

**ARMENIAN GENERAL ATHLETIC UNION  
(HOMENETMEN)**

**INTERNAL BYLAWS OF THE WESTERN UNITED STATES REGION**

**Los Angeles, California  
2016**

The general bylaws of the HOMENETMEN [**ARMENIAN GENERAL ATHLETIC UNION**] were formulated and ratified by the first World Congress of the organization, held on December 11-13, 1974, in Beirut, Lebanon.

This first HOMENETMEN World Congress, which holds a unique place in the almost sixty-year history of the organization, set the foundations for the organization's transnational structure; it was attended by 23 elected representatives from across the Armenian Diaspora, as well as many other notable members of the organization, present in an advisory capacity.

The general bylaws of the HOMENETMEN are inspired by the spirit of the organization and democratic principles. These are the two foundational principles upon which our young and vision-oriented organization is based.

### **Beirut, 1974**

<b>First round of modifications</b>	–	<b>1979, Second World Congress</b>
<b>Second round of modifications</b>	–	<b>1983, Third World Congress</b>
<b>Third round of modifications</b>	–	<b>1991, Fifth World Congress</b>
<b>Fourth round of modifications</b>	–	<b>1999, Seventh World Congress</b>
<b>Fifth round of modifications</b>	–	<b>2003, Eighth World Congress</b>
<b>Sixth round of modifications</b>	–	<b>2007, Ninth World Congress</b>
<b>Seventh round of modifications</b>	–	<b>2011, Tenth World Congress</b>
<b>Eighth round of modifications</b>	–	<b>2015, Eleventh World Congress</b>

The numbers in quotes are the corresponding numbers of articles in the HOMENETMEN general bylaws. Bolded text reflects articles in this region's internal bylaws.

## **NAME**

The organization is called the Armenian General Athletic Union (HOMENETMEN), and Scouts.

## **GOALS**

The goals of the Armenian General Athletic Union (HOMENETMEN) are:

- a) To cultivate physically fit, mentally healthy, and morally descent Armenians and model citizens.
- b) To educate its members to be hard-working, courageous, patriotic, law-abiding, and disciplined individuals.
- c) To cultivate among its members a sense of duty, responsibility, and honor as well as a spirit of camaraderie and mutual assistance.
- d) To instill in its members a sense of high sportsmanship.

## **METHODS**

The organization will achieve its goals through the following means –

- a) Scouting.
- b) Athletic activities and competitions.
- c) Lectures, educational programs, and public events.
- d) Publications and support of educational/cultural events focusing on Armenian language, Armenian history, and the activities of the organization.
- e) Clubs and gymnasiums.
- f) Youth division (ages 18-30).

# BYLAWS

## MEMBERSHIP

**Article 301 “1”** – Any Armenian, regardless of gender or religious affiliation, can become a member of HOMENETMEN, as long as he or she accepts the organization’s bylaws and agrees to abide by its rules and decisions.

**Article 302 “2”** – Any individual wishing to become a member of HOMENETMEN must apply with a written application to a chapter's Executive Board, in accordance to his/her region’s regulations.

Applicants 18 and older must have their membership application sponsored by two current members of the organization who have been members for at least two years.

**Article 303 “3”** – The applicant becomes a member of the organization with the approval of the chapter's Executive Board.

**Article 304 “4”** – All members must meet their moral and financial obligations to the organization.

**Article 305 “5”** – A member of HOMENETMEN may not be a member of another athletic or scouting organization. An exception may be made with the approval of the Executive Board of the Region or Megusi\* region (according to their internal bylaws).

**\* Megusi is a region with less than 3 chapters OR a total of less than 250 members.**

**Article 306 “6”** – Members who transfer from one region to another, or from one chapter to another, must present an official transfer document.

- a) Transfers from one chapter to another must be permitted by the Executive Board of the Chapter, and approved by the Regional Executive Board.
- b) Transfers from one region to another must be permitted by the Executive Board of the Chapter, approved by the Regional Executive Board, and facilitated by the Central Board.

**Article 307 “7”** – A member may not simultaneously be part of two HOMENETMEN bodies or committees that have jurisdiction over one another.

## FLAGS

Article 308 “8” – The flag of HOMENETMEN is –



Width: 180 cm during ceremonial marches;  
150 cm when used indoors

Length: 120 cm during ceremonial marches;  
100 cm when used indoors

The flag is provided to each region by HOMENETMEN Central Board.

Article 309 “9” – The flag of HOMENETMEN scouts is –

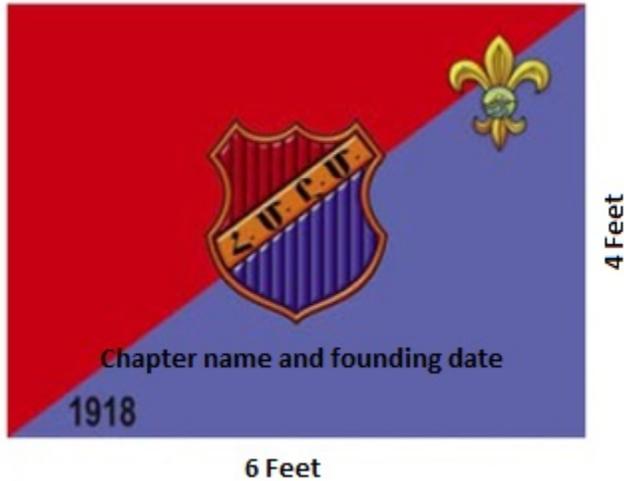


Width: 180 cm during ceremonial marches;  
150 cm when used indoors

Length: 120 cm during ceremonial marches;  
100 cm when used indoors

The flag is provided to each region by HOMENETMEN Central Board.

**Note A - All chapters within Homenetmen Western United States Region have their flags similar to the flag of Homenetmen. Chapter name and founding date will be displayed below Homenetmen shield.**



**Note B - Within the HOMENETMEN Western United States Region, regional, scouting and chapter flags must be six feet in width and four feet in height.**

## MEETINGS AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS

**Article 310 "10"** – HOMENETMEN conducts the following meetings

- a) Chapter general membership meeting.
- b) Megusi general membership meeting.
- c) Regional representative meeting.
- d) World Congress.

**NOTE - Division general membership meeting is also conducted within Western United States Region.**

**Article 311 "11"** – The following Boards are elected by the above-mentioned meetings:

- a) Chapter Executive Board.
- b) Megusi Region Executive Board.
- c) Regional Executive Board.
- d) Central Board.

**NOTE - Division executive body is elected by the division general membership meeting, except scouting division which is appointed by the Chapter Executive Board.**

**Article 312 "12"** – All decisions taken in meetings and by the Executive Boards must be ratified by a simple majority. Exceptions to the rule are noted in these articles of this Bylaws-: See articles 350 "39" A; 362 "50" (note); 406 "72"; 428 "92"; and 475 "134."

**Article 313 "13"** – An Executive Board is considered dissolved if, during its term, it loses a majority of its members. In such cases, the Executive Board must call for the appropriate meeting to take further action.

## **CHAPTER**

**Article 314 "14"** – Any group of 15 or more individuals above the age of 18 may form a new chapter. The new Homenetmen chapter is considered officially established when it receives the appropriate approval from the corresponding Executive Board with jurisdiction over the area.

**Article 315 "15"** – Each city may have only one chapter. Additional chapters may be established only with the approval of the Regional Executive Board.

## **DIVISION**

**Article 316** – A division is a section of a chapter whose members are devoted to a specific activity.

**Article 317** – A chapter in addition to its athletic and scouting divisions, may have auxiliary divisions that focus on social activities, public relations, the chapter's finances, organizational activities, and educational activities.

**Note** – A division's members may be further divided into groups.

**Article 318** – A member may be a part of multiple divisions and groups within a chapter.

**Article 319** – The Chapter's Executive Board confirms the executive body of each division, which is responsible for the activities of that division. A representative from the Chapter's Executive Board may attend divisions' executive body's meetings with the right to vote.

**Article 320** – Each division must have its general membership meetings.

# MEETINGS

## A. DIVISION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Article 321** – Division general membership meetings are attended by members of the division who have paid their dues, are at least 18 years old and have been members of HOMENETMEN for at least six months.

**Article 322** – A representative of the Chapter’s Executive Board must attend division general membership meeting.

**Article 323** – Division general membership meetings are considered official only if a majority of members of the division who are at least 18 years old are present.

**Note A** – If a scheduled meeting is postponed due to the lack of quorum and is rescheduled, the rescheduled meeting will meet quorum requirements regardless of the number of participants.

**Note B** –The Executive Board of the Chapter or division’s executive body must inform members of the division of upcoming division general membership 1st and possible 2nd scheduled meetings dates at least 10 days in advance.

**Article 324** – Division general membership meeting –

- a) Listens and evaluates division executive body’s all activities and financial reports.
- b) Develops a general plan of activities for the upcoming year, approves budget and makes decisions and recommendations.
- c) Discusses and resolves various issues brought to the table by chapter’s Executive Board, division's executive body and members.
- d) Elects division executive body.

## CHAPTER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Article 325** – The chapter general membership meeting is the supreme meeting of the chapter.

**Article 326 “16”** – The chapter general membership meeting, during which Executive Board is evaluated and elected, is convened once a year. If needed, chapter’s Executive Board may decide to convene general membership meetings more than once a year.

**Article 327 “17”** – All members of the chapter older than the age of 18, who have been members of the organization for at least six months, and who have fulfilled all financial obligations to the organization, can participate and vote in the chapter general membership meeting.

**Article 328 “18”** – Chapter general membership meetings are considered official only if majority of members who have the right to vote during the meeting are present.

Note – If a scheduled meeting is postponed due to the lack of quorum and is rescheduled, the rescheduled meeting will meet quorum requirements regardless of the number of participants. The Executive Board of the chapter must inform members of the chapter of upcoming chapter general membership scheduled meeting date as well as any postponements.

**Article 329 “19”** – The general membership meeting to which the Executive Board is accountable:

- a) Evaluates the Executive Board based on its activities and financial reports.
- b) Makes decisions and recommendations for upcoming Executive Board.
- c) Elects Chapter’s Executive Board.
- d) When necessary, elects a number of representatives according to the by-laws to the regional representative meeting, as well as a maximum of two substitute representatives, who are elected separately.
- e) Elects audit and archival committees.

**Article 330** – Chapter general membership meeting must also accomplish the following tasks:

- a) **Develop a general plan of activities for the upcoming year, and approve a budget for that purpose.**
- b) **Elect members of the chapter’s audit and archival committees, each consisting of 3 or 5 members.**
- c) **Examine and resolve issues put forward by the Regional Executive Board, Chapter’s Executive Board or members.**
- d) **Listen to the audit and archival committees' reports.**

## **REGION**

**Article 331 “20”** – The designation of a HOMENETMEN region is given to any state, province, group of states or provinces, country, or group of countries that includes' at least three chapters, with a collective total membership of at least 250 members.

**Article 332 “21”** – Each region functions according to its own internal bylaws.

**Article 333 “22”** – Each region is led by a Regional Executive Board, which is elected by a regional representative meeting and approved by the Central Board.

**Article 334 “23”** – A region that does not have a Regional Executive Board is considered to be a "Megusi" Region.

**Article 335 “24”** – A "Megusi" Region is led by the Executive Board of "Megusi" Region, which is elected by a megusi general membership meeting, and approved by the Central Board.

## "MEGUSI" GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Article 336 "25"** – The megusi general membership meeting is the highest meeting of megusi region, and is convened annually or biennially.

Note 1 – At least one month prior to the megusi general membership meeting, the Executive Board of the Megusi Region must inform Central Board about the meeting in writing. Agenda of the meeting must be attached to the letter.

Note 2 – A megusi general membership meeting is also called when the Megusi Executive Board receives the agenda of an upcoming World Congress from Central Board.

**Article 337 "26"** – The megusi general membership meeting must be convened biennially to evaluate Executive Board's performance and elect new Executive Board. If necessary, additional meetings may be called.

**Article 338 "27"** – All members of the megusi region older than the age of 18, who have been members of the organization for at least six months, and who have fulfilled all financial obligations to the organization, can participate and vote in a megusi general membership meeting as well as Central Board and Megusi Region Executive Board representatives.

**Article 339 "28"** – Megusi general membership meetings are considered official only if majority of members who have the right to vote during the meeting are present.

Note A – If a scheduled meeting is postponed due to the lack of quorum and is rescheduled, the rescheduled meeting will meet quorum requirements regardless of the number of participants.

Note B –The Executive Board of the Megusi Region must inform members of the region of upcoming megusi general membership 1st and possible 2nd scheduled meetings dates and times.

**Article 340 "29"** –The megusi general membership meeting:

- a) Examines and evaluates the outgoing Megusi Region Executive Board based on its activities.
- b) Outlines a plan of activities for the term of the new Executive Board.
- c) Examines and resolves any pending issues in megusi region.
- d) When necessary, amends the megusi region's internal bylaws.
- e) Prepares upcoming Executive Board budget and determines membership dues.
- f) Elects a new Executive Board.
- g) When necessary, elects a number of delegates according to bylaws to the World Congress, as well as a substitute delegate who is elected separately.

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

**Article 341 “30”** – The regional representative meeting is the highest meeting of a region, and is convened biennially.

Note 1 – At least one month prior to the regional representative meeting, the Executive Board of the Region must inform Central Board about the meeting in writing. Agenda of the meeting must be attached to the letter.

Note 2 – A regional representative meeting is also called when the Regional Executive Board receives the agenda of an upcoming World Congress from Central Board.

Note 3 – A regional representative meeting may not be extended to discuss items that were not included in the initial agenda.

**Article 342 “31”** – A regional representative meeting is official when majority of the chapters are present, and when majority of chapter representatives who have the right to vote are present.

**Article 343 “32”** – The following participants are eligible to vote during regional representative meeting:

- a) Representatives elected by chapters.
- b) One representative from each of the chapters’ Executive Boards.
- c) A representative of the Regional Executive Board.
- d) Representative of the Central Board.

**Article 344 “33”** – Chapters are allotted representatives to regional representative meeting as follows:

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| a) Chapters with up to 25 members:   | 1 representative.  |
| b) Chapters with 026-0050 members:   | 2 representatives. |
| c) Chapters with 051-0075 members:   | 3 representatives. |
| d) Chapters with 076-0100 members:   | 4 representatives. |
| e) Chapters with 101-0150 members:   | 5 representatives. |
| f) Chapters with 151-0200 members:   | 6 representatives. |
| g) Chapters with 201-0500 members:   | 7 representatives. |
| h) Chapters with 501-0800 members:   | 8 representatives. |
| i) Chapters with 801-1,200 members:  | 9 representatives. |
| j) Chapters are allowed one additional representative for each 500 members they have in excess of 1,200 members. |                    |

**Article 345 “34”** – A chapter may only participate in a regional representative meeting if it has fulfilled all of its financial obligations.

**Article 346 “35”** – The following official individuals participate in regional representative meeting in an advisory capacity, and are not granted voting rights:

- a) Remaining members of the incumbent Regional Executive Board.
- b) One representative from each of the regional committees and councils.
- c) Regional senior scoutmaster.
- d) Regional scoutmasters (male and female).

**Article 347 “36”** – Guests are invited to participate in the regional representative meeting in an advisory capacity. The number of such participants should not exceed one-fourth the number of voting participants. Half of the guests participating in an advisory capacity are invited by the Regional Executive Board and the other half by the regional representative meeting.

**Article 348 “37”** – If necessary, additional regional representative meeting may be convened at the request of the Central Board or of the Regional Executive Board. A regional representative meeting may also be convened at the request of Chapter Executive Boards.

Note – When a Chapter Executive Board with a reasonable cause requests the convening of regional representative meeting, the Regional Executive Board must forward the request to the rest of the Chapter Executive Boards in the region to get their stand on the request. If two-thirds of all Chapter Executive Boards concur with the request, the Regional Executive Board must convene a regional representative meeting.

**Article 349 “38”** – The regional representative meeting:

- a) Listens to the concise biennial reports of each of the region’s chapters.
- b) Examines and evaluates the outgoing Regional Executive Board based on its activities.
- c) Outlines a plan of activities for the term of the new Executive Board.
- d) Examines and resolves any pending issues in the region.
- e) If needed amends the region’s internal bylaws.
- f) Prepares upcoming Executive Board budget and determines chapters’ dues.
- g) Elects a new Regional Executive Board.
- h) When necessary, elects a number of delegates according to bylaws to the World Congress, as well as two substitute delegates, who are elected separately.

**Article 350 “39”** – Amendments to the region’s internal bylaws:

- a) Must receive at least two-thirds of the votes of those who have the right to vote and are present during voting time at the regional representative meeting.
- b) Must be approved by the Central Board before going into effect.

**Article 351 “40”** – The regional representative meeting may amend the region’s internal bylaws, as long as the amendment was submitted, at least one month prior to the regional representative meeting, to the region’s chapters, and is discussed during chapter general membership meetings.

**Article 352** – The regional representative meeting also has the following duties:

- a) Listens to the audit and archival committees’ reports.
- b) Elects archival and auditing committees for the upcoming term of the region, each consisting of 3 or 5 members.

## WORLD CONGRESS

**Article 353 “41”** – The World Congress is the supreme legislative meeting of HOMENETMEN. It is convened once every four years, and its decisions are final and must be implemented by all HOMENETMEN regions, chapters, and entities.

**Article 354 “42”** – The following individuals participate in the World Congress with the right to vote:

- a) Elected delegates of regions (see Article 357 “45”).
- b) Elected delegates of megusi regions (see Article 357 “45”).
- c) A single representative from each Regional Executive Board and each Executive Board of Megusi Regions.
- d) A representative of the Central Board.

Note – A Megusi Region with fewer than 100 members will have only one representative to the World Congress, elected by the megusi general membership meeting.

**Article 355 “43”** – The following individuals participate in the World Congress in an advisory capacity:

- a) The remaining members of the Central Board.
- b) A representative from each of the committees appointed by the Central Board to serve four-year terms.

**Article 356 “44”** – The number of guests invited to the World Congress to participate in an advisory capacity may not exceed one-third of the number of voting participants. These guests are invited by the Central Board, based upon the list proposed by Regional and Megusi Executive Boards. The Central Board may, at its own behest, invite up to one-fourth of such guests.

**Article 357 “45”** – The number of delegates of regions sent to the World Congress is calculated as follows:

- a) Regions with 100-250 members: 1 delegate.
- b) Regions with 251-500 members: 2 delegates.
- c) Regions with 501-750 members: 3 delegates.
- d) Regions with 751-1,000 members: 4 delegates.
- e) Each region is allotted an additional delegate for each additional 1,000 members it has in excess of the first 1,000. For such purposes, any number of members above 500 is rounded up to 1,000.

**Article 358 “46”** – Regions are only allowed to participate in the World Congress if they have fulfilled all of their financial obligations.

**Article 359 “47”** – In order to participate in a World Congress:

- a) Delegates of regions must produce appropriate authentication documents provided to them by the divans of the meetings that have elected them.
- b) Representatives of the Executive Boards of Regions and Megusi Regions must also produce authentication documents, provided to them by their respective Executive Boards divans .

**Article 360 “48”** – Only individuals who have been members of HOMENETMEN for last ten years continuously may be elected as delegates to the World Congress.

**Article 361 “49”** – A World Congress will be official if majority of regions and elected delegates are present.

**Article 362 “50”** – The World Congress:

- a) Listens to the concise reports of all regions and megusi regions for the last four years.
- b) Examines and evaluates the outgoing Central Board based on its activities.
- c) Outlines a plan of activities for the term of the new Central Board.
- d) Prepares upcoming Central Board budget and determines regions dues.
- e) If needed amends Homenetmen general bylaws.
- f) Examines and resolves any pending issues of a region.
- g) Elects a new Central Board.

NOTE – Amendments to the Homenetmen general bylaws must receive at least two-thirds of available votes.

**Article 363 “51”** – World Congress may amend Homenetmen general bylaws as long as the amendment was submitted, at least four months prior to the World Congress to all regions and megusi regions and is discussed during regional representative and megusi general membership meetings.

**Article 364 “52”** – An irregular World Congress may be convened outside of the regular four-year schedule if:

- a) The Central Board requests the convening of a World Congress.
- b) Two-thirds of regions and megusi regions request the convening of a World Congress.

Note – In the latter case, Executive Board of a Region or a Megusi Region after the approval of their respective regional meetings must send their substantive reasoning to have a World Congress to the Central Board, which, in turn, sends the proposal with its observation to other regions and megusi regions, and receives feedback from them. If two-thirds of all regions and megusi regions agree with the necessity of convening an irregular World Congress, the Central Board schedules the World Congress as requested.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARDS, AUDITING COMMITTEES, AND ARCHIVAL COMMITTEES**

### **A. LEADERSHIP OF DIVISIONS**

**Article 365 – Division executive body consists of 3, 5, 7, or 9 members.**

**Article 366 – Division executive body must provide approved minutes of their meetings to their Chapter Executive Board.**

**Article 367 – At the request of Chapter Executive Board, division executive body must submit financial and activity reports, and list of properties to the Chapter Executive Board.**

**Article 368 – Division executive body is accountable to their Chapter Executive Board, as well as the general membership meeting of the division.**

**Article 369 – The division executive body receives a set amount of funding from its Chapter Executive Board, which can be replenished as necessary with additional funds from the Chapter Executive Board. Any funds, division executive body receives from events it organizes must be transferred to the Chapter Executive Board upon conclusion of events.**

**Article 370 – Division accounts are audited by the Chapter Executive Board.**

**Article 371 – Any member of Homenetmen who is at least 18 years old and who has been a member for at least one year may be elected to serve on the division executive body.**

**Article 372 – The division executive body must receive permission from its Chapter Executive Board prior to conducting events or activities outside the geographic borders of the chapter.**

**Article 373 – If a member of division executive body is unable to fulfill his or her duties; he/she is replaced by the Chapter Executive Board.**

**Note – A member of the organization cannot serve on more than one division executive body.**

### **B. CHAPTER EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Article 374 “53” – Each chapter is led by an Executive Board, which consists of 5, 7, 9, or 11 members. The general membership meeting of a chapter elects the Executive Board, through a secret ballot, and by a simple majority of votes. The Executive Board serves one year term.**

**Article 375 “54”** – Any member of a chapter who has been a member of Homenetmen for at least two years and has served at least one year on a council or a committee, can be elected to a Chapter’s Executive Board.

**Article 376 “55”** – If a Chapter Executive Board member vacates his or her seat for any reason, the Executive Board, with the approval of the Regional Executive Board, assigns a new member to take the vacated seat.

**Article 377 “56”** – Chapter Executive Board must be approved by the Regional Executive Board.

**Article 378 “57”** – A Chapter Executive Board oversees all activities of that chapter, within the guidelines established by Homenetmen’s general and region’s internal bylaws, as well as those established by the regional representative and the chapter general membership meetings.

**Article 379 “58”** – The Chapter Executive Board oversees the activities of the chapter committees and all meetings.

**Article 380 “59”** – Chapter Executive Boards must keep regular minutes, as well as files for correspondence, circulars and financial books, which along with a report of all activities of the Executive Board will be presented to chapter general membership meeting to which the Executive Board is collectively accountable.

**Article 381 “60”** – The Chapter Executive Board must, on a regular basis, submit to the Regional Executive Board:

- a) Minutes of meetings of Chapter Executive Board and general membership meeting.
- b) At the end of its term, a full report of all activities, including financial.

**Article 382 “61”** – If a member of a Chapter Executive Board commits an infraction that requires disciplinary action, that member is isolated and suspended from the board with the approval of two-thirds of the other members of the board. A report, explaining the alleged infraction, must immediately be submitted to the Regional Executive Board for adjudication.

**Article 383 “62”** – Each Chapter Executive Board must have its official stamp, which is supplied by the Regional Executive Board.

**Article 384 – Duties of the Chapter Executive Board:**

- a) **Within one month of its election, develop, a plan of actions for its one-year term, and implement the plan during its term.**
- b) **Regularly hold meetings and discuss all pertinent and relevant issues of the chapter during those meetings.**
- c) **Examine and approve membership applications based on the guidelines determined by the organization’s bylaws. The Executive Board is also responsible for examining and approving resignations and transfers of the members.**
- d) **Collect membership dues and organize financially profitable events to cover chapter expenses.**
- e) **Transfer chapter's dues to the Regional Executive Board within the timeframe assigned by Regional Executive Board.**

- f) Appoint liaisons from board members to attend meetings of division executive bodies.
- g) Appoint the chapter's scouting council, which functions until the conclusion of the board's term.
- h) Appoint the chapter scout master, which, after receiving the approval of the Regional Executive Board, functions for the duration of the Chapter's Executive Board.
- i) Confirm division executive body, and to oversee their activities through appointed liaisons to the divisions.
- j) In exceptional situations, Chapter's Executive Board appoints the division executive body.
- k) Convene a general membership meeting at the conclusion of its one-year term.

**Article 385 – Each Chapter Executive Board must submit to its Regional Executive Board a report of activities and financial report approved by the general membership meeting, as well as copies of the reports of the archival and auditory committees that were delivered during the general membership meeting. Also submit to the Regional Executive Board the status of decisions taken during the previous general membership meeting and an inventory of all properties.**

**Article 386 – The Executive Board of a chapter is accountable to its Regional Executive Board and to its general membership meeting.**

**Article 387 – The Executive Board of a chapter is responsible for implementing all decisions and orders of its Regional Executive Board.**

**Article 388 – The Executive Board of a chapter may object to decisions of its Regional Executive Board. However, if the decision is affirmed after the protest, the implementation of that decision becomes mandatory.**

**Article 389 –The Executive Board of a chapter may organize events within the geographic borders of other chapter only with the approval of that chapter.**

**Article 390 – The Executive Board of a chapter must receive the permission of the Regional Executive Board before organizing any events outside of the geographic borders of the region. Similarly, the Executive Board of a chapter must receive the permission of the Regional Executive Board before inviting an individual or a group from outside the region.**

**Article 391 –The Executive Board of a chapter may, in the name of HOMENETMEN, award a prize to an individual who is not a Homenetmen member, only after the approval of the Regional Executive Board.**

### **C. AUDITING AND ARCHIVAL COMMITTEES OF A CHAPTER**

**Article 392 – The duties of a chapter's auditory committee are:**

- a) Audit the accounts of the chapter at least once every six months.

- b) Present during the year, audited financial statements to the Executive Board of the Chapter and the same to the general membership meeting at the end of the Chapter Executive Board's term.
- c) Make observations about accounting procedures and corrective suggestions to the Chapter Executive Board during the term, and if those suggestions were not implemented will be reported to the general membership meeting.

**Article 393** – The report presented by the auditing committee must include the budget approved by previous general membership meeting, as well as comparison and actual financial activities of the chapter with the budget.

**Article 394** – The auditing committee also examines chapter's properties, estates, debts and receivables.

**Article 395** – The Executive Board of a chapter may, at any time, request that the auditing committee audit the chapter's accounts.

**Article 396** – One month prior to the general membership meeting, the archival committee must review and record the archival findings and report them to the general membership meeting.

#### **MEGUSI REGION EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Article 397 "63"**– Each megusi region is led by an Executive Board, which consists of 5, 7, 9, or 11 members. The general membership meeting of a megusi region elects the Executive Board, through a secret ballot and by a simple majority of votes. The Executive Board serves one or two year's term.

**Article 398 "64"** – Any member of a megusi region who has been a member of Homenetmen for at least two years, and has served at least one year on a council or a committee, can be elected to a Megusi Region's Executive Board.

**Article 399 "65"** – If a Megusi Region Executive Board member vacates his or her seat for any reason, the Executive Board, with the approval of the Central Board, assigns a new member to take the vacated seat.

**Article 400 "66"** – Megusi Region Executive Board must be approved by the Central Board.

**Article 401 "67"** – A Megusi Region Executive Board oversees all activities of that region, within the guidelines established by Homenetmen's general and region's internal bylaws, as well as those established by World Congress and megusi general membership meeting.

**Article 402 "68"** – The Megusi Region Executive Board oversees the activities of the region committees and all meetings.

**Article 403 "69"** – Megusi Region Executive Board must keep regular minutes, as well as files for correspondence, circulars and financial books, which along with a report of all activities of the Executive

Board will be presented to megusi general membership meeting to which the Executive Board is collectively accountable.

**Article 404 "70"** – The Megusi Region Executive Board must, on a regular basis, submit to the Central Board:

- a) Minutes of meetings of Megusi Region Executive Board and megusi general membership meeting.
- b) At the end of its term, a full report of all activities, including financial.

**Article 405 "71"** – The Executive Board of Megusi Region must have its official stamp, letterhead, and envelope.

**Article 406 "72"** – If a member of a Megusi Region Executive Board commits an infraction that requires disciplinary action, that member is isolated and suspended from the Board with the approval of two-thirds of the other members of the Board. A report, explaining the alleged infraction, must immediately be submitted to the Central Board for adjudication.

**Article 407 "73"** – The Regional and Megusi Region Executive Boards can organize multi-region scouting and athletic events only with the approval of the Central Board.

**Article 408 "74"** – The Regional and Megusi Region Executive Boards are obliged to transfer the dues set by World Congress to Central Board on yearly basis.

## **REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Article 409 "75"** – Each region is led by an Executive Board, which consists of 5, 7, 9, or 11 members. The representative meeting of a region elects the Executive Board, through a secret ballot and by a simple majority of votes. The Executive Board serves two years term.

**Article 410 "76"** – Any member of Homenetmen who has been a member of Homenetmen for at least five years and has served at least two years on a Chapter Executive Board or regional council or committee can be elected to Regional Executive Board.

**NOTE - Within Homenetmen Western United States Region, in addition to above requirements a member must be at least 25 years old to be elected to Regional Executive Board.**

**Article 411 "77"** – If a Regional Executive Board member vacates his or her seat for any reason, the Executive Board, with the approval of the Central Board, assigns a new member to take the vacated seat.

**Article 412 "78"** – A member may be elected to the Regional Executive Board for two consecutive terms, and must then step down. After conclusion of a full term (two years), the same member can be re-elected to the Regional Executive Board for another two terms.

**Article 413 “79”** – Regional Executive Board must be approved by the Central Board.

**Article 414 “80”** – A Regional Executive Board oversees all activities of that region, within the guidelines established by Homenetmen’s general and region’s internal bylaws, as well as those established by World Congress and representative meetings. Regional Executive Board pursues establishment of new chapters.

**Article 415 – Regional Executive Board appoints –**

- a) **Regional scouting council.**
- b) **Regional senior scout master.**
- c) **Regional scout masters (male and female).**
- d) **Regional athletic council.**
- e) **Other regional committees, as necessary.**
- f) **All appointments must be made within four months of the election of Regional Executive Board.**

**Article 416 “81”** – The Regional Executive Board oversees the activities of all entities and meetings that are accountable to it.

**Article 417 “82”** – Regional Executive Board must keep regular minutes, as well as files for correspondence, circulars and financial books, which along with a report of all activities of the Executive Board will be presented to the regional representative meeting to which the Executive Board is collectively accountable.

**Article 418 “83”** – The Regional Executive Board must, on a regular basis, submit to the Central Board:

- a) Minutes of meetings of Regional Executive Board and representative meeting.
- b) Copies of all circulars it issues.
- c) At the end of its term, a full report of all activities, including financial.

**Article 419 “84”** – The Regional Executive Board has the right to send a representative to examine the activities including financial of the chapters within its jurisdiction to resolve internal issues and to provide appropriate guidance.

**Article 420 “85”** – A Regional Executive Board has the power to dissolve a chapter’s executive board in the case of financial mismanagement, dormancy, indifference and for egregious behavior resulting in chapter internal discord.

In such cases, the regional executive board must immediately appoint a provisional Executive Board for the chapter, whose first priority must be the convening of a general membership meeting of the chapter within three months.

**NOTE - Within Homenetmen Western United States Region, the above chapter’s general membership meeting has to elect a new Chapter Executive Board.**

**Article 421 “86”** – In exceptional circumstances, the Regional Executive Board has the power to appoint an Executive Board to lead a chapter.

**Article 422 “87”** – Regional Executive Boards may appoint any member of Homenetmen to their committees after consultations with the appropriate Chapter Executive Boards of these members.

**Article 423** – Regional Executive Boards must receive the approval of local chapters prior to appointing any members of those chapters to Regional Executive committees.

**Article 424 “88”** – Regional Executive Boards may hire an administrator to oversee daily activities. This decision must be approved by the regional representative meeting.

**Article 425 “89”** – Only Regional Executive Board may organize inter-chapter events, scouting camps and athletic competitions within its region.  
In some circumstances, Regional Executive Board may give to any chapter the authority to organize such an event.

**Article 426 “90”** – Regional and Megusi Executive Boards may organize inter-regional scouting and athletic events with the approval of the Central Board.

**Article 427 “91”** – Regional Executive and Megusi Executive Boards must, on a regular yearly basis, transfer to the Central Board a sum pre-determined by the World Congress that originates from members’ membership fees.

**Article 428 “92”** – If a member of a Regional Executive Board commits an infraction that requires disciplinary action, that member is isolated and suspended from the Board with the approval of two-thirds of the other members of the Board. A report, explaining the alleged infraction, must immediately be submitted to the Central Board for adjudication.

## **E. REGIONAL AUDITING AND ARCHIVAL COMMITTEES**

**Article 429** – The duties of the regional auditing committee are:

- a) **Audit the accounts of the Regional Executive Board at least once a year.**
- b) **Present during the year, audited financial statements to the Regional Executive Board and the same to the regional representative meeting at the end of the Regional Executive Board’s term.**
- c) **Make observations about accounting procedures and corrective suggestions to the Regional Executive Board during the term, and if those suggestions were not implemented will be reported to the regional representative meeting for approval.**

**Article 430** – The auditing committee also examines region’s properties, estates, debts and receivables.

**Article 431** – One month prior to the representative meeting, the archival committee must review and record the archival findings and report them to the representative meeting

## THE CENTRAL BOARD

**Article 432 “93”** – The Central Board of Homenetmen is the supreme executive body of Homenetmen.

**Article 433 “94”** – The Central Board is elected by the World Congress through a secret ballot and by a simple majority of votes. The Central Board can consist of 7, 9, 11, or 13 members, and serves a four year term.

**Article 434 “95”** – If a Central Board member vacates his or her seat for any reason, the Central Board, assigns a new member to take the vacated seat.

**Article 435 “96”** – A member may be elected to the Central Board for two consecutive terms, and must then step down. After conclusion of a full term (four years), the same member can be re-elected to the Central Board for another two terms.

**Article 436 “97”** – Any member of Homenetmen who has been a member of Homenetmen for at least ten years and has served as a Regional Executive Board member or regional committee member or pursued by a relevant position can be elected to Central Board.

**Article 437 “98”** – The Central Board is the sole entity with the right to interpret Homenetmen’s general bylaws and the decisions of the World Congress.

**Article 438 “99”** – The Central Board implements the decisions of the World Congress and oversees the implementation of these decisions within regions.

**Article 439 “100”** – The Central Board must ensure that internal bylaws of regions, decisions taken by regional representative meetings, and the activities of Regional Executive Boards do not contradict Homenetmen’s general bylaws and the decisions taken by the World Congress.

**Article 440 “101”** – At the request of regions, or by its own decision, the Central Board may appoint representatives to regions for Homenetmen activities with specific duties.

**Article 441 “102”** – Central Board must keep regular minutes, as well as files for correspondence, circulars and financial books, which along with a report of all activities of the board will be presented to the World Congress to which the Central Board is collectively accountable.

**Article 442 “103”** – Only the Central Board may organize Homenetmen-wide meetings, events, camping trips for scouts, and athletic competitions, with the collaboration of local regions or megusi regions.

**Article 443 “104”** – Central Board may appoint any member of Homenetmen to their committees after consultations with the appropriate Region Executive Boards of these members.

**Article 444 “105”** – At the end of its four year term, the Central Board announces a World Congress, and sends its agenda to Regional and Megusi Executive Boards at least six months prior to the beginning of the World Congress.

**Article 445 “106”** – In exceptional cases, the Central Board may dissolve a Regional or Megusi Executive Board and appoint a new Regional or Megusi Executive Board to replace it.

The appointed Regional or Megusi Executive Board is then obligated to convene a regional representative meeting or megusi general membership meeting within six months of its appointment, in order to elect a new Regional or Megusi Executive Board.

## **GENERAL REGULATIONS**

**Article 446 “107”** – All regions and megusi regions of Homenetmen must have their own internal bylaws that reflect local conditions. These internal bylaws must be established during the appropriate regional representative or megusi general membership meetings and must be approved by the Central Board.

**Article 447 “108”** – Homenetmen has two medals, one **“For Service”** and one **“For Merit.”** Additionally, the organization has the **“Exemplary”** insignia. Each of these prizes has its own specific guidelines.

**Article 448 “109”** – All athletes of Homenetmen must display on their uniforms, the **shield** of the organization on the left side of the chest.

**Article 449 “110”** – A member who serves on a Homenetmen Executive Board may not receive financial remuneration for his/her services, otherwise loses his/her position.

**Article 450 “111”** – The Central Board has the authority to interpret Homenetmen general bylaws and organizational rules.

**Article 451 “112”** – Regional Executive Boards have the authority to interpret their internal bylaws regarding that region’s internal bylaws and organizational rules.

**Article 452 “113”** – Only Homenetmen World Congress has the right to make amendments to the general bylaws.

## **VOTING**

**Article 453 “114”** – All members of HOMENETMEN who are above the age of 18 and have been members of the organization for at least six months have the right to vote.

**Article 454 “115”** – All elections are conducted by secret ballot.

The number of abstentions and spoiled ballots are deducted from the number of total votes available in determining majorities, unless the number of abstentions/spoiled ballots exceeds half of the total votes.

A simple majority is defined as more than half of all available votes (after abstentions and spoiled ballots are taken out).

## **SOURCES OF FUNDING**

**Article 455 “116”** – The sources of income for the organization include yearly membership dues, membership enrollment fees, income from events and competitions, gifts, fundraising, trusts, and various permanent sources of funds.

**Article 456 “117”** – Executive Boards are forbidden from using the resources of the organization for commercial benefit for their chapters or regions. Exceptions may be made with the approval of higher-ranking Boards and meetings that have jurisdiction over the pertinent Executive Board.

**Article 457 “118”** – If a chapter intends to organize a financially profitable event within the borders of another chapter, prior approval from that Chapter and the Regional Executive Boards must be obtained.

**Article 458 “119”** – Executive Boards may not contribute organizational funds to any events outside of the organization. In exceptional cases, approval from a higher ranking Board must be obtained.

**Article 459 “120”** – Executive Boards cannot lend funds to any individual (member or not) or organizations. In exceptional cases, approval from a higher ranking Board must be obtained.

**Article 460 “121”** – Executive Boards may receive loans or mortgage their property only with the approval of the pertinent higher-ranking Board.

**Article 461 – HOMENETMEN in the Western United States is a NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION. Hence, it can have financial transactions with the knowledge and approval of the Regional Executive Board.**

## **ACCOUNTING**

**Article 462 “122”** – All entities must issue corresponding receipts for all funds they receive. These receipts must be signed by the entity’s treasurer.

**Article 463 “123”** – All Boards must keep their accounts in accordance with accounting principles.

**NOTE - Within Western United States Region, the Regional Executive Board present's its chapters and its financial transactions to US Internal Revenue Service on annual basis.**

**Article 464 “124”** – It is forbidden to use any restricted fund for purposes other than those for which they were earmarked.

## ATHLETICS

**Article 465 “125”** – All athletic competitions must have their own internal bylaws, which must be approved by the appropriate Executive Board.

**Article 466** – Within the Homenetmen Western United States Region, the athletic internal bylaws is part of the regions’ internal bylaws.

## PROPERTY AND ESTATES

**Article 467 “126”** – Each Executive Board must have an inventory of its properties, all of which must be indexed and appropriately detailed.

**Article 468 “127”** – All real estate and immovable properties (athletic venues, gymnasiums, clubs, etc), with the approval of the Central Board, must be registered with the relevant governmental agencies under the name of the local Executive Board. In special circumstances, such properties will be left to the Central Board's decision.

**Article 469 “128”** – Properties may be sold with the approval of the local general membership meeting or regional representative meeting and the approval of pertinent higher ranking Board.

**Article 470 “129”** – If a chapter is dissolved, all of its movable and immovable properties and rights are transferred to the pertinent higher ranking Executive Board.

## DISCIPLINARY

**Article 471 “130”** – Members of HOMENETMEN are considered to have breached discipline if –

- a) They are found to be in contravention to the organization’s rules and the decisions of the organization’s World Congresses.
- b) They refuse to submit to the decisions of Regional or Chapter Executive Boards.
- c) They do not pay their membership dues.
- d) They are regularly absent from scheduled meetings.
- e) They actively undermine or sabotage the efforts of the organization’s executive entities.
- f) They initiate public petitions to solve issues unconstitutionally.
- g) They appropriate funds or property belonging to the organization.

Note – criticism of the organization’s entities and their activities is only permissible during appropriate meetings.

**Article 472 “131”** – Punishments for breaches of discipline include –

- a) Verbal warnings.
- b) Reprimand.
- c) Suspension of voting rights.
- d) Suspension of the right to elect or be elected.
- e) Suspension from the organization.
- f) Dismissal from the organization.
- g) Expulsion from the organization.

**Article 473 “132”** – In terms of breaches of discipline, members are accountable before whatever Board they have committed the infractions against.

**Article 474 “133”** – In all cases, before punishment decisions are made, the members must be given the right to defend themselves.

**Article 475 “134”** – All decisions to impose punishment on members must receive a two-thirds majority of votes.

**Article 476 “135”** – All disciplinary decisions made by Executive Boards and meetings are final, unless there is an appeal. Appeals may only be made to a higher-ranking Board. Decisions taken by meetings and Boards are final.

**Notes –**

- a) A member accused of an infraction, loses the privilege of having a disciplinary decisions appealed to a higher-ranking Board or meeting if he or she protests the decision in a public forum or newspapers.
- b) The member’s written request for an appeal is presented to a higher-ranking Board or meeting through the Board or the meeting that has imposed the disciplinary decision.
- c) Decisions to rescind disciplinary action must be taken by a two-thirds majority of votes.

**Article 477 “136”** – Disciplinary decisions may be appealed for up to two months from the date these decisions were communicated to affected members. Appeals may be examined directly by the Board or meeting to which appeal requests are addressed, or by a disciplinary committee organized by that Board or meeting.

**Article 478 “137”** – A decision to dismiss member from HOMENETMEN may only be taken by Regional Executive Board, and communicated to the membership of Homenetmen by the Central Board according to established channels of communication.

**Article 479 “138”** – A decision to expel a member from HOMENETMEN may only be taken by the Central Board, and is communicated to the membership of Homenetmen by the Central Board according to established channels of communication.

**Article 480 “139”** – Members who are frequently absent from meetings are first warned verbally, and then reprimanded if their conduct does not change.

**Article 481 “140”** – A member who does not pay his or her membership dues for one year loses the right to elect or be elected privileges. A member who does not pay membership dues for three consecutive years, his or her membership seizes from the organization.

**Article 482 “141”** – Members who refuse to obey the bylaws, disobey Boards’ instructions, illegally criticizes, produces petitions are suspended by appropriate Boards or meetings.

Note –

- a) A suspended member is temporarily considered to be a non-member, hence will not participate in general meetings or be a member of committees or Executive Board.
- b) Suspensions will not exceed one year in duration.
- c) At the conclusion of a suspension period, the member regains all membership rights and privileges.

**Article 483 “142”** – Suspended members are not exempt from their financial obligations toward the organization.

**Article 484 “143”** – Members who actively oppose the ideology of the organization, receive multiple disciplinary punishments, appropriate the funds and property of the organization must be dismissed, and in extreme cases are expelled.

Note – Dismissed member, after two years from the date of his/her dismissal, may submit a written application for re-enrollment to the body or meeting who took the decision. It is that body or meeting prerogative whether or not to accept the re-enrollment of the dismissed member.

#### **REGULATIONS OF REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES, CHAPTER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP AND DIVISION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

**Article 485 –**

- a) Elected tivan will conduct the meeting when the meeting has the agenda of evaluating Board activities, electing new Board or electing representatives to regional representative meeting.
- b) Board tivan will conduct the meeting, when the agenda does not include items mentioned above.
- c) Division general membership meeting is conducted by the representative of division or Chapter Executive Board, when the meeting agenda does not include the evaluation of the executive body or election of a new executive body.

Note – Members of accountable bodies cannot serve on tivans.

**Article 486 –** The tivan will keep the minutes of the meetings, attaching all documents, the original of which will be submitted to the newly elected body and a copy of them to the higher body.

**Article 487 – Within ten days after the conclusion of the meeting the tivan will invite the first meeting of newly elected bodies to elect their tivans and provide them with the duties and authorities established by the meeting as well as all documents and insure that transfers between incumbent and newly elected Boards are complete.**

**Article 488 – If the tivan fails to invite elected bodies within mentioned timeframe, any elected member must contact higher body.**

**Article 489 – If during general membership meeting after resignation of the Executive Board, a new Executive Board is not elected the same day, the issue will be handed to the Regional Executive Board, who, after hearing the report of the general membership meeting tivan, will make a decision.**

## **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

**Article 490 – The most essential entity of HOMENETMEN Western United States Region is troop/team.**

- a) Several scouting troops, together, constitute a scouting unit. Several scouting units, together, constitute a scouting division.**
- b) Several athletic teams of same sport, together, constitute an athletic unit, and several athletic units, together, constitute an athletic division.**
- c) Outside the realms of scouting and athletics, members with identical goals may come together to create a unit, and several units together may constitute a division.**
- d) Several divisions working within the same city constitute a chapter, and several chapters, together, constitute a region.**

**Article 491 – Each member of HOMENETMEN must participate in a minimum of one troop/team.**

**Article 492 – All Boards and leadership entities must have a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, a treasurer, a controller, and a procurer.**

**END**