

**BYLAWS of the APTA of RHODE ISLAND STUDENT SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP
(SSIG)**

**A component of the
APTA of RHODE ISLAND (RI)**

ARTICLE I. NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be the Rhode Island Student Special Interest Group (SSIG) of the APTA of Rhode Island (APTA of RI). Here in after referred to as SSIG and APTA of RI.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the SSIG shall be to provide a means by which student members and student affiliates, hereinafter referred to students, having a common interest, may meet, confer, and promote the interests of the APTA of RI and the profession of Physical Therapy.

ARTICLE III. OBJECTIVES

- A. Provide a means of exchanging information among members and the community related to the profession of Physical Therapy.
- B. Promote the role of Physical Therapy to students and physical therapy assistant students in their professions.
- C. Identify and represent issues and concerns of student members of the SSIG.
- D. Promote membership and leadership within the APTA of RI, SSIG, and Student Assembly.
- E. Assist the SSIG and the APTA of RI in furtherance of the profession of physical therapy in RI and the United States.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Class and Qualification of Membership

The SSIG membership categories and qualifications for students and student affiliates shall be the same as those of the APTA.

Section 2: Right and Privileges of Members

The rights and privileges of the SSIG's members at SSIG meetings shall be identical to those established in the APTA of RI bylaws.

Section 3: Application for and admission to Membership

All RI student who are members of the APTA shall be members of the SSIG.

Section 4: Good Standing

An individual member is in good standing within the meaning of these bylaws if the member is in good standing in the APTA.

Section 5: Disciplinary Action

Any member of the SSIG who is expelled or suspended from the APTA shall be expelled or suspended from SSIG membership.

Section 6: Reinstatement

Any former member of the SSIG who is reinstated to the APTA shall be reinstated to the membership of the SSIG.

ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1: Composition

The executive committee shall be composed of the elected officers of a four to six (4-6) person steering committee, a secretary, and a treasurer. The steering committee will include two (2) students who are in their 3rd year of a physical therapy program, two (2) students who are in their 2nd year of a physical therapy program, and two (2) students who are in their 1st year of a physical therapy program. The term of office shall be one (1) year.

Section 2: Qualifications

Students shall be eligible to hold office if they are a members of the SSIG, in good standing with the SSIG, have consented to serve, and will remain a student through the end of their term.

Section 3: Officer Responsibilities and Duties

A. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will be responsible for preparing the agenda and presiding over all the meetings of the executive committee and SSIG. The Steering Committee shall report to the APTA of RI Board of Directors on the activities of the SSIG as according to the bylaws of the APTA of RI. The Steering Committee shall report biannually to the SSIG membership.

B. Secretary

The Secretary shall oversee the election process of the executive committee; shall record and distribute the minutes of all Executive and SSIG meetings; shall be responsible for notifying SSIG members of the date, time and place of SSIG meetings. The SSIG will be responsible for maintaining the SSIG's archives and correspondence.

C. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for preparing an annual budget based on available funds. The treasurer shall report on the financial status of the SSIG to the membership, Executive Committee and the APTA of RI Board of Directors as requested. The treasurer shall approve all expenditures of the SSIG funds.

Section 4: Conduct of Business

- A. The executive committee shall meet no less than twice a year. A quorum shall consist of five (5) members.
- B. A minimum of fifteen (15) days shall be given in written notice prior to each meeting.
- C. A special meeting can be called at the request of the president provided that fifteen (15) days notice is given to all officers.

Section 5: Terms and Vacancies

All terms of the officers of the Executive Committee shall be one (1) year. The term shall begin at the close of the SSIG meeting at National Student Conclave in October of each year. No member of the Executive Committee shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Composition

The Board of Directors shall consist of no more than five (5) representatives from Rhode Island. Their respective region shall select each representative, in a method they deem appropriate.

Section 2: Qualifications

Students shall be eligible to serve on the Board they are a members of the SSIG, in good standing with the SSIG, have consented to serve, and will remain a student through the end of their term

Section 3: Terms and Vacancies

All terms of the Board of Directors shall be one (1) year. The term shall begin at the close of the SSIG meeting at National Student Conclave in October of each year. No member of the Board shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. The respective region shall fill vacancies of the representative position

Section 4: Duties of the Board

The Board shall be responsible for:

- A. Communication between the Executive Committee and SSIG members at their respective regions
- B. Fostering the growth and development of the SSIG in their program and surrounding community
- C. Attending scheduled and special meetings of the Board
- D. Carrying out the activities, programs, and policies of the SSIG
- E. Participation in voting for Executive Committee Officers at annual Executive Committee elections

Section 5: Conduct of Business

- A. The Board shall meet no less than twice a year
- B. A Quorum shall consist of six (6) members of the Board of Directors
- C. A minimum of fifteen (15) days shall be given notice prior to each meeting.

D. A special meeting can be called at the request of the Steering Committee provided that fifteen (15) days notice is given to all officers.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS

- A. Officers of the SSIG shall be elected by a plurality of vote of the Board of Directors.
- B. Officers shall be elected annually at the SSIG meeting by last week in October of each year.
- C. Results of the election shall be disseminated to the membership within fifteen (15) days.
- D. Members of the Board of Directors must be present in order to cast their vote.
- E. A Quorum shall consist of six (6) members of the Board of Directors.
- F. During the election, voting members shall report their name and school to the secretary.

ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS

Section 1: Business Meetings

Business meetings will be held biannually, once in the fall at the SSIG meeting by the last week in October and once in the spring at the Combined Sections Meeting in February. Attendance is limited to SSIG members and invited guests approved by the SSIG officers, provided that at least fifteen (15) days written notice is given to all members. A quorum shall consist of those in attendance.

Section 2: Special Meetings

The Steering Committee may call special meetings provided that at least fifteen (15) days notice is given to all members. Attendance is limited to SSIG members and invited guests approved by the SSIG officers. A quorum shall consist of those in attendance.

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCE

Section 1: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the SSIG shall be the same as that of the RI APTA.

Section 2: Limitation of Expenditures

No officer or committee shall expend any money not provided for in the budget as adopted or spend any money in excess of the budget allotment except by order of the Board. The Board shall not commit the SSIG to any financial obligation in excess of its current fiscal resources.

Section 3: Dues

There shall be no dues.

ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION

The SSIG may be dissolved upon:

- A. A recommendation to dissolve supported by no less than three-fourths of the members of the Board and adopted by two-thirds of the SSIG's members; or
- B. A majority of the APTA of RI's Board of Directors should the SSIG fail to meet the obligations identified by the SSIG.
- C. Should the SSIG be dissolved or its existence otherwise terminated, all property and records of whatever nature in the possessions of the SSIG shall, after payment of its bona fide debts, be conveyed to the component.

ARTICLE X. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the SSIG in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, and special rules of order adopted by the SSIG.

ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members present and voting at any meeting of the SSIG, provided that at least fifteen (15) days prior to that meeting a copy of the proposed amendments has been mailed to the SSIG members.

If the intent of an amendment is editorial or to bring the SSIG's Bylaws into agreement with those of the RI APTA, the amendment shall be made as required by the Secretary and approved by the SSIG Board of Directors. The Secretary shall notify the SSIG's membership of such amendment.

ARTICLE XII. HIGHER AUTHORITY

In addition to these Bylaws, the SSIG is governed by the APTA of RI, Standing Rules, and Policies.