (c) To call meetings and take attendance.
  - (d) To record changes in membership.
  - (e) To record the sum total of receipts and expenditures.
  - (f) To keep a record of sick members and notify the Committee on sick when to visit a sick member.
  - (g) To receive lodge correspondences and read same at meetings.
  - (h) To carry on all correspondence of the lodge.
  - (i) To publish notice of all meetings, regular or special, in the *Sokol Times* and the local general newspaper.
  - (j) To notify all officers of the date and time of any special meeting called by the President.
  - (k) To perform all other functions, fraternal or otherwise, required by the lodge.

### **Financial Secretary**

- Section 9.** The duties of the Financial Secretary are as follow:

- (a) To keep an accurate record of the lodge's receipts and disbursements.
- (b) To keep a roll of all the members and to record therein the various dues each member is required to pay monthly as well as the date and the amount of dues paid.
- (c) To keep an accurate record of the financial condition of the lodge and to make a report at the quarterly meetings.
- (d) To write out checks for bills and expenditures authorized by the lodge meeting.
- (e) To send to the Fraternal Secretary the full amount in payment for the monthly assessment bills, and as evidence that they have been duly paid, present proper receipts quarterly to the National Board for audit.
- (f) To carry on all correspondence relative to financial matters of the lodge.
- (g) To announce at each meeting the names of the members in arrears and those members who have been suspended or expelled.
- (h) To send to the Fraternal Secretary monthly reports of the lodge containing all statistical changes in membership both adult and juvenile.
- (i) To immediately report every case of death of a member to GBU Financial Life, and upon receipt of the death certificate and all other necessary documents, to forward them to GBU Financial Life without delay.
- (j) To assist the beneficiary in the event of death of a member in the preparation of proof of loss on GBU's forms.
- (k) To perform all other duties necessary and incidental to the duties as prescribed above.

### **Treasurer**

**Section 10.** The duties of the Treasurer shall be as follows:

- (a) To collect and receive all regular and other dues from the members.
- (b) To sign all checks for bills and expenditures authorized by the lodge meeting.
- (c) To keep an accurate record of receipts and disbursements of the lodge and, together with all pertinent documents, submit them quarterly to the Board of Trustees for audit.
- (d) To deposit all monies of the lodge in a federally insured bank or saving institution designated by the lodge in the name of the lodge and providing for at least the Treasurer and one other officer to sign for withdrawals.
- (e) To perform all other duties necessary and incidental to the duties prescribed above.

### **Board of Trustees**

**Section 11.** The Board of Trustees shall consist of three or five members according to the decision of the lodge, and their duties shall be as follows:

- (a) To inspect, examine and audit at least quarterly all accounts of the officers and to report same to the lodge.
- (b) To see to it that all property belonging to the lodge is properly managed.

### **Directors of Sports, Fitness, and Wellness**

**Section 12.** The SFW Director(s) are the leaders of the SFW classes whose duties shall be as follows:

- (a) To chair meetings of the SFW instructors.
- (b) To train the adult members who lead and supervise the juvenile members.
- (c) To submit statistical reports on the SFW activities of the lodge to the regular lodge meeting and to the National SFW Director.
- (d) To keep an inventory of the SFW apparatus, equipment and SFW uniforms owned by the lodge.
- (e) To be of assistance in all SFW activities.
- (f) To at all times set a good example to all other members.

### **Sports Fitness and Wellness Instructors**

**Section 13.** The duties of the Instructors shall be as follows:

- (a) Serve under supervision of the SFW Directors.
- (b) Provide proper training of the classes in their care.
- (c) Keep a record of hours of their classes and the number of participants, and submit this record to the SFW Director at the meeting of the SFW Committee.

### **Lodge Reporter**

**Section 14.** The duties of the Lodge Reporter shall be as follows:

- (a) To send articles pertaining to lodge activities to the *Sokol Times*, local newspaper, radio and television stations.
- (b) To submit reports of the Lodge Reporter's activities to the National Board.

### **Lodge officers and Committees Compliance**

**Section 15.** At the request of the National Board or its duly authorized representatives, lodge officers and committees shall submit all lodge records and books for examination, and shall provide to the examiner or examiners all such additional information as may be required. All lodge officers or members of a committee, upon expiration of their term of office or upon their suspension from office, must surrender to their respective successor all money, books, forms, documents and all other lodge property which is in their possession. Upon failure or neglect to do so, the Board President has the right to take appropriate legal action.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Meetings**

**Section 1.** Regular meetings of the lodge shall be held in a place and at a time decided by the annual meeting. If the date or place of the meeting must be changed for any reason, the members shall be notified of the change. Meetings may be conducted electronically via voice or video conference technology.

**Section 2.** Special meetings shall be called in case of necessity either at the President's own initiative, or at the written request of lesser of 25 members or 25% of the members, or at the order of the National President. Notice of the special meeting must be given in writing to every member at least ten days prior to the meeting. No business other than that for which the special meeting was called shall be transacted.

- Section 3.** A quorum shall consist of five members in good standing for the transaction of business at all lodge meetings.
- Section 4.** Every meeting of the lodge shall be conducted according to the provisions of the By-Laws adopted at the last Convention and also according to Robert's Rules of Order.
- Section 5.** The order of business at meetings is recommended to be as follows:
- (a) The President calls the meeting to order.
  - (b) The Recording Secretary calls the roll of officers.
  - (c) Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, their correction, and adoption.
  - (d) Report of the Committee for Investigation of Applicants.
  - (e) Voting on candidates for membership.
  - (f) Admission of members with transfer certificates.
  - (g) Admission of new members.
  - (h) Collection of dues.
  - (i) Reports of other committees.
  - (j) Reading of lodge correspondence.
  - (k) Announcements in Official Publication.
  - (l) Appeals and grievances.
  - (m) Unfinished business.
  - (n) New business.
  - (o) Applications of new members.
  - (p) Announcements of suspended and expelled members.
  - (q) Election of officers or appointment of committees.
  - (r) Report on receipt and disbursements.
  - (s) The President adjourns the meeting.
- Section 6.** All members are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly manner and to pay attention to all proceedings. Any member wishing to make a motion or take part in a debate shall first ask the President's permission to speak, and shall speak only when the floor has been given such member by the President. Members taking part in the debate should speak briefly and to the point in question, refraining from any derogatory remarks about or insults to fellow members. A member may have the floor only twice on each subject of debate.
- Section 7.** Any member, who behaves improperly, disturbs the meeting or uses impolite language shall be called to order by the President, and if such member disobeys, the President has the right to penalize such member either by denying such member the right to speak for the rest of the meeting or by a monetary fine. If such member even refuses to submit to order, the President shall ask such member to leave the meeting or shall call upon the Sergeant-of-Arms to eject the member from the meeting.
- Section 8.** Motions of great importance shall be made in writing. Before any motion may be considered, it must be seconded, and thereafter may be acted upon in the following order.
- (a) Action of the motion to be postponed to the next meeting.
  - (b) Motion to be placed on the table.

- (c) Motion to close discussion on the motion.
- (d) Action on the motion to be postponed to a specific date.
- (e) Action on the motion to be postponed indefinitely.
- (f) Motion to be referred to a committee.
- (g) Motion to be supplemented and amended.

Motions listed sub a, b, and c, are voted upon without debate. Of the entire above points only one can be passed. Every motion is decided by majority of votes *pro* or *con*.

- Section 9.** A motion to close discussion must be immediately put to vote.
- Section 10.** Every motion before being put to vote shall be repeated by the President. The President never votes except in case of a tie. If the President refuses to vote either way, the motion fails.
- Section 11.** Whenever several motions for the expenditure of money in varying amounts have been made, voting on the individual motions shall be tabled until all motions for the expenditure of money shall have been made, at which time each motion shall be voted on consecutively beginning with the motion for the expenditure of the smallest amount.
- Section 12.** Political and religious questions shall not be discussed at the lodge meeting.
- Section 13.** A member of another lodge may be admitted to the meeting upon proof of being a member in good standing of Sokol U.S.A. and upon being recognized by at least one member of the lodge. Such member is admitted only as a guest and has no right to take part in the debate or to vote.
- Section 14.** A National Officer or a duly authorized representative of the National Board shall be admitted to the meetings of any lodge. If the Sokol National Officer's or National Board representative's visit concerns official matters, the local order of business shall be interrupted and precedence shall be given to action on such matters.
- Section 15.** Meetings of various committees are held when necessary and are conducted according to the local rules of order, for departments of physical training, dramatics and singing, the lodge shall appoint leaders, and formulate rules according to which these departments shall be conducted and to which every participating member shall be subject.

## ARTICLE IV

### Lodge Jury

- Section 1.** A Jury of the lodge shall be appointed from time to time for the purpose of trying and judging complaints against any member or officer which are beyond the authority of the President to penalize.
- Section 2.** Every member and officer of the lodge, and every National Officer has the right to file a complaint against any member or officer of a lodge who has transgressed the By-Laws, neglected duties, violated the order and rules of the lodge and Sokol U.S.A., or who by behavior has caused damage or detraction to the honor of another member, the lodge, or Sokol U.S.A.
- Section 3.** Every complaint must be in writing signed by the accuser and filed with the President clearly specifying the nature, place, and date of the transgression. Upon receipt of a complaint, the President shall nominate a committee of three members to investigate the complaint. If the majority of this committee finds the complaint to be unsubstantial, all further proceedings shall cease. If however, the committee finds that the complaint is based on facts, it shall be the duty of the president at the next regular meeting to present the complaint and the findings of the committee, whereupon the meeting shall appoint a Jury consisting of five members whose names have been randomly drawn.
- Section 4.** Members cannot serve on the Jury who are:
- (a) Witnesses in the matter

- (b) Relatives of the accused.
- (c) Those against whom the accuser or accused object for a good reason.
- (d) Those who have been members of the lodge for less than six (6) months.

Each party to the matter shall have the right to object against two members of the original Jury who then shall be dismissed from the Jury and their place filled by other members whose names shall be randomly drawn. The jury members shall give the President their word of honor that they will judge fairly and impartially.

- Section 5.** The hearing shall be held in the lodge’s meeting place, at a date and time designated by the Jury. At least seven days prior to the hearing, the Recording Secretary shall deliver to the accused a copy of the complaint together with notice of the day, time and place at which the hearing is to be held.
- Section 6.** All parties to the matter shall appear at the hearing without representation. If the accuser fails to appear without good reason given, the complaint shall be dismissed with prejudice. If the accused fails to appear without good reason given, the hearing shall proceed in the accused’s absence. Absence of the accused shall be considered as acknowledgement of guilt and/or lack of defense.
- Section 7.** The proceedings of the hearing may be postponed at the request of the accused only for a valid reason, and only with the unanimous consent of the Jury.
- Section 8.** The President shall preside at the hearing, and shall have duty to see that justice is carried out. The hearing shall be conducted similarly, but not strictly, to the rules of procedure of the Civil Courts.
- Section 9.** The Recording Secretary summons the witnesses and records the entire proceedings of the hearing.
- Section 10.** The accused and the accuser each have the right to call witnesses. The witnesses shall make a promise or oath upon their honor that they will tell the truth and nothing but the truth. Witnesses must be members of the lodge, and only in special cases may the testimony of non-members be admitted. The testimony of non-members, however, must be sworn to before a Notary Public.
- Section 11.** At the conclusion of the hearing, the Jury shall retire to decide upon a verdict which, to be valid, must be the decision of a majority of the members of the Jury. The Jury shall have the power to impose the following penalties:
- (a) Removal from office in the case of an officer.
  - (b) Suspension from the lodge.
  - (c) Recommendation, upon unanimous decision, to the National Board that the accused be separated from fraternal membership. Every verdict must be recorded in writing, signed and delivered to the President in a sealed envelope. The verdict of the Jury shall be read at the next meeting of the lodge, and shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The lodge meeting shall accept the verdict as correct and valid without any protest or debate.
- Section 12.** If not satisfied with the verdict, the accused shall have the right within thirty days from the pronouncement of the verdict to appeal first to the National Board, then to the Dispute Resolution Committee, and finally to the Convention. Upon receipt of written notice of appeal to the National Board, the Recording Secretary shall provide to the accused and the National Board a correct copy of the record of the hearing, signed and sealed by the President. While the appeal is pending, the verdict of the Jury is suspended. If the accused fails to timely appeal to the National Board, the verdict of the jury shall be deemed valid and final.

## ARTICLE V

### Membership

- Section 1.** Any person not over 80 years of age who is of good character, in good health, and not a member of

an organization incompatible with the principles of Sokol U.S.A. may apply to a local lodge for membership in the Sokol U.S.A. Candidates applying for membership must meet all criteria as defined in Article V Section 2 and follow application processes set forth by GBU and Sokol U.S.A.

**Section 2.** The types of membership to Sokol U.S.A. shall be as follows:

## **ADULT MEMBERSHIP**

### **Adult Member**

1. A member who is at least 16 years old and holds a current GBU life insurance policy or annuity.
2. A member who has a paid-up certificate and continues to pay administrative dues to the lodge, region, and national level.
3. Adult membership allows for voice, vote, and eligibility to run for office on the lodge, district, and national level.
4. Adult Members are eligible for benefits provided through subsidies approved by the National Board.

### **Social Member**

1. A member who is at least 16 years old and pays national dues annually as set by the National Board.
2. Social membership does not allow for voice, vote or eligibility to run for office on the lodge, district, or national levels. Lodges may determine the extent to which social members are permitted to attend local meetings and provide input.
3. Social members are not eligible for benefits provided through subsidies approved by the National Board.

## **JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP**

### **Junior Member**

1. A member who is under the age of 16 years old and holds a current GBU life insurance policy or annuity.
2. Junior membership does not allow for voice, vote, or eligibility to run for office on the lodge, district, or national levels. Lodges may determine the extent to which Junior Members are permitted to attend local meetings and provide input.
3. Junior Members are eligible for benefits provided through subsidies approved by the National Board.

### **National Sports Member**

1. A member under the age of 16 years old and pays national dues annually as set by the National Board
2. National Sports membership does not allow for voice, vote, or eligibility to run for office on the lodge, district, or national levels. Lodges may determine the extent to which National Sports Members are permitted to attend local meetings and provide input.
3. National Sports members are only eligible for benefits provided through subsidies approved by the National Board for lodges to maintain and support SFW programs.

**Section 3.** A candidate for membership shall pay at the time of submitting an application an admission fee in the amount prescribed by the lodge. In event the candidate is rejected by the National Board, the admission fee shall be returned. If the candidate fails to attend the next regular meeting of the lodge following notice of rejection by the National Board, the lodge is entitled to retain the admission fee.

**Section 4.** At the request of the National Fraternal Secretary or the Committee on Membership, every candidate desiring a Benefit Certificate must provide proof of age by birth certificate. The GBU Financial Life reserves the right to issue a benefit certificate for a lesser amount than applied for by the candidate, or applied for by a current member for additional certificates.

**Section 5.** A candidate who had previously been a member of Sokol U.S.A. may be re-admitted only if all dues have been paid to the lodge of which such candidate formerly was a member. A member who was once separated from fraternal membership in Sokol U.S.A. may not be re-admitted into membership of Sokol U.S.A.

**Section 6.** An applicant becomes a member and acquires the right to privileges of membership after having been duly initiated, and having paid the required admission fee and assessments.

#### **Duties of Members**

**Section 7.** Every member should know and faithfully observe the By-Laws of Sokol U.S.A., and shall work for the welfare and the good name of the lodge, of the District, and of Sokol U.S.A.

**Section 8.** Every member shall be responsible for payment of the member's required certificate premiums to the GBU home office and in addition is responsible for payment of assessments and special dues prescribed by the By-Laws, the Convention, and the District and the lodge.

**Section 9.** A member who has a paid-up certificate and who continues to pay the administrative dues to the lodge and to the District shall be accorded all rights and privileges of membership. A member who has a paid up Single Premium or 3 Payment Life Certificate issued since July 1984 is considered a member for life and also shall be accorded all the rights and privileges of membership.

**Section 10.** Monthly dues to be paid to the District per member are fixed by the annual meetings of the District.

**Section 11.** Every lodge has the right according to its needs and circumstances to establish its own regular or special dues for the administrative purposes of the lodge.

### **ARTICLE VI**

#### **Social Members**

**Section 1.** Every lodge shall have the right to admit adult social members without distinction of age.

**Section 2.** National dues of social members will be \$1.00 per month. Local dues shall be determined by lodge and District.

**Section 3.** Social members are not entitled to benefit from funds to which they do not contribute, and have no right to vote on any question pertaining to these funds and the property of the lodge.

**Section 4.** Social members may not be elected to or hold any office in Sokol USA.

### **ARTICLE VII**

#### **Change of Status**

##### **Transfer of Member From/To Lodge**

**Section 1.** Every member in good standing, who moves to another city where there exists a lodge of Sokol USA may obtain a Transfer Form from the member's present lodge and transfer to the other lodge.

##### **Suspension from Membership Rights**

**Section 2.** A member who fails to pay the regular monthly rates, dues or fines for three months, upon the report of the Financial Secretary shall be suspended, i.e. temporarily deprived of the rights, privileges and benefits of membership, except of equities as provided in the member's Certificate of Membership.

**Section 3.** A suspended member (beginning with the date of suspension) has no right to take part in the lodge's deliberations or discussions, to vote or to be elected to office. In the event of death of a suspended member the beneficiaries shall not have any right or claim, except as provided in the By-Laws or the Certificate of Membership.

**Section 4.** The suspension of member, as well as the amount of indebtedness, shall be recorded in the minutes of the lodge meeting, and the Financial Secretary shall give notice of suspension to the member and to the National Fraternal Secretary.

**Section 5.** To regain the right of membership the suspended member must attend the next regular meeting of the lodge and pay all the arrears. Upon failure to do so, the member shall be considered expelled.

### **Expulsion from the Organization**

**Section 6.** A member may be expelled from a lodge of Sokol U.S.A. for the following reasons:

(a) For non-payment of the regular assessment rates, lodge dues, and fines.

(b) For violating the By-Laws and for transgressions enumerated in Article XIX.

(c) For violating the Civil Laws and upon conviction of crime by a Criminal Court.

**Section 7.** A member who is suspended for non-payment of assessment rates, dues, and fines, and upon notice of the Financial Secretary, fails to attend the next regular meeting of the lodge and pay all arrears in full, shall be expelled at said meeting from membership in the lodge and Sokol U.S.A.

**Section 8.** A member who violates the By-Laws may be expelled only after having been tried by the lodge Jury, found guilty and convicted, and having exhausted all appeals as provided in these By-Laws.

**Section 9.** A member who has been convicted of a crime may be expelled upon the proof of such conviction.

**Section 10.** Expulsion of a member shall be approved at the lodge meeting and recorded in the lodge minutes with the reason for expulsion. The Financial Secretary shall give notice of expulsion to the member and to the National Fraternal Secretary

**Section 11.** Such a duly expelled member shall cease to be a member of the lodge and Sokol U.S.A. commencing the date of the lodge meeting at which the expulsion is approved. The expelled member shall thereafter have no right or claim to any benefits from the lodge or Sokol U.S.A. except of equities as provided in the expelled member's insurance certificate.

Such expelled member shall have the privilege of maintaining current insurance in force by continuing payment of the required premium and such other assessments as may be required of the members holding certificates of the same class.

### **Reinstatement to Membership**

**Section 12.** A suspended or expelled member can be reinstated only at a regular lodge meeting and after having paid all arrears.

**Section 13.** The reinstatement of a member shall be recorded in the minutes of the lodge meeting, and the Recording Secretary shall notify the National Fraternal Secretary of the member's reinstatement.

**Section 14.** A member expelled because of a conviction by the lodge, Dispute Resolution Committee or any Criminal Court, or because of a criminal offense, may not be reinstated to membership in Sokol U.S.A.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Violations**

**Section 1.** A member or an officer may be placed before the lodge Jury or Dispute Resolution Committee for the following transgressions:

- (a) For intentionally disclosing in public and to non-members the matters discussed at a lodge meeting and the affairs of Sokol U.S.A.
- (b) For malicious slander, criticism, and abusive statements orally or in writing against other members, the lodge or National Board Officers.
- (c) For dissuading a candidate for membership from joining Sokol U.S.A. or causing member to withdraw from Sokol U.S.A.
- (d) For abusive behavior against a fellow member and for disrespectful behavior towards the lodge officers.
- (e) For embezzling or misappropriating any of the funds of the lodge and for damaging or destroying the property of the lodge.
- (f) For false statements made at the time of admission into Sokol U.S.A.
- (g) For filing suit against the lodge or Sokol U.S.A. before a Civil Court, without first exhausting all appellate forums of Sokol U.S.A. as herein provided.
- (h) For falsification, withholding, or concealment of any official documents or for the misuse of the lodge seal and the documents of the lodge.
- (i) For violation of the By-Laws, rules and regulations, and disrespect of the decisions of the National Board and the Convention.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Districts of Sokol U.S.A.**

#### **Organization and Purpose**

- Section 1.** A District consists of lodges located within the area of the District to which they have been assigned by the National Board.
- Section 2.** Districts are established for the purpose of facilitating the SFW activities and fraternal activities of Sokol U.S.A.
- Section 3.** To achieve their objective, the Districts have the right to establish their own departments; adopt their rules and regulations not inconsistent with these By-Laws; elect their officers and committees; and to assess the lodges and their membership by regular dues in amounts necessary for these purposes.
- Section 4.** Each District shall submit an annual report to the National Board, prepared by a District officer, detailing the activities of the lodges within the District. The reports shall be presented at the annual meeting of the National Board.

#### **District Location**

- Section 5.** The numbers, names, and seats of the Districts are as follows:
  - District 1: “Michal M. Hodza”, seat New York, New York
  - District 2: “Jan Francisi”, seat Bridgeport, Connecticut
  - District 3: “Adirondack”, seat Gloversville, New York
  - District 4: “Pavel Mudron”, seat Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
  - District 5: “Matus Cak Trenciansky”, seat Pittsburgh, PA
  - District 6: “L’udevít Stur”, seat Chicago, Illinois
  - District 7 “Jan Kollar”, seat Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
  - District 8: “Lake Erie”, seat Cleveland, Ohio

District 9: “Jan Holly”, seat Lansford, Pennsylvania

District 10: “Tatra”, seat Charleroi, Pennsylvania

District 15: “Nitra”, seat Binghamton, New York

District 16: “Masaryk Sunshine”, seat Tampa, Florida

### **District Officers and their Duties**

**Section 6.** All District Officers shall be comprised of duly elected Adult Members from Lodges located in each respective District. District Officers must be at least 18 years of age. Districts shall have the following officers:

- (a) President
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Recording Secretary
- (d) Treasurer
- (e) Financial Secretary
- (f) Directors and their assistants
- (g) Financial Committee
- (h) Fraternal Activity Committee and other necessary committees

#### **President**

**Section 7.** The District President orders the calling of all regular and special meetings of the District, presides at the meetings, and sees that the District officers and committees properly perform their duties.

#### **Vice- President**

**Section 8.** The District Vice-President assists the District President in the performance of duties and assumes these duties in the District President’s absence.

#### **Recording Secretary**

**Section 9.** The District Recording Secretary calls meetings of the District; records the proceedings of such meetings; and publishes in the *Sokol Times* reports about the activity of the District. Under the direction of the District President, the District Recording Secretary attends to all correspondence matters concerning the District and related to duties of the office.

#### **Financial Secretary**

**Section 10.** The District Financial Secretary keeps records of the receipts and expenditures of the District and attends to all matters pertaining to the office.

#### **Treasurer**

**Section 11.** The District Treasurer receives all payments from the lodges as well as all other income of the District and keeps books of all District accounts; and makes all disbursements and takes care of the money belonging to District.

#### **Financial Committee**

**Section 12.** The District Financial Committee examines the books of the receipts and expenditures, and submits a financial report at every annual meeting of the District.

## **District Directors**

### **Section 13.**

- (a) The District Directors are in charge of the gymnastics and SFW activities in the District; they arrange and conduct courses for the lodge instructors and assist them in their work.
- (b) They prescribe the exercises, issue rules of order for District gymnastics meets, SFW activities, contests and public exhibitions; their plans for the activities of District are subject to the approval of the District meeting.
- (c) They see to it that gymnastics activities in the lodges are regularly conducted, for this purpose; they visit the lodges, explain gymnastic exercises and issue appropriate directives.
- (d) It is their duty to prepare and submit to the National Directors statistical reports containing data on membership taking part in the gymnastics, SFW activities, and exhibits of the lodges within their District.
- (e) At the District meetings they submit reports about their own works as well as about all gymnastics and SFW activities in the lodges and in the whole District.

## **Assistant Directors**

### **Section 14.** The Assistant Directors shall:

- (a) Assist the District Directors in their work and, in their absence, assume their office.
- (b) Carry out the directives of the District Directors, and report to the District Directors all matters related to their official duties.

## **General Rules**

### **Section 15.** The National Board supports the Districts in their activities morally and financially.

### **Section 16.** All projects of the District shall be reported to the National Board and submitted for approval to the SFW department or Fraternal Activities Chairperson.

### **Section 17.** District meetings are open to all members of Sokol, but the right to discuss and vote on the agenda of the meetings is reserved to the District officers and delegates of the lodges of which the District consists.

### **Section 18.** District meetings shall be conducted according to the rules of procedure governing the lodge meetings.

### **Section 19.** District officers shall be elected according to the provisions governing the election of lodge officers.

### **Section 20.** Each District shall be responsible for the establishment of gymnastics, cultural, SFW activity and other committees whose duties shall be comparable to those set forth in the provisions of these By-Laws applicable to the National Board.

### **Section 21.** The Districts shall be administered and shall discharge all their official functions according to the provisions applicable to the administration and official activities of lodges.

### **Section 22.** The District dues for each coming year are determined at the annual meeting of the District by a majority vote of the lodge representatives.

### **Section 23.** Each National/District shall submit an annual report to the National Directors, prepared by a

National/District officer, detailing the activities of the lodges within the National/District. The National Directors shall present the reports at the annual meeting of the Supreme Lodge/National Board

## ARTICLE X

### Oaths

#### Section 1. Officers Oath of Office

I, ..... hereby do solemnly promise that I will faithfully carry out all duties of the office with which you have entrusted me and that I shall observe the By-Laws and work for the welfare of the lodge and Sokol U.S.A. with all my ability. I promise to guard the lodge's property and at the expiration of my term of office to return in good order all the lodge funds and other lodge property that may be under my care. I give my word of honor that I shall faithfully discharge all duties of my office to the best of my ability.

#### Section 2. Oath of Loyalty for New members

I, ....., hereby do solemnly promise that as your brother (sister) member I will always be guided by the Constitution and By-Laws, submit to all their provisions, protect and help the interest, honor and good name of Sokol U.S.A. Lastly, I promise upon my honor that I will always be your loyal brother (sister).

#### Section 3. Sokol Pledge for Juvenile members, I do solemnly pledge to:

**S**erve my Nation to the best of my capacity  
**O**bserve the ideals of Sokol brotherhood  
**K**now and promote the Sokol aims  
**O**ffer my abilities to attain the Sokol goal  
**L**ove my Country and respect my fellow man

## ARTICLE XI

### Validity of By-Laws

**Section 1.** The Convention of Sokol U.S.A. is authorized to change, add to, amend or suspend these By-Laws as it deems necessary. With the legal adoption of such amendments, the former section pertaining to the same shall become void, suspended.

**Section 2.** These By-Laws were revised and adopted by the XXXVI Convention of the Slovak Gymnastic Union "Sokol" held from August 4 through 7, 2022 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and shall remain in full force and effective August 7, 2022.

**Section 3.** These By-Laws shall be observed by the National Board, National Officers, Districts, Subordinate Lodges, their Officers and all Membership without exception.

**Section 4.** Unless otherwise specified, the provisions of these By-Laws in which the word "member" occurs shall apply to both male and female members.

**Section 5.** The President shall have authority to decide matters involving the interpretation of these By-Laws and in matters not adequately covered in the By-Laws, but such decisions may be appealed to the Dispute Resolution Committee and further appealed to the Convention of Sokol U.S.A. by any party or parties affected thereby.

**Section 6.** Every copy of the By-Laws duly certified by the President and attested by the Fraternal Secretary shall be received as evidence in all matters and suits arising before any Civil Court.

**Section 7.** All contested points of procedure at Conventions and all other meetings shall be decided based on “Roberts Rules of Order”.

### **CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned Officers, hereby certify that the foregoing By-Laws were approved and legally adopted by the 36<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of the U.S.A. held from August 4 through August 7, 2022 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and that the same have been declared the legal By-Laws of the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of the United States of America effective August 7, 2022.

**Attested by;**

Joseph Bielecki, President

John Kennedy, Secretary