

Good Standing Policy and Deadlines - Convention 2019 – Albany, NY

By Erin Gross, Financial Director, AVA

The excitement is beginning to build as we prepare for the 21st AVA Biennial Convention in Albany, New York. It has been my pleasure to support and work with Lea Darling & Teresa Kennedy, Co-Chairs for the Convention. Their committee has been working long and hard to create a memorable convention experience for our AVA community. As they continue to prepare for this wonderful week of events, we must make certain that our clubs are also prepared. Most importantly, we must make sure that all AVA Clubs are in “**Good Standing**” 45 days prior to the first membership meeting of the Convention so they are able to vote!

Here are some things to keep in mind that pertain to the AVA’s Good Standing Policy and Membership Voting:

The Bylaws of the American Volkssport Association, Inc.

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

4.3 Voting Rights. Each elected National Officer, Regional Director, state organization and regular member club that is in good standing forty-five days before the opening of the membership meeting shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members. The Executive Director shall have no vote.

The American Volkssport Association Policy Manual

SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP

2.01 TYPES AND APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I. GENERAL POLICIES

II. POLICY

A. Application for Membership. Policy changes effective July 1, 2014 for (new) applications.

1. Any organization or group of persons wanting to form a Regular Member Club must submit an AVA Form 201, Application for Club Membership, with the charter fee and the appropriate prorated portion of the annual dues, the organization or group will send the application through the State Organization (if applicable) and the appropriate Regional Director to the AVA National Headquarters.

a) The proposed **Member Club must, as a minimum:**

- (1) Have an elected President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer;
- (2) Have an approved Constitution and/or Bylaws;
- (3) Have an established bank account in the club's name;
- (4) Submit, if eligible, an application for inclusion in the AVA's 501(c)(3) Group Tax-Exemption;

(5) Have an Employer Identification Number (EIN) issued by the Internal Revenue Service.

(6) If (4) and (5) do not apply, the proposed Member Club will submit paperwork showing proof of coverage under some other non-profit organization.

Please be advised per the Membership policy stated above all AVA member clubs must have three officers at a minimum.

2.03 STATUS AND STANDING

I. GENERAL

The status and standing of a Regular Member Club, and State Organization determine their rights and privileges.

II. POLICY

A. Regular Member Clubs and State Organizations are considered active when the club's or organization's membership application has been accepted and all its activities are conducted according to the provisions of the AVA Bylaws and Policies.

1. Active Member Clubs and State Organizations are considered in good standing when all debts, liabilities and obligations to the AVA have been satisfied. They may exercise all the privileges of their respective membership.

2. Active Member Clubs and State Organizations are considered not in good standing when an outstanding debt, liability, and/or obligation has not been satisfied within sixty days of the date due. A Member Club or State Organization not in good standing forfeits all rights and privileges to include the right to conduct or sponsor events. It may not vote in any state, regional or membership meeting of the AVA. Once a Member Club or State Organization has satisfied that outstanding debt, liability and/or obligation it will be considered in good standing. Regional Directors will be given ten days to resolve club deficiencies, or identify extenuating circumstances, before a club is placed in not in good standing status.

Voting Privileges:

Each National Officer, Regional Director, State Organization and Regular Member club in good standing forty-five (45) days before the opening general session is entitled to one vote in each election and on each matter submitted to a vote of the members. The Executive Director shall have no vote. Delegates: A delegate normally represents each State Organization and Regular Member Club at the General Sessions. Each State Organization and Regular Member Club designates its delegate by completing AVA Form 500, Delegate Selection and Proxy Designation, and ensures the designated delegate registers for the Biennial Convention. The AVA National Headquarters will mail the AVA Form 500 to State Organizations and Regular Member Clubs. Alternates: State Organizations and Regular Member Clubs in good standing

may designate an alternate to the Delegate by completing AVA Form 500 and ensuring the designated alternate registers for the Biennial Convention. Proxies: State Organizations and Regular Member Clubs in good standing may vote by proxy by designating a proxy on AVA Form 500. A proxy can only be given to a person certified as a delegate for the Biennial Convention. Candidates for AVA National Office or candidates for Regional Director may not carry proxies. Responsibilities: Delegates, alternates and proxies will present their copy of AVA Form 500 to the Credentials Committee at the convention, attend the convention participate in all general sessions and attend workshops. A club may transfer voting privileges to an alternate only in an emergency.

Other Key Deadlines to Remember:

November 15th, 2018 – The following items are due:

- E-post card must be filed with the IRS and a copy provided to AVA HQ.
- Club's Annual Financial Report is due to the AVA HQ.
- Update of Officers Information in the ESR must be completed by each club.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, I am certainly available and eager to help in any way possible.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE IN ALBANY, NEW YORK!