NYSPA Membership Policies

Eligibility: Membership shall be open to all persons interested in the purposes & mission of the Association, who have met the educational requirements at a regionally accredited university or college program, have not had their license revoked for any reason and fulfill other requirements specified in NYSPA Bylaws and policies.

Admission: Those wishing to become a member are required to submit a membership application, which will be forwarded to NYSPA’s Council of Representatives for approval.

Benefits: Benefits of membership shall be available to each class. Suspended and expelled members do not receive member benefits.

Dues: Dues for each class of membership will be determined by the Council of Representatives and will be subject to modification in accordance with NYSPA Bylaws. Dues are nonrefundable and nontransferable.

Good Standing: A member who has paid dues through a minimum of the current quarter shall be considered in good standing.

Dues Reduction: The Council of Representatives may establish categories and criteria, such as financial hardship, membership history, disability, etc., for dues reduction or exemption. All reductions require a request by the member and a submitted application for review; approval is not guaranteed, no categories are automatic and reductions do not auto-renew each new membership year. To learn more or request an application, members should contact the NYSPA office at NYSPA@NYSPA.ORG.

Classes: The Association’s membership categories are, Full Member, Associate, Student Affiliate, Professional Affiliate, and Out-of-State.

Votes: Each Full Member is entitled to one (1) vote at meetings of the membership and in Association elections, and may hold a NYSPA office.

Ethical Conduct: Members are expected to subscribe to the mission and purposes of the Association, abide by its policies and bylaws, maintain ethical standards of professional conduct as set forth by the American Psychological Association, and abide by all applicable federal, state and other laws that regulate the profession or practice of psychology. A member’s conduct shall not be injurious to NYSPA, adversely affect its reputation or be destructive to its purposes.

Resignation: Members may resign from NYSPA at any time by giving electronic written notice to the NYSPA office at NYSPA@NYSPA.ORG or to NYSPA’s Secretary.

Non-payment of dues without written notice of resignation does not constitute resignation. Resignation shall not relieve a member of the obligation of remittance of unpaid dues accrued or other charges prior to notice of resignation, nor shall it entitle
the resigning member to a pro-rated refund of dues already paid. See Re-Admission below for important information and requirements to re-join following a resignation.

**Suspension:** After due notification, a member will be suspended for non-payment of dues for a period of three (3) consecutive months, unless the member’s status is under review for reasons stated in Expulsion (below). Suspended members do not receive benefits or refunds.

**Expulsion:** The Council of Representatives has the full and immediate authority to expel a member by two-thirds vote for conduct which potentially puts the Association at risk, adversely affects its reputation, or which is seriously inimical to or destructive of its mission and standards. Such conduct includes, intentionally misrepresenting information on the application for membership; ceasing to qualify for membership; violating NYSPA bylaws or policies; violations of APA professional ethical principles; revocation or suspension of license to practice; and conviction of a felony.

**Re-Admission:** Members wishing to return following a minimum 12-month absence due to resignation, suspension or expulsion are required to submit a membership application; readmission is not guaranteed. Members who had been expelled shall not be approved as a returning member within three (3) years of expulsion. The Council of Representatives will review the reason(s) for expulsion to determine if re-admission is appropriate. Members re-admitted following a minimum 12-month absence will be classified in the regular category for which they qualify at the time of re-admission, which might not be the category they held at the time of resignation, suspension, or expulsion and might result in a higher dues rate. Members will not be renewed at discounted dues rates they received prior to their membership absence if the discount was awarded based on consecutive years of continued membership with no breaks in membership. Re-admission can only be awarded for current NYSPA membership classes; if a member resigns, is suspended or is expelled in a class no longer offered at the time of re-admission, they will be granted the appropriate current class, not their previous category held which is no longer offered.

**Non-Discrimination/Harassment:** No person otherwise qualified for any class of membership in this Association shall be denied such membership by reason of age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, national or ethnic origin, creed, religion, marital status, political views, mental or physical disability. All relationships among persons in a NYSPA environment shall be businesslike and free of harassment. All members of NYSPA must abide by its non-discrimination/harassment policy.

**No Vested Interest:** A member shall not have any vested right, interest, or privilege of, in or to the assets, functions, affairs of NYSPA, or any right, interest or privilege which may be transferable or inheritable, or which shall continue if their membership ceases.

**Meetings of Membership:**
NYSPA will hold an annual business meeting for membership to be held at such time, place and format as determined by its Council of Representatives. Only current NYSPA members in good standing may attend its business meetings.

Special meetings of the membership may be called by its Council of Representatives, the President, or by written petition of at least fifteen (15) percent of the Membership, for any purpose, to be held at a time and place determined by Council or the President. Written petition shall be submitted to the Executive Director at NYSPA@NYSPA.ORG or to NYSPA’s Secretary.

Video/teleconference: Meetings of membership may be held via video/teleconference as long as the Association provides access for members participating to hear and communicate with other members during the meeting, including the capacity to vote on matters brought before the membership. An attendee’s inability to join a video meeting as a result of personal technical knowledge or ownership of video devices does not indicate access was not provided by the Association.

Notice: Notice of annual business meetings and special meetings shall state the purpose, time and place of such meeting, and shall be placed in the mail or emailed to the membership no fewer than thirty (30) days before the meeting date. Each member is responsible for ensuring that their address and/or electronic transmission contact on the membership roster is accurate. Attendance of a member at a meeting constitutes a waiver of objection to lack of notice or defective notice of the meeting.

Quorum: The members present and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the membership.

Votes: Current Association members in good standing in the Full Member class are entitled to one (1) vote. A simple majority vote shall decide any question brought before the meeting, except as otherwise required by law.