

2026 Changes to FreeWheelers Chapter Bylaws – 5/1/2026

Chapter Bylaws and Rules Style Guide

- In accordance with modern style guides, use of capitalization is minimized.
- The words chapter, members, membership, officers and the officer titles are not capitalized except in headers or where it's used in an article, section or item title, or in the title of a document (see below).
- The title of documents such as Chapter Bylaws or Chapter Rules use capitalization.
- This version of the Bylaws has been rewritten in clearer language so it will be easier to read and understand.

List of Changes

- **Article II, Section 3.** Add in the new Mission Statement.
- **Article IV, Section 1, Item a.** Implements the 2-year terms that were voted on and approved by members in fall 2023.
- **Article IV, Section 1, Item c.** Reiterated the contents of Article V, Section 4, in this section. This section allows defining title and duties of all officers besides president, secretary and treasurer in the Chapter Rules.
- **Article IV, Section 2.** Added a Board Duties section, defining the overall duties of the board.
- **Article IV, Section 3.** This section has been subdivided into 4 parts:
 - **Item a.** Largely the same as the previous version of Section 3 but contains minor edits and compliance changes that are required by (and pre-approved by) the national Board.
 - **Item b.** (Same as previous version) Allows this process to be used to fill any board vacancy.
 - **Item c.** (Proposed) Expands on the previous version of the bylaws and specifically allows the the board to appoint someone to complete the term of a board member who resigns.

- **Item d.** Added a section allowing the board to add, remove, split or amend the duties of each officer position as needed for effective governance.
- **Article V, Section 1.** – Made a few updates to president’s duties.
- **Article V, Section 2.** – Updated the secretary’s duties.
- **Article V, Section 3.** – Made two additions to the treasurer’s duties.
- **Article V, Section 4** – Amended this section on additional officers since this is now stated in Article IV, Section 1, but it’s useful to reiterate in this article on Officer Duties that the duties for all other officers are defined in the Chapter Rules.
- **Article VII, Section 1** – Removed reference to absentee ballots. This is no longer required with the availability of electronic voting prior to the meeting.
- **Article VII, Section 2** - Adds a recommendation (but not a requirement) that the elections be staggered so that only half of the board members are replaced each year. Approved by members in 2024.
- **Article VII, Section 3** – Amended the wording to be specific about the date the new board members start.
- **Article X, Section 2** – Simplified this section and removed reference to absentee ballots. This is no longer required with the availability of electronic voting prior to the meeting.
- **Article X, Section 4** – Wording clarification differentiating chapter and RVW committees.
- **Article XI, Section 2** – Refined the section on amending Chapter Rules to allow the board to amend rules that do not directly affect members, such as defining the title and duties of officer positions that are not defined in the bylaws. This section does not affect the ability of the membership to approve or decline changes that directly affect them by a two-thirds vote.