

The Constitution of



the Illinois Association of Christian Schools

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

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CONSTITUTION

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Article I: Name

The name of this Not-for-Profit Corporation is the "Illinois Association of Christian Schools," hereafter referred to in this Constitution as the IACS.

Article II: Purpose

As stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the purpose or purposes for which IACS is organized are exclusively religious, charitable, and educational within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law), including but not limited to continuing to maintain an association of churches for the goal of promoting Christian Education through private Christian Schools, primarily those operating as directly-controlled ministries of churches but also those that share common religious bonds with those churches and church schools, including coordination of academic, music, artistic, and sports competitions among member schools. To extend that purpose statement for greater clarity, the general purposes and objectives of the IACS shall be the maintenance of such association of churches for the establishment, promotion, development, and protection of Christian schools and Christian education in the State of Illinois. The IACS will seek to promote Christian education that is spiritual, academically excellent, balanced, professional, and practical. It will encourage this through coordinated services and leadership. The IACS will seek to protect the rights of parents to choose Christian education and will seek to inform its members regarding potential threats to those parental freedoms. The IACS will also serve its member churches and schools in the areas of educational consultation, publications, legislative monitoring, educational workshops and conventions, academic and fine arts tournaments, athletic tournaments, and teacher placement.

Article III: Doctrinal Statement of Faith

1. **The Bible**: We believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, and that it is our only rule for faith and practice.
2. **God**: We believe that God exists in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and that all three are equal in Divine attributes.
3. **Jesus Christ**: We believe in the incarnation and virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and His identification as the Son of God. We believe in His vicarious substitutionary death on the cross and the atonement for the sins of mankind by the shedding of His blood. We believe in the resurrection of His body from the tomb and His continual work of intercession for believers at the right hand of God the Father. We believe in His power to save men eternally from sin.
4. **Holy Spirit**: We believe that God the Holy Spirit calls, regenerates, baptizes, indwells, fills, and seals believers. We reject the modern Charismatic movement and its doctrine.
5. **Creation**: We believe in the Bible account of Creation, rather than the theory of evolution, and that creation was accomplished by the direct act of God.

6. **Man:** We believe that man became a fallen creature and that all men are born in sin and totally depraved, lost, and condemned to hell. In order to be saved, one must be saved by the new-birth experience of salvation by the grace of God through genuine faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
7. **Future Things:** We believe in the imminent, pretribulational and premillennial return of Christ. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead, the saved to a life of eternal glory and bliss in Heaven with God, and the unsaved to eternal judgment of conscious suffering and woe in the lake of fire.
8. **The Church and its Mission:** We believe that the local church is a body of believers carrying out its mission to win the lost and disciple believers. We further believe it is the God-given right of the parents to be responsible for the education and welfare of their children.
9. **Separation:** We believe in the Biblical doctrine of separation which encompasses three areas: the separation of the local church from all affiliation and fellowship with those who deny the truth of the "faith once delivered to the saints," the separation of the individual believer from all worldly practices and erring believers, and the separation of Church and State.

Article IV: Philosophy of Education

The IACS believes that true Christian education is Bible-based and Christ-centered, seeking to develop Christ-like character in the life of each student as Biblical principles are internalized.

We believe that God has given the responsibility to parents to "train up a child in the way he should go, "that Christian schools should support the parents in their responsibility, and that strong, Bible-believing churches should provide oversight to those Christian schools in their support of those parents. Each child is a unique individual created by God and should be directed to mature spiritually, to be loyal to God's Word, and to reach his full potential in light of God's will for his life.

We believe in traditional teacher-directed education, as opposed to progressive education's child-directed approach. Students should be challenged to think for themselves as they build Biblical convictions that will stand under the pressures of our modern culture. Christian schools should have as their goal the development of students who know Christ as their personal Savior, who have a desire to study and apply the Word of God, who willingly have dedicated their lives to the Lord, and who will develop personal standards of conduct and a lifestyle pleasing to the Lord.

We believe that educational methods and curricula should be evaluated in light of Biblical truth and that all materials and methods used in Christian schools should support the clear objectives of Christian education. Philosophies of humanism, atheism, materialism, and socialism should be clearly identified as contrary to Biblical teaching. Ideas that encourage freedom from

responsibility, freedom from restraint, and young people to seek the world's goals and values should be clearly taught as wrong and damaging to the lives of young people

We believe that excellence in education should be the goal of each Christian school. A balanced, outstanding academic program should be joined by varied extracurricular activities that will give each student a well-rounded education and prepare him for a productive and successful life in society as he fulfills God's will. Serving others and faithfulness to a strong, Bible-believing church are logical outcomes to a proper and balanced Christian education.

In order to maintain faithfulness in the foregoing philosophies, we believe that each Christian school should be overseen by a godly and discerning governing board composed of individuals who exemplify the character traits we desire to inculcate in each student; and we further believe that is best accomplished by each of those governing board members maintaining a connection and submission to a strong, Bible-believing church.

Article V: Membership Policies

Membership in the IACS is open to Christian schools who fully agree with the IACS Statement of Faith, Purpose, and Philosophy of Education, and who follow the established guidelines for joining the IACS.

Membership Requirements:

1. A school applying for membership must agree with the IACS Purpose, Doctrinal Statement of Faith, and Philosophy of Education.
2. A school must be willing to submit to all IACS guidelines and procedures set forth in the IACS Constitution.
3. A school must agree not to be a member of or be associated with the World Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches, the Charismatic Movement, the Ecumenical Movement, or the National Association of Evangelicals.
4. A school must agree to pay yearly dues as established by the executive committee and general membership of the IACS. Dues are assessed according to the number of students and employees in each school. All dues will be submitted to the IACS office, and the appropriate portion will be sent to the AACCS to complete the membership process.
5. If at any point a member school chooses to associate with any of the above organizations, the member school will be dismissed immediately from the IACS.

Membership Procedures:

1. A school interested in joining the IACS must contact the IACS office for an application and membership information.

2. The school must then submit the application form, a copy of the school and/or church constitution and by-laws, and a signed statement of agreement with the IACS Purpose, Doctrinal Position of Faith, and Philosophy of Education. A school that is not under the control of a church will be expected to provide sufficient evidence of oversight, even if indirect, by one or more churches that also agree with the IACS Purpose, Doctrinal Position of Faith, and Philosophy of Education.
3. An on-site visit and interview will then be made at a mutually convenient time by at least two IACS officers or executive committee members.
4. All current members of the IACS will be notified of the school's application before the membership vote will be taken.
5. The executive committee will review the application and visit report. A $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of an established quorum of the executive committee will be needed to approve the recommendation of the school's application. The application will then be submitted to the IACS general membership for approval. A $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of the IACS general membership present at a regular meeting will be required for final approval.
6. Individual, non-voting members may be allowed to join the IACS providing they are in agreement with the IACS Purpose, Doctrinal Position of Faith, and Philosophy of Education. Individual members will receive all regular mailings from the IACS office and will be invited to all scheduled meetings and activities. A membership form must be completed and a modest fee may be required. Individual members are admitted by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of the executive committee.
7. Associate Membership: Schools which are not under the control or oversight of a church (or churches) may join the IACS as associate members. Associate member schools must meet the same membership requirements of regular member schools except the requirement to be under the control or oversight of a church (or churches). Associate member schools are non-voting entities that enjoy the same privileges as other member schools. However, since the IACS is primarily an association of churches, pastors and administrators from associate member school are not eligible to serve on the Executive Committee. A $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of an established quorum of the Executive Committee will be needed to approve the recommendation of the associate member school's application. The application will then be submitted to the IACS general membership for approval. A $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of the IACS general membership present at a regular meeting will be required for final approval.

Membership Rights and Privileges:

1. Each member school shall receive one vote for all voting decisions made by the general membership.
2. Each member school shall receive all membership mailings, newsletters, and bulletins.
3. Each member school shall have full participation rights for all academic and athletic activities.

4. Member schools can withdraw from the IACS at any time by notifying the IACS office. Membership dues for the entire school year must be paid. No refunds will be available for those withdrawing during the year.
5. Each new school shall be accepted on a provisional membership basis its first year in IACS.

Article VI: Governing Board and Decision-Making Policies

General Membership

The IACS general membership is composed of all member schools of the IACS. Each school has one vote on issues that relate to finances, election of officers, membership, and amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or the Constitution. The general membership shall meet at least four times per year as scheduled by the executive committee. Issues that come to a vote must be decided by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of those schools in attendance.

Executive Committee

The governing board of the IACS shall be called the executive committee and shall be composed of the following ten members:

1. Three pastors from IACS schools
2. Three administrators from IACS schools
3. The next three may be either pastors or administrators from IACS schools
4. One president who is also a pastor from an IACS school

The pastor and the administrator who receives the greatest number of votes along with the next highest vote recipient (either pastor or administrator) will be elected for a three-year term. Each year, three members will rotate off the board. A board member may serve two successive terms, after which he must rotate off the board for at least one year.

In the April IACS general meeting, nomination forms will be received from all present member schools desiring to recommend individuals for the executive committee. The executive committee will evaluate the nominations and submit the names of at least four pastors and four administrators each year for a membership vote. The pastor and the administrator who receives the greatest number of votes along with the next highest vote recipient (either pastor or administrator) will be elected for a three-year term. Schools will vote by mail (email) so that each school has an equal opportunity to choose the leadership of the IACS. Terms of office will begin June 1st and will end May 31st. The executive committee will seek to keep geographic considerations in mind so that every region of the state can be fairly represented on the executive committee. Other factors considered will be experience, faithfulness to meetings, participation in IACS activities and programs, and leadership qualities. Pastors and administrators from associate member schools are not eligible to serve on the Executive Committee.

All nominees must be from an IACS member school for at least one year prior to their nomination. If a vacancy occurs during a term, the executive committee shall nominate at least three individuals to the general membership for a vote. The one selected will serve out the remaining term of the vacancy. The names of all nominees shall be announced by mail (email) before the vote takes place.

The executive committee is responsible to elect the president, vice-president, executive director, and athletic director of IACS. The executive committee, by $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote, may remove any of the foregoing officers at any time it believes the best interest of IACS will be served thereby. The executive committee shall direct all policy developments of the IACS and assure that all IACS activities and programs conform to the purpose, philosophy, doctrinal statement of faith, and constitutional guidelines of IACS. At least 60% of the executive committee is required at any meeting for a quorum to be established.

President

The president shall be elected by the executive committee and shall serve a three-year term. He may serve two successive terms but then would not be eligible to serve again as president for at least three years. A presidential nominee must serve on the executive committee before he is eligible for the office of president. Only pastors can be voted in as the president of IACS. When a president's term is expired, the executive committee must determine at least three names for the next term. All nominees must be present or past members of the executive committee. A majority ballot vote of the executive committee will determine the IACS president. If a vacancy occurs, the executive committee will nominate three individuals to fill the vacancy, and a ballot vote by the executive committee will determine a new president to complete the previous president's three-year term.

The president of IACS is directly responsible to the executive committee, the governing board of the IACS. The president is to chair each executive committee meeting and all general membership meetings. He is responsible to oversee the executive director and athletic director in their various responsibilities, including all IACS activities and programs. In case of absence, the vice-president will chair any particular meeting. The president is a full voting member of the executive committee.

Vice-President

The vice-president shall be elected by the executive committee and shall serve a one-year term. He may serve two successive terms but then would not be eligible to serve again for one year. The vice-president must be one of the pastor members of the executive committee. The vice-president is responsible to chair all meetings when the IACS President is absent. He shall also act as Treasurer and have the authority and responsibility to closely examine the financial report and income statement, to review the IACS check register for salary and all other payments, and any

other financial transactions of the IACS. The Vice President shall not be from the same ministry as the Executive Director.

Executive Director

The executive committee will elect an executive director by majority vote. There is no specific length of office for the executive director. His general responsibilities will include the management of the IACS office, coordination of all IACS services, organization of meetings and conventions, oversight of athletic programs, coordinator of academic and fine arts tournaments, collection and distribution of legislative and legal information, and periodic newsletters. The executive director is directly responsible to the president of IACS. He is to attend all executive committee meetings as a non-voting participant.

Athletic Director

The executive committee shall appoint an individual to serve as athletic director. There is no specific length of office for this position. His responsibilities will include the oversight of all athletic conferences, the setting up of all tournaments, the chairing of all athletic committee meetings, and the handling of any organizational matters related to athletics. He is to attend all executive committee meetings as a non-voting member in order to inform the committee of all IACS athletic issues and activities. The athletic director is directly responsible to the executive director and president of IACS.

Article VII: IACS Disciplinary Procedures

A "point of inquiry" will be the official means by which a member school can question another IACS school's actions or relationships that would violate the established guidelines of the IACS constitution. It is understood that the IACS is not a policing agency to deal with every disagreement that comes along; but, it will handle situations that threaten the testimony of the IACS, the freedom of the IACS to operate, and violations of the IACS constitution. The specific procedures for filing a point of inquiry are as follows:

1. Prior to filing a point of inquiry, the pastors of the schools involved should seek to meet together to resolve the question. If in this meeting it appears that the IACS guidelines and policies are being violated, a school can proceed to file a point of inquiry with the IACS office. As much as possible, schools should seek to resolve disagreements between themselves in a private, quiet, and Christian manner.
2. A point of inquiry may only be filed by a pastor or administrator (with his pastor's approval) who has been a member of the IACS for at least one year.
3. A point of inquiry must be made in writing within 45 days of the incident in question.

4. The IACS office will contact the school in question and ask for a written response to the filed point of inquiry.
5. The executive committee will evaluate the point of inquiry. At least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the executive committee must be in attendance to discuss a filed point of inquiry.
6. A meeting shall be scheduled where all parties related to the point of inquiry shall be required to attend. At least one week advanced notice shall be given of the meeting and any postponement can only be made by a majority vote of the executive committee. The executive committee shall hear both sides of the issue, ask any questions necessary, and then adjourn to make a decision. A written decision will be mailed after a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of the executive committee. The decision will be communicated to all member schools if the decision affects a school's membership in the IACS or association with other IACS schools. As the elected leadership of the IACS, the executive committee has the authority to make decisions on points of inquiry and to even dismiss a school if it deems that the school has violated the established policies, beliefs, and requirements of the IACS either in letter or in spirit. The attitude and response of the offending school will be a large factor in this decision making process.
7. The executive committee may render a judgment in the form of one or more of the following:
 - a. Dismissal of the point of inquiry
 - b. Official written reprimand
 - c. Denial of participation in a particular IACS event or activity for a specified length of time
 - d. Probation for a specific period of time
 - e. Dismissal from membership in the IACS
8. It is understood that the IACS is a fellowship of believers. If at any point, a member school institutes a legal proceeding in this process, the member school will be dismissed immediately from the IACS.
9. If a school involved in a point of inquiry fails to attend the scheduled meeting or to respond to the written request for clarification, the executive committee will proceed with the hearing and render a decision based on the information at hand.
10. If a point of inquiry is filed against an individual person employed by an IACS school, the above procedures will be followed as well. The individual in question must be accompanied by his pastor or administrator throughout the entire process.

Article VIII: IACS Athletic Program

The IACS will publish an Athletic Handbook which will set forth the specific policies and guidelines for all IACS athletic activities and tournaments. Schools must comply fully with these guidelines, including dress requirements and grooming standards. The athletic director will be responsible to oversee the athletic program of the IACS and report activities to the executive committee.

Article IX: Amendments to the Constitution or Articles of Incorporation

This constitution or the Articles of Incorporation of the IACS shall only be changed or amended as recommended by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the executive committee and then approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of the general membership present at a regularly announced IACS general membership meeting. Proposed changes will be mailed out to all member schools before the vote is actually taken.

Article X: Dissolution

If the IACS were to dissolve, all assets shall be given to a Christian organization that is in agreement with the statement of faith of the IACS. The executive committee will determine this by a majority vote.