Bylaws of

Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA, Inc.

(A Delaware Nonstock Corporation)
ARTICLE I.  NAME AND RELATIONSHIP TO AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION

This corporation, Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA, Inc. (the “Academy”) shall be a component of the American Physical Therapy Association (the “Association”).

ARTICLE II.  PURPOSE

The purpose of the Academy shall be to provide a means by which Association members having a common interest in orthopaedic physical therapy may meet, confer, and promote their common interests.

ARTICLE III.  OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Academy shall be to:

1. Provide for interchange and dissemination of information about current trends and practices related to orthopaedic physical therapy; and
2. Identify resource people and materials, and address areas of concern related to orthopaedic physical therapy; and
3. Foster research in the area of orthopaedic physical therapy; and
4. Promote the development and implementation of orthopaedic specialization and special interests; and
5. Serve as a major source of information on orthopaedic physical therapy for society and the profession of physical therapy.

ARTICLE IV.  MEMBERSHIP

Section 1:  Categories and Qualifications of Members

The Academy membership categories and qualifications for Physical Therapist, Retired Physical Therapist, Life Physical Therapist, Student Physical Therapist, Physical Therapist Assistant, Retired Physical Therapist Assistant, Life Physical Therapist Assistant, PT – Post Professional Student, and Student Physical Therapist Assistant shall be the same as those of the Association.

Section 2:  Rights and Privileges of Members

Except as otherwise provided by law, the rights and privileges of the Academy’s members shall be identical to those established in the Association’s bylaws, as they may be amended from time to time.
Section 3: Application for and Admission to Membership

Any member of the Association in a category specified in Section 1 above may join the Academy as a member in the corresponding category by submitting an application for membership and payment of the Academy dues, if any, applicable to the membership category.

Section 4: Good Standing

An Academy member is in good standing within the meaning of these bylaws if the member is in good standing in the Association.

Section 5: Disciplinary Action

Any member of the Academy whose membership rights and privileges are suspended by the Association shall have his or her membership rights and privileges in the Academy suspended. Any member who is expelled from membership in the Association shall be expelled from Academy membership.

Section 6: Reinstatement

Any former member of the Academy who is in good standing in the Association may be reinstated to membership in the Academy by payment of the required Academy dues.

ARTICLE V. SPECIAL (SIG) AND EDUCATIONAL (EIG) INTEREST GROUPS

Section 1: Special Interest Groups

A. A special interest group shall:

1. Operate under the SIG EIG Rules of Order and Policies that shall not be inconsistent with Academy or Association bylaws and that shall be approved by the Academy’s Board of Directors.

2. Not levy special assessments that carry punitive action or loss of good standing.

B. May be established and/or dissolved in accordance with the rules and conditions specified by the Academy’s Board of Directors.
Section 2: Education Interest Groups

A. An Education Interest Group shall:

1. Operate under the SIG EIG Rules of Order and Policies that shall not be inconsistent with Academy or Association bylaws and that shall be approved by the Academy’s Board of Directors.

2. Not levy special assessments that carry punitive action or loss of good standing.

B. May be established and/or dissolved in accordance with the rules and conditions specified by the Academy’s Board of Directors.

Section 3: Limitations

A. Special and Education interest groups are subject to the following limitations:

1. Bylaws and policies of the Association and the Academy.

2. No special or education interest group shall profess or imply that it speaks for or represents the Academy or members other than those currently holding membership in the special or education interest group unless authorized by the Academy’s Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1: Annual Meeting

The Academy shall hold an annual meeting of the general Academy membership for the conduct of business at the time and place of the Association Combined Sections Meeting. Attendance shall be limited to Academy members and invited guests approved by the Board of Directors. The Academy shall hold informational meetings with the Academy membership each year, whenever possible.

Section 2: Special Meetings

The President, with the approval of a majority of the Directors, has authority to call a special meeting of the general Academy membership. The President must call a special meeting if one hundred (100) members request one in writing.
Section 3: Notice of Meeting Requirements

Notice of time and place of Annual and any Special Membership meetings shall be sent to all Academy members at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Section 4: Quorum

A quorum shall consist of the presence at a meeting of twenty (20) members having voting power.

Section 5: Minutes

A. The Executive Director shall keep the minutes of meetings and proceedings of the general membership and Board of Directors.

B. The Executive Director shall submit to the Association minutes of each meeting of the general Academy membership within 45 days of the date of the meeting.

Section 6: Educational or Professional Programs

An educational or professional program may be presented at any Academy meeting. A program held at the time of the Association meeting must be coordinated with the Association schedule.

ARTICLE VII: BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1: Board of Directors

A. Composition

1. The Board of Directors (BOD) shall consist of (i) the three Principal Officers of the Academy (the “Principal Officers”), that is, the President, Vice President, and Treasurer, each of whom is a Director, and (ii) four other Directors (the “Non-officer Directors”), referred to herein as Non-officer Directors #1, #2, #3, and #4, and, (iii) the three ex officio members comprised of the Education, Practice, and Research Committee Chairs who are appointed by the BOD.
2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the three Principal Officers and two Non-Officer Directors who are elected annually by the BOD.

3. All members of the Board of Directors, including ex officio members, shall have one vote.

B. Qualifications

To be eligible for election to the Board of Directors a person must be a member of the Academy in good standing. Physical Therapist Assistant, Retired Physical Therapist Assistant, and Life Physical Therapist Assistant members are eligible for election to the Board except for the offices of President and Vice President.

C. Election of Directors

The Principal Officers and the Non-officer Directors shall be elected by mail vote of the membership, in accordance with Article XI, Elections.

D. Terms

The terms of the Principal Officers and the Non-officer Directors shall be three years or until the election and assumption to office of their successors, in accordance with Article XI, Elections.

The terms of the Education, Practice, and Research Chairs, ex officio members, will be for three years or until the appointment and assumption to office of their successors.

E. Term Limits

No person shall be elected to serve more than two (2) full consecutive terms in the same Principal Office. For purposes of the foregoing limitation, a person who has served at least one and one half (1 ½) years of a three-year term in a position shall be deemed to have served a full term in that position.

No elected person shall serve more than four (4) complete consecutive terms on the Board of Directors. No appointed person to the Board shall serve more than three (3) complete consecutive terms on the Board of Directors.

F. Vacancies
In the event of a vacancy in the office of the President, the Vice President shall succeed to the Presidency for the remainder of the unexpired term. In the event of any vacancy in any other position on the Board of Directors, the President shall have authority to appoint an eligible member in good standing to fill the vacancy, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. In the event vacancies exist in both the office of the Vice President and the office of the President, the Board of Directors shall have authority to appoint an eligible member in good standing to fill the office of the President.

G. Meetings and Conduct of Business

1. Regular Meetings

The Board of Directors shall have a minimum of two (2) face-to-face meetings each year. If the Association has a Combined Sections Meeting, a Board meeting shall be held in conjunction with it. The time and place of each regular meeting shall be determined by the Board.

2. Special Meetings

The Board, at any meeting, may schedule a special meeting of the Board. The President may call a special meeting of the Board.

The President must call a special meeting of the Board upon the written petition of three Directors.

3. Use of Telecommunications Equipment

To the extent authorized or permitted by state law, the Board may permit any or all members of the Board to participate in a meeting by any means of communications equipment the use of which enables all Directors participating in the meeting to hear each other.

4. Action without a Meeting

To the extent authorized or permitted by state law the Board may act without a meeting if all members of the Board consent to the action in writing or by electronic transmission.

5. Notice
Notice by the President of all meetings of the Board shall be given to all members of the Board at least 5 days prior to the date of the meeting.

6. **Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of the presence at a meeting of six Directors.

**H. Duties and Responsibilities of the Board**

1. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for managing or directing the management of the business and affairs of the Academy.

2. Subject to the duty of Board members to act with care and in the best interests of the Academy, the Board of Directors shall carry out mandates and policies determined by the membership of the Academy and shall make and enforce policies that are consistent with such mandates and policies.

3. The Board of Directors shall appoint and employ an Executive Director, who shall serve at the discretion of the Board.

4. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for approving minutes of meetings of the Board.

**Section 2: Officers**

**A. President**

The President shall:

1. Call special meetings of the Board of Directors;

2. Preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors;

3. Serve as the Alternate Section Delegate to the APTA House of Delegates on behalf of the Academy;

3. Be an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee; and
4. Submit the Annual Report to the Association and such other reports as may be required by the Association Board of Directors.

B. Vice President

The Vice President shall:

1. Assume the duties of the President if the President is absent or incapacitated;

2. Be an ex officio member of all designated committees as outlined in the Strategic Planning programs adopted by the Board of Directors; and

C. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

1. Oversee the maintenance of complete and accurate financial records which shall be audited annually by a Certified Public Accountant;

2. Submit the audited report in writing to the Board of Directors;

3. Submit an annual financial report and proposed budget to the Board of Directors;

4. Oversee the collection and disbursement of moneys as mandated by the Academy or the Board of Directors; and

5. Serve on the Finance Committee as Chair.

The Board of Directors may designate one or more Assistant Treasurers. In the absence or incapacity of the Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer may have such authority to carry out responsibilities of the Treasurer under these bylaws (other than acting as a Director) as the Board may determine.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES

Section 1: Finance Committee

A. Composition
The Finance Committee shall have a least three (3) members in addition to the Treasurer, who shall be Chair. Each of whom shall be a current Academy member in good standing.

B. Function

To advise the Board of Directors on matters pertaining to financial needs, growth, and stability, presentation of an annual budget to the Board of Directors, investment policies, and compliance with financial obligations to APTA.

C. Appointment

The Treasurer shall recommend individuals for appointment as members of the Finance Committee, but the Board of Directors shall not be required to appoint only individuals recommended by the Treasurer.

D. Term

Each appointed member of the Finance Committee shall serve a term of three (3) years.

Section 2: Nominating Committee

A. Qualifications

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) members in good standing.

B. Election

Members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected by vote of the members of the Academy. One member of the Nominating Committee shall be elected each year, by mail ballot in November.

C. Term

A member of the Committee shall serve for a term of three years or until the election of his/her successor. The member having the greatest number of years on the committee shall serve as Chair. No member shall be elected to successive complete terms.

D. Vacancies
Any vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Directors until the next regular election, at which time the vacant position shall be filled for the remainder of the term, by mail ballot.

Section 3: Education Committee

A. Qualifications
The Education Committee shall consist of members, all of whom are in good standing.

B. Function
To provide accessible and cost-effective professional development opportunities for members through various methods including pre-conference and educational programming at CSM and off-site regional courses on relevant and current topics.

C. Appointment
All members of the Education Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. In addition, the Chair of the Committee shall serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors.

D. Term
A member of the Education Committee shall serve for a term of three years or until the appointment of his/her successor. The Board of Directors shall appoint the Chair of the committee and are not obligated to appoint an incumbent member of the committee.

E. Vacancies
Any vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the remainder of the term.

Section 4: Practice Committee

Qualifications

A. Qualifications
The Practice Committee shall consist of members who are in good standing.

B. Function
To provide advice and counsel to the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Board on issues, plans, policies, procedures, and external and internal environment issues that affect the future of orthopaedic physical therapy practice and the profession.

C. Appointment
All members of the Practice Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. In addition, the Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board and serve as an ex officio member of
the Board of Directors. The Chair of the Practice Committee shall serve as the Academy's Section Delegate to the House of Delegates.

D. Term
A member of the Practice Committee shall serve for a term of three years or until the appointment of his/her successor. The Board of Directors shall appoint the Chair of the committee and are not obligated to appoint an incumbent member of the committee.

E. Vacancies
Any vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the remainder of the term.

Section 5: Research Committee
A. Qualifications
The Research Committee shall consist of members who are in good standing.

B. Function
To promote the development and improvement of orthopaedic physical therapy research at all levels.

C. Appointment
All members of the Research Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. In addition, the Chair of the Committee shall serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Directors.

D. Term
A member of the Research Committee shall serve for a term of three years or until the appointment of his/her successor. The Board of Directors shall appoint the Chair of the committee and are not obligated to appoint an incumbent member of the committee.

D. Vacancies
Any vacancy shall be filled by the Board of Directors for the remainder of the term.

Other Committees
Such other committees, standing or special, shall be established by the Board of Directors as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the Academy. Members of appointed committees shall be current Academy members in good standing.
ARTICLE IX: OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

Section 1: Official Publications

A. Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy


B. Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice

*Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice* is an official publication of the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA, Inc.

Section 2: Publication as Notice

Publication in *Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Practice, The Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy*, the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy website (orthopt.org), or Osteo-blast, of meeting notices, issues to vote upon, or a slate of nominees shall constitute official notice to all members, provided notice has been mailed, posted or blasted to the membership thirty (30) days prior to the meeting date or the deadline for receipt of a mailed ballot.

ARTICLE X. DELEGATE TO THE ASSOCIATION’S HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Section 1: Qualifications

A. The Academy's Section Delegate shall be the Chair of the Practice Committee. If the Practice Chair is unable to fulfill this role, the President, as the Alternate Delegate, will represent the Academy as the Section Delegate.

B. Only Physical Therapist and Physical Therapist Assistant members who have been members of the Academy in any category of membership in good standing for two (2) years immediately preceding may serve as a Section Delegate.

C. An Academy Section or Alternate Delegate may not, in the same year, serve as a Chapter or Assembly Delegate.
C. The Academy shall notify Association headquarters of the name of Academy Delegate, as required by the Association and the Standing Rules of the House of Delegates.

D. The Academy must be represented in the House of Delegates annually.

Section 2: Election and Term

A. The Practice Chair is appointed by the Board of Directors and serves as the Section Delegate. The President is elected by the membership and serves as the Alternate Delegate.

B. The term for the Academy's Section Delegate and that of the Alternate Delegate shall coincide with the terms of the Practice Committee Chair and the Academy President respectively.

Section 3: Duties of Delegates

A. To attend the annual and special meetings of the House of Delegates of the Association.

B. To present to the House of Delegates such matters as are ordered by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI. ELECTIONS

Section 1: Nominations and Offices

A. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates. Only those members who have given written consent to serve may be slated. The slate shall be published on the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy, APTA, Inc. website.

B. Nominees for Treasurer shall have served on the Finance Committee for no less than one (1) year from the time they would assume the office of Treasurer at the end of the Annual Meeting. This limitation shall not apply if both the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors adopt a resolution stating that the limitation should not apply to a named individual(s).

Section 2: Election Cycle

The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected as follows:
A. The President and Vice-President shall be elected on a staggered basis with the Vice-President being elected the year following the election of the President. The respective elections shall take place every three years.

B. In the next year the Treasurer and two Non-officer Directors shall be elected.

C. In the next year one Non-officer Directors shall be elected.

D. Newly elected members of the Board shall assume office at the close of the Annual Academy Membership Meeting.

PROVISO: Beginning in 2019, the election cycle will proceed as follows:

2020 Vice President and new Non-Officer Director (#3)
2021 Treasurer, new Non-Officer Director (#4), and Non-Officer Director #1
2022 President and Non-Officer Director #2
2023 Vice President and Non-Officer Director (#3)
2024 Treasurer and Non-Officer Directors (#1 and #4)

Section 3: Election Ballot

A. AOPT Elections

Elections for officers and non-officer directors shall be conducted via mailed ballot in August of each year and coordinated by the Nominating Committee. Ballots shall permit voters to write in the name of a member who is qualified under Article VII, Section 1, and has given written consent to serve if elected. The Nominating Committee will present its selections in a July mailing to all voting Academy members and post on the Academy Web Site. Additional candidates may be nominated by written petition of 25 members for each candidate. The petition candidates would be on the August ballot mailing along with the candidates slated by the Nominating Committee. A minimum return of mail-in ballots consisting of valid ballots returned from at least five (5) percent of the eligible voters is required for the election to be valid. The results of the election shall be announced at the Annual Academy Membership Meeting.

B. Special Interest Group Elections

Elections for AOPT Special Interest Groups (SIG) shall be conducted via mailed ballot in November of each year and coordinated by the Nominating Committee of each SIG. Ballots shall permit voters to write in the name of a SIG member who is
qualified under Article VII, Section 1, and has given written consent to serve if elected. The SIG Nominating Committee will present its selections in an October mailing to all voting SIG members and post on the SIG Web Site. Additional candidates may be nominated by written petition of 25 members for each candidate. The petition candidates would be on the November ballot mailing along with the candidates slated by the SIG Nominating Committee. A minimum return consisting of valid ballots returned from at least five (5) percent of the eligible SIG voters is required for the election to be valid. The results of the election shall be announced at the Annual SIG Membership Meetings.

C. The Nominating Committee, whenever possible, shall nominate at least two (2) candidates for each position to be filled. In any election for a Principal Officer position or for a Non-officer Director position or for only one position on the Nominating Committee, the candidate that receives the most votes cast shall be elected. All ties shall be broken by drawing of lots by the Nominating Committee.

D. If two or more Non-officer Directors are to be elected under any proviso to these bylaws for terms of different lengths, voters may vote for up to as many positions as are to be filled, and the candidates that receive the most votes shall be elected. In such a case, the candidate that receives the most votes shall be deemed elected to the position with the longest term, the candidate that receives the next most votes shall be deemed elected to the position with the next longest term, and so forth.

E. If two or more members of the Nominating Committee are to be elected under any proviso to these bylaws for terms of different lengths, voters may vote for up to as many positions as are to be filled, and the candidates that receive the most votes shall be elected. In such a case, the candidate that receives the most votes shall be deemed elected to the position with the longest term, the candidate that receives the next most votes shall be deemed elected to the position with the next longest term, and so forth.

ARTICLE XII. FINANCE

Section 1: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of the Academy shall be the same as that of the Association.
Section 2: Limitation on Expenditures

No officer, employee or committee shall expend any money not provided in the budget as adopted, or spend any money in excess of the budget allotment, except by order of the Academy’s Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall not commit the Academy to any financial obligation in excess of its current financial resources.

Section 3: Dues

A. Academy dues shall be as follows:

Physical Therapist: $50.00
Physical Therapist – Post-Professional Student: $15.00
Physical Therapist Assistant, Retired Physical Therapist and Retired Physical Therapist Assistant: $30.00
Student Physical Therapist and Student Physical Therapist Assistant: $15.00
Life Physical Therapist and Life Physical Therapist Assistant: zero dollars

Changes in dues are to be recommended by the Finance Committee to the Board of Directors, which in turn makes recommendations to the Academy membership. Changes approved by the Academy membership must also meet Association approval before August 1st and shall become effective on the first day of the next fiscal year.

B. All dues shall be for the period specified in the Association’s bylaws.

C. All dues changes approved by the Academy membership and approved by the Association’s Board of Directors before the Association’s deadline will become effective on the first of the Association’s next fiscal year.

D. The Board of Directors may offer reduced rates for Academy dues as an incentive to promote membership.

Section 4: Submission of Financial Records to Association

The Academy shall submit their annual financial statements, tax returns, and audit report to the Association when and as directed by APTA Headquarters.

ARTICLE XIII. DISSOLUTION

Section 1: Involuntary Dissolution
The Academy may be involuntarily dissolved in accordance with the Association’s bylaws.

Section 2: Voluntary Dissolution

The Academy may dissolve subject to a recommendation to dissolve supported by no less than two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Academy’s Board of Directors and adopted by two-thirds (2/3) of the Academy’s members.

Section 3: Distribution of Property and Records

In the event that the Academy is dissolved, all property and records of the Academy shall, after payment of its bona fide debts, be conveyed to the Association.

ARTICLE XIV. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Academy in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any rules of order adopted by the Academy.

ARTICLE XV. AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Mail Ballot Amendments

The Academy bylaws may be amended in whole or in part by means of a mail ballot as provided in this Academy. The Board of Directors on its own initiative may bring before the Annual Academy Membership Meeting for discussion and amendment, any proposed amendment of the Academy bylaws. The Board of Directors shall bring before the Annual Academy Membership Meeting for discussion and amendment, any petition to amend the bylaws signed by at least one hundred (100) members of the Academy, provided that the petition is submitted to the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Academy Membership Meeting.

The Vice-President shall submit to the general membership for a vote any proposed amendment discussed at the Annual Academy Membership Meeting (i) if a majority vote at the Annual Academy Membership Meeting favored submitting the proposal to the general membership or (ii) if the Board of Directors approves submitting the proposal to the general membership. The Vice-President shall submit any such proposed amendment to the general membership by (i) publishing it in an official publication of the Academy and (ii) sending a ballot to all members, in each case at least thirty (30) days prior to the deadline for returning the ballot to the Academy.

In order for any proposed amendment to be adopted, the Academy must receive by the deadline valid ballots from at least five percent (5%) of the eligible voters and at least two thirds (2/3) of the valid ballots must contain a vote in favor of the proposed amendment.
Amendments to the Academy bylaws become effective upon approval in writing by the Association’s Board of Directors. (Exception: Changes in Academy dues become effective on the first of the Association’s next fiscal year following approval.)

Section 2: Editorial Amendments or Amendments Necessitated by Association Action

If the intent of an amendment is editorial or to bring the Academy’s bylaws into agreement with those of the Association, the amendment shall be made as required by the Vice President and shared with the Board of Directors. The Vice President shall notify the Academy’s membership that such amendments have been made.

ARTICLE XVI. ASSOCIATION AS HIGHER AUTHORITY

In addition to these Academy bylaws, the Academy is governed by the Association’s bylaws and standing rules, and by Association’s House of Delegates and Board of Directors policies.

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