

**ABORIGINAL SPORTS CIRCLE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
CONSTITUTION**

Section 1 General

1.1 Name

The name of the society shall be Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories.

1.2 Purpose

These bylaws relate to the general conduct of the affairs of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories, incorporated under the Northwest Territories Societies Act.

1.3 Operations

The operations of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories shall chiefly be carried on in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

1.4 Interpretation of By-Laws

Except as provided in the Northwest Territories Societies Act, the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories Board of Directors shall have the authority to interpret any provision of these bylaws, which is ambiguous or unclear.

Section 2 Objectives

2.1 To deliver traditional sports programs across the NWT

2.2 To support territorial sports organizations in developing aboriginal athletes and communities across the NWT.

2.3 To profile and promote developing aboriginal athletes in the NWT.

2.4 To develop and maintain a connection between traditional sports and aboriginal culture.

2.5 To work in partnership with federal, territorial and community governments to further grow sport and cultural awareness in NWT communities.

2.6 To plan and deliver Team NWT for the North American Indigenous Games.

2.7 To align and develop partnership with the National Aboriginal Sport Organizations including the Aboriginal Sports Circle Canada and North American Indigenous Games Council)

2.8 To celebrate the achievements of aboriginal coaches, volunteers and athletes across the NWT.

ABORIGINAL SPORTS CIRCLE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

BYLAWS

Section 1 **Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories is to promote and enhance community wellness and cultural awareness through sport and recreation and activities.

Section 2 **Definitions**

Where used in these bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words or phrases shall have the meanings described below:

“Aboriginal”	Refers to First Nations and Indigenous persons of Native (including non-Status Native), Métis or Inuit ancestry.
“Annual General Meeting”	Refers to the Annual General Meeting of members of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories.
“Director”	Means a Director of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories who, except for a Youth Directors, must be a member who is nineteen (19) years of age or older and who is as appointed under these Bylaws.
“Chairperson”	Means the Chair of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories, unless specifically referring to a Committee Chair.
“Member”	Means any Aboriginal individual resident in the NWT with an interest in aboriginal sports and its development.
“Vice-Chair”	Means the Vice-Chair of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories.
“Executive Director”	Means the Executive Director of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories.
“Proxy Vote”	A written document giving one Director the authority or power to act for another Director. Proxy votes shall be in writing and signed by the appointer, and the person named in the proxy shall be a Director and must be in attendance at the meeting. A person named in a proxy shall have the same rights and duties as his/ her appointer

would have entitled to at the meeting for which the proxy was given.

“Region”

Means the regions in the NWT; Beaufort-Delta; Sahtu; Tli Cho; Deh Cho; and Akaitcho.

Youth Director

A member between fifteen (15) and twenty five (25) years of age from one of the NWT regions that shall sit on the Board of Directors

Section 3 Powers

1. The Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories shall have all the powers of a Society created under the Northwest Territories Societies Act.

Section 4 The Board of Directors

1. There shall be eight (8) appointed Directors, one (1) Director appointed from each Region of the Northwest Territories (Appendix A). In addition, there shall be two (2) appointed directors from the NWT and one (1) Youth Director.
2. Appointed Directors must be members who reside in the region they represent (Appendix A).
3. Appointed Directors shall be appointed under this process:
 - a. Written expressions of interest shall be solicited from all members in the NWT by way of public advertisement;
 - b. Directors shall be appointed from those members who have expressed an interest, and shall be appointed by the existing Board of Directors;
 - c. Directors shall be appointed on based a consideration of a member’s
 - i. Written expression of acceptance and interest in the objectives of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories;
 - ii. Demonstrated involvement in aboriginal sports in the Northwest Territories; and
 - iii. Such other considerations as determined by the Board of Directors.
4. Directors, except Youth Directors, shall be appointed for a three-year (3) term.
5. Youth Directors shall be appointed for a three-year term; however, a Youth Director’s term shall expire immediately upon the Youth Director becoming twenty-six (26) years of age.

6. Approximately one third of the Board of Directors shall have their terms expire each year. To accomplish this, the Board of Directors may, upon the passage of these Bylaws, appoint approximately one third of the Directors to one-year terms, approximately one-third of Directors to two-year terms and approximately one-third of the Directors to three-year terms to put into effect this section.
7. There shall be no Director fees or dues payable to Directors. Directors may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in Directors attending meetings of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories.
8. Directors may withdraw from the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories prior to the expiry of their term by delivering a letter to the Executive Director stating that he or she intends to withdraw from the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories. The withdrawal becomes effective fifteen (15) days after receipt of the letter or such date as is specified in the letter.
9. Any Director may be removed as a Director of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories by a vote at a Meeting. Any Directors who may be removed is entitled to be heard at such meeting.
10. The office of a Director shall be automatically vacated:
 - a. If a Director resigns his or her office by delivering a written resignation to the Executive Director of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories.
 - b. If a Director is found by a court to lack capacity.
 - c. If a Director is convicted of an offence under the *Criminal Code of Canada*
 - d. On the death of a Director; or
 - e. A Director is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without prior written notice of such absence
11. If a Director vacancy occurs for any reason, the Board of Directors may, but is not required, to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the Director's term.
12. The Board of Directors is responsible for the effective operation of the Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT and may, by resolution, authorize the borrowing of funds for this purpose.

Section 5 Membership

1. Members are any Aboriginal individual resident in the NWT with an interest in aboriginal sports and its development.
2. Membership Fees
 - a. There shall be no membership fees or dues unless otherwise determined by resolution of the Board of Directors.
3. Membership Rights
 - a. A member of the Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT has the following rights:
 - i. To take part in the Annual General Meeting and membership meetings and to exercise their voting rights.
 - ii. To submit proposals for inclusion in the agenda of the Annual General Meeting and membership meetings.
 - iii. To exercise all other rights arising from the by-laws, policies and decisions or The Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT.
4. Membership Obligations
 - a. A member of the Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT is obligated to respect the by-laws, rules and regulations, policies and decisions of the Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT.
5. Resignation/Removal of Members
 - a. Aboriginal status cannot be removed from a member. A member may but does not need to submit a formal resignation. Membership is removed if a member no longer has permanent residency in the Northwest Territories.

Section 6 Meetings of the Board of Directors

1. Meetings of the Board of Directors may be held at any time and place to be determined by the Board of Directors. Fourteen (14) days written notice of such meeting shall be given to each Director. Notice can be given by fax or e-mail.
2. No notice of a meeting of the Board of Directors shall be required if all Directors are present and waive notice, or if those absent have signified their consent to the meeting being held in their absence.
3. A majority 50% plus one of the Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories.
4. Each Director shall be entitled to exercise one (1) vote at each Meeting. Directors shall be entitled to vote by proxy.
5. A Board of Directors meeting may take place by teleconference. Individual Directors may participate in a Board of Directors meeting by teleconference.

6. A resolution in writing, signed by all of the Directors is as valid as if it had been passed at a Board of Directors meeting.
7. All members shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Board of Directors in a non-voting, observer capacity.

Section 7 Employees

1. The Board of Directors shall appoint an Executive Director. The Executive Director shall administer the affairs of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories. The Executive Director shall report to the Board of Directors through the Chairperson. .
2. The Executive Director shall hire such employees as shall be necessary.

Section 8 Meetings

1. All meetings shall be held at the head office of the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories or at any place in the Northwest Territories and on such date as the Board of Directors may determine.
2. An Annual General Meeting shall be held in each fiscal year at such a place and on such day as determined by the Board of Directors.
3. At the Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors shall:
 - a. Review the audited financial statements and the auditor's report;
 - b. Receive the Annual Report;
 - c. Make constitutional changes as required;
 - d. Acknowledge outgoing Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories members;
 - e. Approve minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting;
 - f. Appoint new Directors
 - g. Appoint an auditor for the next fiscal year;
 - h. Elect Officers (Chairperson and Vice-chairperson).
4. The Annual General Meeting shall be open to the public.
5. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given fourteen (14) days in advance. Notice shall be given by posting a notice on the Aboriginal Sports Circle of the Northwest Territories website, and by notifying all Directors.

6. Meetings (other than the Annual General Meeting) may be held at any place in the NWT and through any means of communication.
7. A meeting shall be called by the chairperson, or at the written request of at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the Directors.
8. All meetings of the Board of Directors shall be conducted according to the Bourinot's Rules of Order.
9. The Chairperson, or in the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, shall preside at all Board of Directors Meetings.
10. All members shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Board of Directors in a non-voting, observer capacity. Members may be recognized to speak at the will of the Chairperson. A Board of Directors' Meeting may move in camera by resolution of the Board of Directors.
11. Members will only be given voting privileges a Meeting of the Members which is held during the Annual General Meeting.

Section 9 Committees

1. The Board of Directors may establish, such committees as the Board of Directors deems appropriate
2. The Board of Directors may, in respect of a committee established under this section:
 - a) Determine the committee's terms of reference
 - b) Appoint its Members (Committee Members) and
 - c) Designate one of the Committee Members as its Chairperson;

Section 10 Officers

1. The officers shall be a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
2. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the Directors from amongst themselves and hold office for a term, which is the greater of two (2) years or the remainder of the Officer's term as Director.
3. Officers may be removed by resolution of the Board of Directors.

Section 11 Amendments of Bylaws

1. The Bylaws may be amended by a majority of the Board of Directors at a meeting of the Board of Directors convened to consider such bylaw.
2. The amendment of such Bylaws shall not be effective until registered as required under the NWT Societies Act.

Section 12 Books, Records and Auditor

1. The executive Director shall ensure that all necessary books and records of the Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT required by the bylaws of the Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT or by applicable law are regularly and properly kept. The books and records shall be set ready for the auditor.
2. The Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT shall appoint an auditor to audit the financial statements of the Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT annually. A report shall be presented to the Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT at the next Annual General Meeting. In appointing the auditor, Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT shall consider factors such as continuity and cost savings in determining the terms of the appointment.
3. Members may inspect the books and records of the Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT at the Annual General Meeting.

Section 12 Fiscal Year

1. The fiscal year of the Aboriginal Sports Circle NWT is the period from April 1st to the following March 31st.

APPENDIX A

REGIONS OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

