

2026 BLS BY-LAWS

Ballroom, Latin & Swing Social Dance Association

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ARTICLE I: ORGANIZATION

Section 1: The name of the organization is Ballroom, Latin & Swing Social Dance Association ("BLS" and/or "the Association").

Section 2: The Association is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit organization.

Monies collected can be used only for the specific objectives of the Association. In the event the 501(c)(4) organization is dissolved, any Association assets will be distributed to another 501(c) organization to be designated by the BLS Board of Directors.

Section 3: BLS is organized according to these By-Laws and a set of Standing Rules. Board of Directors meetings and all Association membership meetings are conducted according to "Robert's Rules of Order" (latest version) and where such rules are consistent with these By-Laws.

ARTICLE II: OBJECTIVE

The Ballroom, Latin & Swing Social Dance Association promotes ballroom dance by providing quality social dance opportunities in a welcoming, enthusiastic atmosphere and by conducting other activities that promote the enjoyment of ballroom dance.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP and DUES

Section 1: Membership is extended to all persons who are interested in ballroom dancing.

Section 2: No person is denied membership because of race, color, creed, or national origin.

Section 3: Annual dues of the Association are \$30 for individuals and \$50 for any two individuals residing at the same address. Membership expires each year in September. Members who join in mid-year pay a pro-rated fee.

Annual dues for charter members are \$24 for individuals and \$40 for any two individuals residing at the same address. Individuals accepted for membership as of December 31, 1993 are charter members.

Section 4: Complimentary BLS memberships for members of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs continue as long as the member is serving.

ARTICLE IV: ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Section 1: The Association is governed by a Board of Directors that is elected and/or appointed from the BLS membership. The Board conducts all Association business and reports its actions to the membership on a regular basis, operating the Association and its activities for the enjoyment of the membership.

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The Board has 7 (seven) members -- four (4) Officers and three (3) at-large Directors -- who are expected to attend all regular Board meetings. Any Board member may also serve as chair of a Standing Committee. Duties and Responsibilities of Standing Committees are outlined in the Standing Rules.

Section 2: The Board of Directors maintains, updates, and publishes as necessary the BLS Standing Rules, and may amend the Standing Rules at any regularly scheduled Board meeting upon a majority affirmative vote. Any Board member or Association member in good standing may introduce a proposed change to the Standing Rules by submitting the item to the Board of Directors for Board approval at least two weeks before the next regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.

Section 3a: Elections for the Board of Directors are held at the Annual General Membership Meeting each November.

Each year before the General Membership Meeting and Board elections the President appoints a Board member to chair the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee Chairman recruits at least two non-Board members who are Association members in good standing to form the Nominating Committee. This Committee identifies potential candidates for that year's open Board of Directors positions. The Nominating Committee presents potential candidates first to the Board and then to the Association membership for election.

Section 3b: Any Association member in good standing may be elected (or appointed) to the Board of Directors. Two members residing at the same address may serve on the Board at any time.

Section 3c: Installation of new Directors and election of Officers are the first agenda items at the Board of Directors meeting in December after the Annual General Membership Meeting and Board Elections.

Section 4: Board members may serve two consecutive two-year terms. Any Board member may serve unlimited additional terms upon Board approval.

Section 5: The President, after consulting with the Board of Directors, appoints replacements for Board, Officer, and Standing Committee Chair vacancies caused by illness, resignation, or removal for non-attendance. Appointees serve until the term they fulfill has expired, and may run for any open Board position after the appointed term ends.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Association Officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

All BLS Officers and Committee Chairpersons resolve to be positive and enthusiastic, as enthusiasm and attitude set the tone of the Association.

Duties and responsibilities are:

Section 1: President: The President shall:

- Provide effective leadership
- Preside at all meetings
- Serve as a liaison to the membership and the community at large
- Appoints committees (standing, special, and ad hoc) as necessary to conduct BLS business
- Call meetings of the Board of Directors as required to conduct Association business
- Serve on the Board of the Central Arkansas Dance Association (CADA); attend all CADA meetings or appoint a proxy (BLS member in good standing) to attend to represent BLS
- Perform or assign other duties as necessary for the efficient working of the Association

Section 2: Vice-President: The Vice President shall

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- Preside at meetings in the absence of or at the request of the President
- Coordinate all administrative activities and committee functions (including notifying special and ad hoc committees of appointments and duties)
- Count votes during elections at Association meetings
- Provide information on policy changes to all Board members
- Serve on the Board of the Central Arkansas Dance Association (CADA); attend all CADA meetings or appoint a proxy (BLS member in good standing) to attend to represent BLS
- Assume the duties of the President should the President be unavailable

Section 3: Secretary: The Secretary shall:

- Keep minutes of all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors
- Furnish copies of the minutes of the last Board of Directors meeting
- Report on the minutes of the last Association meeting when necessary
- Keep a permanent record of all motions made and carried
- File all documents and correspondence belonging to the Association
- Ensure that all members are notified of Association meetings
- Be custodian of any other official documents and items pertaining to the legal operations of the Association
- Be custodian of the By-Laws, Standing Rules and any other guidelines pertaining to Association activities by keeping an Association book containing these documents

Section 4: Treasurer: The Treasurer shall:

- Receive all funds and issue receipts for the same
- Make all disbursements authorized by the Association and/or the Board of Directors
- Keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements
- Keep the Association's checkbook, and make all deposits and withdrawals to the Association's bank account
- Ensure that current signature cards are on file with the Association's bank
- Provide an itemized written financial report to the Board of Directors at each meeting and to the Association on request
- Submit books for audit at the close of each term or on the request of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS and QUORUMS

Section 1: The Annual General Membership Meeting and Board of Directors elections are held at a regularly scheduled dance each November. The Board of Directors may schedule other regular Association meetings as necessary. The membership will be notified of the Annual General Membership Meeting and all other Association meetings at least 30 (thirty) days before the meeting date. Association meetings are conducted per the BLS Standing Rules. Robert's Rules of Order shall apply to all questions of procedure.

Section 2: The membership may call a regular Association meeting at any time by presenting to the Board of Directors a petition signed by 60% (sixty percent) of the total Association membership. The Board of Directors schedules an Association meeting called by the membership between 30 (thirty) days and 60 (sixty) days after the petition is presented to the Board.

Section 3: The Board of Directors meets at least monthly. Board members are notified of regular Board

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meetings at least seven (7) days in advance. The President may call emergency meetings upon a 48-hour verbal notice to Board members.

Section 4: Association members in good standing may attend Board of Directors meetings; however, only Board members vote on issues presented to the Board. The member is responsible to determine the date and time of Board of Directors meetings by contacting a Board member.

Section 5a: At any Association meeting, 25% (twenty-five percent) of the total Association membership constitutes a quorum to conduct official business. At Board of Directors meetings, four (4) Directors are required to conduct official business.

Section 5b: At any Association meeting, a simple majority of votes cast is required to approve official business.

Section 5c: At a Board of Directors meeting, at least four (4) votes is required for Board approval. A tie vote simply means the matter did not pass Board approval.

ARTICLE VII: BY-LAWS AMENDMENT PROCESS

Section 1: Amendments can be proposed by the Board of Directors or by Association members in good standing. The Board of Directors collects and submits proposed amendments for the membership to approve at the next regular Association meeting.

Section 2: Association members must present proposed amendments to the Board of Directors at least 30 (thirty) days before the next regular Association meeting so those proposed amendment(s) may be added to the meeting agenda for membership approval.

Section 3: The Board of Directors communicates and discusses its own proposed amendment(s) at Board meetings, after which those items can be added to a regular Association meeting agenda for membership approval.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT / TEXT REFERENCE	DETAILS
<p><i>AMENDMENT 1</i> <i>(Article I, "Organization," Section 2)</i></p>	<p>In the event of the dissolution of BLS, any assets of the Association will be distributed to another 501(c) organization, that organization to be designated by the BLS Board of Directors.</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and membership as of February 24, 1995.</p>
<p><i>AMENDMENT 2</i> <i>(Article III, "Membership and Dues," Section 3)</i></p> <p>** RESCINDED ** see AMENDMENT #12</p>	<p>The dues of the Association are \$30 per 12-month period for individuals and \$50 per 12-month period for any two persons residing at the same address. Membership expires the following year at the end of the month in which the member originally joined. Charter members dues of the Association shall be \$24 per 12-month period for individuals and \$40 per 12-month period for any two persons residing at the same address. The effective date of this change to be retroactive to January 21, 1996.</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and membership with the second reading at the Association's November 10, 2000 Annual General Membership Meeting.</p> <p>RATIONALE for repealing Amendment #2: Dues from 1996 were updated, and annual membership renewal cycle changed.</p>
<p><i>AMENDMENT 3</i> <i>(Article V, "Officers," Section 2.c.)</i></p> <p>** RESCINDED ** see AMENDMENT #9</p>	<p>Installation of new Directors and election of Officers may take place as the first order of business at the first Board of Directors meeting in</p> <p>following the Association's November election meeting. Officers of the Association shall be Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board will select Association Officers from their own number at the first Board of Directors meeting in January after election. <i>One person may fill the offices of Secretary and Treasurer subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.</i> BLS Board members resolve to be positive and enthusiastic, as enthusiasm and attitude set the tone of the Association.</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and membership with the second reading at the Association's November 10, 2006 Annual General Membership Meeting.</p> <p>RATIONALE for repealing Amendment #3: Names of primary officers changed from "Chairman" and "Vice Chairman" to "President" and "Vice President."</p>

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AMENDMENT / TEXT REFERENCE	DETAILS
<p><i>AMENDMENT 4</i> (Article V, “Dues and Assessments,” Section 2.b.)</p>	<p>Any Association member in good standing may be elected to the Board. In addition, two members of a single household may serve on the Board at any time. This amendment to become effective June 1, 2015.</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and membership at the Association's March 13, 2015, Special Membership Meeting.</p>
<p><i>AMENDMENT 5</i> (Article IV, “Organizational Structure,” Section 2)</p> <p>** RESCINDED ** see AMENDMENT #7</p>	<p>The Board shall maintain, update, and publish as necessary the Standing Rules of the Association. The Standing Rules may be amended by either:</p> <p>a) the Board of Directors, or b) a general vote of the membership as outlined below.</p> <p>a. If the Standing Rules are amended by the Board of Directors, the proposed amendment must be published at least two weeks prior to a general membership meeting, at which the proposed amendment must be ratified by a majority of the members present.</p> <p>b. Any Association member in good standing may propose an amendment to the Standing Rules. The proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors at least one (1) week prior to a Board of Directors meeting. The proposed amendment shall be discussed at the Board of Directors meeting and the Board of Directors shall publish the proposed amendment, along with a Board of Directors recommendation concerning the proposed amendment, in the next Association newsletter. The proposed amendment shall be placed before a vote of the general Association membership at the next regularly scheduled meeting. If the proposed amendment receives a majority vote of the members present at the next regularly scheduled meeting, it becomes effective immediately. This Section replaced the sentence, "The Board shall create, maintain and update, as necessary, the Standing Rules of the Association."</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and membership at the Association's June 8, 2007 Semi-Annual General Membership Meeting.</p> <p>RATIONALE for repealing Amendment #5: Amendment #5 says the membership must approve changes to the Standing Rules. The Standing Rules govern the day-to-day operation of the Association. BLS moved to a new venue in July 2018 named The Ballroom on Shackelford (TBOS) and combined with the Little Rock Bop Club (aka Diamond State Dance Club) and Little Rock County Dancers to form the Central Arkansas Dance Association (CADA). It is important that the BLS Standing Rules are easily modified to adapt to future changes as CADA continues to search for a large dance venue. The Association requires the flexibility to amend Standing Rules to ensure that dances and other events are conducted smoothly and continuously. See also RATIONALE in Amendment #7.</p>

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AMENDMENT / TEXT REFERENCE	DETAILS
<p><i>AMENDMENT 6</i> <i>(Article III, "Membership and Dues," Section 1.b.)</i></p> <p>** RESCINDED ** see AMENDMENT #16</p>	<p>Members of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons may receive complimentary membership while in office or serving on a committee. Members must have been paying members prior to serving. The complimentary memberships will begin on January 1st and end on December 31st of the year in which the member is serving, regardless of when the member's annual membership expires. This Article is retroactive to January 1, 2008.</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and membership with the first reading at the Association's June 6, 2008 Semi-Annual General Membership Meeting.</p> <p>RATIONALE for repealing Amendment #6: Length and timing of complimentary memberships was changed in 2025 By-Laws to align with annual membership renewal cycle each September.</p>
<p><i>AMENDMENT 7</i> <i>(Article VI, "Organizational Structure," Section 1)</i></p>	<p>The Board shall maintain, update, and publish as necessary the Standing Rules of the Association. The Board of Directors may amend the Standing Rules at any regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and the membership at the November 22, 2019 Annual General Membership Meeting.</p> <p>** THIS AMENDMENT RESCINDS AMENDMENT #5 **</p>
<p><i>AMENDMENT 8</i> <i>(Article III, "Organizational Structure," Section 2.b.)</i></p>	<p>Board members may serve two consecutive two-year terms. However, Board members may serve unlimited additional terms upon Board approval.</p> <p>This Amendment replaces the sentence "After two consecutive two-year terms, Board members may be elected to serve another term after they have been off the Board for one year."</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and the membership at the November 22, 2019 Annual General Membership Meeting.</p>
<p><i>AMENDMENT 9</i> <i>(Article V, "Officers")</i></p>	<p>Officers of the Association shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. <i>One person may fill the offices of Secretary and Treasurer, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors.</i> BLS Board members resolve to be positive and enthusiastic, as enthusiasm and attitude set the tone of the Association.</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and the membership at the November 13, 2020 Annual General Membership Meeting.</p>

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AMENDMENT / TEXT REFERENCE	DETAILS
<p>** Sentence DELETED ** see AMENDMENT #15</p>	<p>The second sentence (in italics above) was deleted by Amendment #15.</p> <p>RATIONALE for deleting the second sentence in Amendment #9: BLS experienced unusual Board member resignations and health problems throughout 2025, leaving the Board at one point without the proper quorum to operate. BLS now allows the President, <i>with full transparency to the membership and “after consulting with the Board of Directors,”</i> to appoint replacements (Article IV, “Organizational Structure,” Section 5). Officer succession is defined in Article V, “Officers.” Removing the second sentence allows flexibility and removes “approval of the Board of Directors” under unusual circumstances.</p>
<p>AMENDMENT 10 <i>(Article VI, “Organizational Structure,” Section 2 in 2020 By-Laws)</i></p> <p>** RESCINDED ** see AMENDMENT #13</p>	<p>Votes may be cast by any means, including but not limited to in-person voting and electronic votes. Electronic votes must be received by 7 pm the day before the Annual General Membership Meeting to be counted.</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and the membership at the November 13, 2020 Annual General Membership Meeting.</p> <p>RATIONALE for repealing Amendment #10: BLS has not used electronic voting in many years, and can add this back in if needed in the future.</p>
<p>AMENDMENT 11 <i>(various locations throughout the By-Laws)</i></p> <p>** RESCINDED ** see AMENDMENT #14</p>	<p>Added relevant approval dates to amended language in the main text of the By-Laws.</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved at the November 13, 2020 Annual General Membership Meeting.</p> <p>RATIONALE for repealing Amendment #11: With numerous amendments and deletions to the main text, adding approval dates into the main text of the By-Laws made the By-Laws difficult to read. All amendments, rationale, and approval dates are contained in Article VIII, “Amendments.”</p>
<p>AMENDMENT 12 <i>(Article III, “Membership and Dues,” Section 3)</i></p>	<p>The dues of the Association shall be \$30 per year for individuals and \$50 per year for any two persons residing at the same address. Membership expires each year in September. Members who join mid-year will pay a pro-rated fee.</p> <p>This amendment was approved by the Board of Directors and the membership at the November 9, 2024, Annual General Membership Meeting.</p> <p>** THIS AMENDMENT RESCINDS AMENDMENT #2 **</p>

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AMENDMENT / TEXT REFERENCE	DETAILS
<p>AMENDMENT 13 <i>(various locations throughout the By-Laws)</i></p>	<p>Standardized and simplified language in the By-Laws, including combining redundant language and deleting some Articles, removing references to “assessments” and “electronic voting” as unneeded and/or adding unnecessary complexity, clarifying the By-Laws amendment process, renumbering remaining Articles, and updating titles for Articles VIII and VI.</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and the membership at the March 27, 2026 General Membership Meeting.</p> <p>RATIONALE for Amendment #13: Standardize and “clean up” the entire document, simplifying language and combining like topics. Re-format Article VIII, “Amendments” to include all amendment details (see Amendment #14).</p> <p>** THIS AMENDMENT RESCINDS AMENDMENT #10 **</p>
<p>AMENDMENT 14 <i>(Article VIII, “Amendments”)</i></p>	<p>Removed approval date references from main By-Laws because details are referenced in Article VIII, “Amendments.”</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and the membership at the March 27, 2026 General Membership Meeting.</p> <p>** THIS AMENDMENT RESCINDS AMENDMENT #11 **</p>
<p>AMENDMENT 15 <i>(Article IV, “Organizational Structure,” Section 5)</i></p>	<p>Removed language allowing one person to fulfill multiple officer positions because the President and Board of Directors hold the responsibility, after Board consultation, to fill vacancies as they deem necessary.</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and the membership at the March 27, 2026 General Membership Meeting.</p> <p>** THIS AMENDMENT DELETES the SECOND SENTENCE IN AMENDMENT #9 **</p>
<p>AMENDMENT 16 <i>(Article III, “Membership and Dues,” Section 4)</i></p>	<p>Changed language specifying complimentary membership for members of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons so complimentary membership lasts as long as the member is serving and to align with Amendment #12 that changed annual membership dates.</p> <p>This amendment was duly approved by the Board of Directors and the membership at the March 27, 2026 General Membership Meeting.</p> <p>** THIS AMENDMENT RESCINDS AMENDMENT #6 **</p>