

## Summary of Bylaws Revisions – MBAIAA

The changes in red update the bylaws so they work better for how we operate today. They promote inclusivity through gender-neutral language, adjust quorum and committee sizes to match current participation, and strengthen financial oversight with updated controls for both traditional and electronic transactions. The revisions also explicitly allow for remote meetings and voting, streamline grammar and formatting for clarity, and ensure consistent terminology.

These updates stay true with both the traditions and principles of Alcoholics Anonymous and meeting California’s nonprofit rules. Overall, they preserve the fellowship’s spirit while enhancing transparency, accountability, and the ability to serve member groups effectively.

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### MBAIAA Bylaws — Complete Redline Change Table

Article / Section	Before	After	Reason for Change
<b>Pronouns</b>	“his or her”, “he or she”, “He or she may summarize...”	“their”, “they”, “They may summarize...”	Modernizes to gender-neutral, inclusive language throughout document.
<b>Grammar &amp; Typos</b>	“member members”, “who whom”, inconsistent spacing like “when(2/3)”	Corrected redundancy, “whom” fixed, spaces standardized	Improves clarity, professionalism, and readability.
<b>Quorum (Article VI, Sec. 5)</b>	“...no less than 15 members”	“...no less than 10 members”	Makes quorum achievable for current attendance levels.
<b>Steering Committee Size (Art. VII, Sec. 3)</b>	Six (6) Intergroup Representatives-at-large	Four (4) Intergroup Representatives-at-large	Matches current volunteer capacity and realistic staffing.

<b>Article / Section</b>	<b>Before</b>	<b>After</b>	<b>Reason for Change</b>
<b>Steering Committee Elections (Art. VII, Sec. 7)</b>	Three (3) Intergroup Reps-at-large in July; three (3) in January	Two (2) Intergroup Reps-at-large in each cycle	Adjusted numbers to match reduced committee size.
<b>Sobriety Requirements (Art. VII, Sec. 3)</b>	Sobriety minimums partially stated	Clarified: PI/CPC Committee and Twelfth Step Committee members must have at least one (1) year continuous sobriety; Chair/Treasurer/Secretary retain two (2) years	Ensures clear, consistent minimum sobriety standards for all leadership roles.
<b>Voting Method (Art. VI, Sec. 6 &amp; Art. VII, Sec. 5)</b>	Only in-person voting described	Added: "Voting may take place electronically, via email or internet ballot"	Enables remote participation and flexibility in decision-making.
<b>Special Meetings (Art. VI, Sec. 2)</b>	Could be called by Steering Committee or 15 IGRs	Same but clarified "as necessary in an emergency"	Adds context for when emergency meetings are appropriate.
<b>Renumbering Powers (Art. VI, Sec. 7)</b>	Old sequence (hire/fire, remove, overrule, elect, fill vacancies)	New order: (a) hire/fire; (b) elect; (c) fill vacancy; (d) remove; (e) overrule	Improves logical flow from election → vacancy fill → removal → overruling decisions.
<b>Term Limits (Art. VII, Sec. 6)</b>	No more than two consecutive terms in same position	Partial terms don't count toward limit, but max three consecutive terms in any role	Balances leadership rotation with flexibility for filling unexpired terms.

<b>Article / Section</b>	<b>Before</b>	<b>After</b>	<b>Reason for Change</b>
<b>Treasurer Duties (Art. VIII, Sec. 2)</b>	Did not explicitly include preparing IRS/FTB filings	Added responsibility for preparing/filing all required IRS, CA Franchise Tax Board, Attorney General, and Secretary of State reports	Ensures legal compliance is clearly assigned.
<b>Recording Secretary Duties (Art. VIII, Sec. 3)</b>	Maintain and file minutes	Added: distribute minutes “for review in advance of the next IGR meeting”	Improves transparency and preparation before meetings.
<b>Central Office Sec. Admin. Job Description (Art. IX, Sec. 1)</b>	Maintained on file, no mention of review	Added: will address entitlements and be “periodically reviewed” for changes	Keeps job description up-to-date and comprehensive.
<b>Twelfth Step Committee Composition (Art. X, Sec. 2)</b>	Two members elected, no gender guideline	Added: whenever possible, female supervises women’s list, male supervises men’s list	Aligns with AA’s gender-appropriate 12-step call practices.
<b>PI/CPC Committee Elections (Art. X, Sec. 3)</b>	Elected, process implied	Clarified: elected same way as Twelfth Step Committee	Standardizes selection process for standing committees.
<b>Parliamentarian Appointment (Art. X, Sec. 4)</b>	Chair may appoint; role final unless overruled by 2/3 vote	Added: must be ratified by 2/3 of IGRs before assuming position	Adds member approval safeguard.
<b>Audit Committee Composition (Art. X, Sec. 5)</b>	Intergroup Reps-at-large	Added: plus “at least one AA member familiar with general accounting procedures”	Ensures financial competence on audit team.
<b>Fiscal Year References</b>	Stated in Budget Committee section only	Added to Audit Committee section and Article VII, Sec. 8(j)	Makes fiscal year (Jan–Dec) clear in all relevant places.

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<b>Financial Management (Art. XII, Sec. 2)</b>	Checks/drafts signed by two officers	Added: “electronic funds transfers, debit card purchases, credit card purchases,” dual approval by email/writing; max spending limit in Guidelines	Modernizes for digital banking and strengthens fraud prevention.
<b>Credit Card Oversight (Art. XII, Sec. 3)</b>	No provision	Added: electronic notification to approvers for all credit card transactions	Increases transparency and real-time oversight of spending.
<b>Amendment Approval (Art. XIII, Sec. 2(c))</b>	Two-thirds majority of members present	Two-thirds majority of all groups eligible to vote	Raises threshold to ensure broader consensus on bylaw changes.
<b>Interpretation of Terms (Art. XIV)</b>	Not included	Added: definitions for tense, singular/plural, “shall” = mandatory, “may” = permissive	Prevents disputes over meaning and application of bylaw language.
<b>General Language Consistency</b>	“Administrator” sometimes capitalized inconsistently; variations like “Sec’y Admin.”	Standardized as “Central Office Administrator” throughout	Improves document consistency and clarity.

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**The detailed why of it:**

1. **Promote Inclusivity** – Replace gender-specific pronouns with gender-neutral language to reflect the diversity of the fellowship.
2. **Enhance Clarity & Consistency** – Correct grammatical errors, standardize terminology, and improve section formatting for easier reference and understanding.
3. **Align with Current Operations** – Adjust quorum requirements, committee sizes, and election schedules to reflect current participation levels and volunteer availability.

4. **Strengthen Governance & Accountability** – Clarify roles, responsibilities, sobriety requirements, and procedures for leadership selection, term limits, and committee composition.
5. **Modernize Voting & Meeting Processes** – Allow for electronic meetings and voting to accommodate remote participation and maintain operational continuity.
6. **Improve Financial Oversight** – Expand provisions to cover electronic transactions, require dual approvals, and enhance transparency with real-time spending notifications.
7. **Increase Safeguards & Member Input** – Require ratification for certain appointments, raise approval thresholds for bylaw changes, and ensure impartial audits with qualified members.
8. **Provide Interpretive Guidance** – Add definitions for key terms to reduce ambiguity in interpretation and application of the bylaws.