

**Weed Science Society of America
(WSSA)**

Constitution

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WEED SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA (WSSA)

CONSTITUTION

Article I – Name

This organization shall be known as the Weed Science Society of America.

Article II – Objectives

The objectives of this Society shall be:

Section 1 – To promote development of weed science and technology.

Section 2 – To sponsor an annual meeting at which information is exchanged and technology transferred.

Section 3 – To publish in journals the results of meritorious research and to publish other information of value to weed science and technology.

Section 4 – To promote high standards of education, research, extension, regulation, and other matters pertaining to weed science.

Section 5 – To cooperate with member weed and plant management organizations, and other national and international societies with similar interests to coordinate activities and promote common objectives.

Section 6 – To work with other disciplines, administrators, and governmental agencies, to promote integration and adaptation of weed science and technology for maximum benefit to efficient, sustainable agriculture, and natural resources, with protection of humans, wildlife, soil, water, crops, and our environment.

Section 7 – To remain a scientific and educational organization without the objective of financial gain.

Article III – Membership

Section 1 – Membership in the Society shall be open to individuals and organizations of all nations interested in the objective of the Society. There shall be eight classes of membership: (1) Regular, (2) Student, (3) Associate, (4) Honorary, (5) Sustaining, (6) Emeritus, and (7) Conferences (Weed Organization).

Section 2 – Regular members are individuals who are interested in weed science and who have remitted their annual dues to the Executive Secretary. Regular Members may attend

all Society meetings, vote on all matters pertaining to the Society, hold office, and receive the publications Weed Science, Weed Technology, and the WSSA Newsletter.

Section 3 – Student members are individuals enrolled as full-time candidates for an undergraduate or graduate degree and who have remitted their annual dues to the Executive Secretary. Student members may attend all Society meetings, vote on all matters pertaining to the Society, hold office, and receive the publications Weed Science, Weed Technology, and the WSSA Newsletter.

Section 4 – Associate members are individuals who are interested in weed science and who have remitted their annual dues to the Executive Secretary. Associate members are entitled to attend all Society meetings and to receive the WSSA Newsletter, but are not entitled to vote or hold office.

Section 5 – Honorary membership may be awarded to an individual for meritorious service to weed science. The recipient need not necessarily be a member of the WSSA and should not be a Fellow of the Society. No more than one such award may be presented in any one year. The Honorary Member should be selected and approved by the Board of Directors a year in advance so that he/she can participate in the annual meeting. The President will notify the Honorary Member immediately after approval by the Board of Directors. The Society will assist in the expenses of the Honorary member to attend the annual meeting. Honorary members are entitled to the privileges of Regular membership for life following presentation of the honor without payment of dues (and have a vote).

Section 6 – Sustaining members shall be persons or organizations who are interested in the objectives of the Society, who wish to participate in the activities of the Society, and who have remitted their annual sustaining membership dues. The names of such members shall be printed at least once annually in Weed Science, and in the program of the annual meeting. Each Sustaining Member shall receive the journals Weed Science, Weed Technology, and a Sustaining Member plaque.

Section 7 – Emeritus members shall consist of persons who have the following qualifications: (1) been Regular members for 20 or more years, (2) who have retired, and (3) who request retired membership from the Executive Secretary. Emeritus members will pay no dues and will have all the rights of Regular members except receipt of the journals (unless a subscription is purchased).

Section 8 – The charter conference members were: (1) Western Weed Control Conference (now Western Society of Weed Science), (2) North Central Weed Control Conference (now North Central Weed Science Society), (3) Southern Weed Control Conference (now Southern Weed Science Society), (4) Northeastern Weed Control Conference (now Northeastern Weed Science Society). The National Weed Committee of Canada (now the Expert Committee on Weeds [Canada] was admitted in 1988. Each member conference shall have one voting representative on the WSSA Board of Directors. Any other similar organization may be admitted upon application to and approval by the Board of Directors and by a two-thirds majority of the Regular members who cast ballots by a designated date.

Section 9 – The Board of Directors shall determine the dues for all members.

Article IV – Fellows

Fellows are selected from actively participating regular members who have contributed meritorious service to the Society and to weed science, and are approved by a two-thirds majority of the Board of Directors who cast ballots by a designated date. A number of Fellows not to exceed 0.3 percent of regular members may be elected in any one year.

Article V – Meetings

Meetings of the Society shall be held at the time and place designated by the Board of directors.

Article VI – Elected and Non-elected Officers

Section 1 – The elected officers of the Society shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These shall be elected by the Society membership. The President shall succeed to the office of Past-President for one year. The President-Elect shall succeed to the office of President after serving a term as President- Elect. The Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President-Elect immediately after serving a term as Vice-President. The duties of all officers shall be those usually performed by such officers and as promulgated in Chapter II.

Section 2 – The other officers of the Society shall be the Director of Publications, Chair of the Constitution and Operating Procedures Committee, and the Executive Secretary, all selected by the Board of Directors. The Director of Publications and Chair of the Constitution and Operating Procedures Committee will serve a three-year term and the Executive Secretary will serve for an indefinite period at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

Section 3 – The President, President-Elect, Vice-President and Past-President shall begin their duties at the close of the Annual Business Meeting when they are installed and shall remain in office until the close of the next Annual Business Meeting. The President shall not be eligible for a second term. The Secretary shall serve a two-year term and shall take office at the close of the Annual Business Meeting when he/she is installed. The Treasurer shall serve a three-year term and shall take office at the close of the Annual Business Meeting when he/she is installed.

Article VII – Board of Directors

Section 1 – The voting members of the Board of Directors shall be the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, two representatives elected at-large by the Society membership, the Graduate Student Organization representative, and one representative from each member conference, Director of Publications, and Chair of the Constitution and Operating Procedures Committee. The Executive Secretary and Director of Science Policy shall be ex-officio members, without vote. The elected members of the Board of Directors shall begin their duties at the close of the Annual Business Meeting when they are installed.

Section 2 – The Executive Committee of the Society consists of the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Director of Publications, and Chair of the Constitution and Operating Procedures Committee. The Executive Secretary shall be ex-officio member, without vote.

Article VIII – Election of Officers

Section 1 – The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Past-President from each member society who is also a member of WSSA plus the immediate Past-President of WSSA who will serve as chair. If the immediate Past-President of WSSA cannot serve, the Board of Directors shall select the second or another Past-President to serve as Chair. Members of the Nominating Committee will be determined by December 1 of each year.

Section 2 – The Nominating Committee shall present for the ballot two names for each office to be filled. No member's name shall be placed on the ballot by the Nominating Committee without his/her written consent.

Section 3 – If an officer other than the President or a representative of a member conference on the Board of directors cannot serve the full elected term, the vacancy shall be filled for the interim by appointment by the Board of Directors. The President-Elect shall serve as President if the President becomes unable to serve. This service shall not constitute his/her term as President. The replacement of a Regional Organization representative shall be the responsibility of the organization concerned. One member-at-large of the Board of Directors shall be elected each year to serve a four-year term.

Article IX – Committees

Section 1 – Committees will be created by the Board of Directors to carry out WSSA business. Members will be appointed by the President. Such committees may be abolished by majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 2 – Special committees may be appointed by the President, the Executive Committee, or the Board of Directors. Special committees may be converted to committees by majority action of the Board of Directors no sooner than two years after their creation.

Section 3 – The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the Nominating Committee, but shall not be entitled to vote on matters before any committee.

Article X – Rules of Order

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be followed for the conduct of all members except where countermanded by mutual agreement of those in attendance.

Article XI – Endowment Funds

Endowment funds may be accepted at any time by the Board of Directors subject to the provisions of the Constitution. The donor may designate use for specific purposes with such

designation subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The principal of the endowment funds should be kept productively invested with only the interest income therefrom being available for current expenditures.

Article XII – Auditing of Accounts

The financial records of the WSSA, maintained by the Executive Secretary and others entrusted with funds, shall be audited annually by a qualified auditor. The report of the Finance Committee shall be consolidated by the Executive Secretary and submitted to the Society at the general business meeting.

Article XIII – Publications

Section 1 – One or more publications may be published by the Society as authorized by the Board of Directors. Each publication shall be under the direction of an Editor who will be appointed by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Director of Publications. The Director of Publications shall provide leadership in the formation of policy matters of all publications of the Society, but will not have the responsibility of editing a major periodical of the Society; shall recommend to the President candidates for appointment by the Board of Directors as Editor of Weed Science, Editor of Weed Technology, Editor of Invasive Plant Science and Management, Editor of WSSA Abstracts, and Editor of the WSSA Newsletter; and shall appoint Associate Editors of Weed Science and Associate Editors of Weed Technology upon recommendation by the respective Editors. The Director of Publications will inform the President of the appointments.

Section 2 – The official journals of the Society shall be Weed Science, Weed Technology, and Invasive Plant Science and Management, which shall carry reports of original research as well as extension, teaching, and regulatory aspects of weed science and other official notices. The purposes and policies of the journals shall be established by the Board of Directors upon recommendation by the respective editorial committees and be published in each issue of the journals.

Article XIV – Liability of the Society

Every director, officer, or employee of the Society shall be indemnified by the Society against all expenses and liabilities, including counsel fees, reasonably incurred or imposed upon him/her in connection with any proceedings to which he/she may be made a party or in which he/she may become involved by reason of his/her being or having been a director, officer, or employee of the Society, or any settlement thereof, whether or not he/she is a director, officer, or employee at the time such expenses are incurred, except in such cases wherein the director, officer, or employee is adjudged guilty of willful misfeasance or malfeasance in the performance of his/her duties. This agreement includes indemnification by the Society for any acts of negligence committed by any director, officer, or employee of the Society in the performance of their duties on behalf of the Society. The foregoing right of indemnification shall be in addition to and not exclusive of all rights to which such director, officer, or employee may be entitled.

Article XV – Dissolution of the Society

Upon dissolution of the Society, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all assets of the Society, exclusively for the purpose of the Society, or to such an organization or organizations, organized and operating exclusively of charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes, and shall, at the time, qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(C) (3) of the I.R.C. of 1954, (or corresponding provisions of any future U.S. Internal Revenue Code), as the Board of Directors shall determine.

Article XVI – Amendments

Section 1 – Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by any 10 members of the Society. The Board of Directors shall consider such proposed amendments and submit them to the members with their recommendations either in a special mail ballot or at the next Society meeting. A majority of the Board of Directors also may initiate amendments to be voted on in the same way.

Section 2 – Adoption of a proposed amendment shall require a two-thirds majority affirmative vote of those voting on the amendment.

Modified pursuant to Votes to Amend the Constitution – November, 2013.