



# BYLAWS

FOURTH EDITION, ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 26, 1993

OHIO REGION

CENTRAL DIVISION

NATIONAL SKI PATROL SYSTEM, INC.

Recommended Amendments  
First Reading  
May 5, 2001

# Preface

The present Ohio Region Bylaws can be directly traced to the Ohio Region Operations Manual published September 1, 1980 under the guidance of the Region Director, John Birchfield. Following the leads of the National Ski Patrol System, Inc., the Central Division and other Divisions, the 1980 "Region Articles" (the title given to what are now known as the Bylaws) gave very strong authority to the Division-appointed Region Director. The Region Director appointed and could remove all of the Section Chiefs, Region Advisors, and other Region officials above the Patrol level. Even the motions of the Region Board of Governors, established January 1, 1971 by then Region Director Elmer Lipke, and any provisions of the "Region Articles" and Operating Policies could be changed at any time by the Region Director. The only recourse any member of the Region had was an appeal to the Division Director who had similar veto powers over the entire Division and all Regions and had very likely appointed the Region Director. At the time the 1980 Region Operations Manual was written, centralized hierarchical control within the NSPS was an important issue. Very strong words in the preambles of the Central Division and other divisions always resolved any conflict in policy in favor of higher level organizations. Standardization for administrative and training and testing has always been very important to the NSPS.

The 1980 Region Articles and bylaws (the old bylaws are currently titled the *Ohio Region Operating Policies* were modified three times the first year (4/11/81, 6/1/81 and 9/13/81) under John Birchfield and then again almost annually (10/3/82, 5/9/84 and 5/18/85) under RD C. Richard Ike. Ike had the second edition (5/18/85) of the Region Operations Manual on his Commodore Computer. Clifford Eck as Region Director, reorganized, renumbered and revised the Operations Manual in 9/28/86.

In 1991 the Central Division changed its policy under the authority granted by the NSPS to select Region Directors and Section Chiefs by election instead of appointment. This change created the need for election procedures and subtly shifted the power base for the elected officials away from the former appointing official to the electors.

Since 1980 the Region Director's reliance on the Board of Governors for advice and policy decisions and for assistance in Region operations has increased. Use of the Director's veto has become so rare that the wisdom of such an action could be widely questioned. With the first Region Director and Section Chief elections in 1992, the Board of Governors is no longer entirely appointed.

Realizing that the existing the "Region Articles and Bylaws" were obsolete, Gary Bizjack, the first elected Ohio Region Director, requested a review of the existing document and recommendations for changes. In May 1992 he assigned a past Assistant Region Director, Max Davis, the task of leading the project.

The 1986 "Region Articles and Bylaws" were renamed the *Ohio Region Bylaws* and the *Ohio Region Operating Policies* and both were included with other material in the 1992-1993 *Ohio Operations Manual* revision. The major changes to the amended *Ohio Region Bylaws* were the election of region line officers, shifting of authority from the Region Director to the Board of Governors, the removal of historical comments, and a general cleanup and consolidation of provisions that had been incrementally added over the years. The amendments were adopted by the Ohio Board of governors on September 26, 1993.

The September 2001 revision involved simple changes to comply with NSP changed designations for Patrol Director to NSP Patrol Representative, and Mountain Travel and Rescue replaced Ski Mountaineering.

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## 1. PREAMBLE AND PURPOSE

1.1 DESCRIPTION: The Ohio Region, (herein after designated as the Region), an organizational unit of the Central Division of the National Ski Patrol System, Inc. (NSPS), shall operate pursuant to and in accordance with the policies of the Central Division and the NSPS in the State of Ohio and Dearborn County in Indiana.

1.2 PURPOSES: The primary purpose of the Region is to fulfill the NSPS mission, under the authority of the Central Division, by delivery of services and training to ski Area Managers, ski Patrols and ski patrollers in the Region. The goals of the Region are:

1.2.1 PUBLIC SERVICE: To serve the skiing public and area managements by promoting ski safety and skiing accident prevention through safety awareness and education for member ski patrollers and the public in Winter Emergency Care, rescue, Mountain Travel and Rescue, and avalanche awareness and rescue in accordance with NSPS standards.

1.2.2 PROFICIENCY DEVELOPMENT: To provide educational programs that develop leadership and patrolling skills needed by NSP organizations at the local level.

1.2.3 REGION PROGRAMS: To engage in Region-wide programs and projects (e.g., awards, special events, fund-raisers, etc.) for the general benefits of the Region's Patrols and patrollers.

1.2.4 DEVELOP LEADERS: To develop a broadly-based cadre of trained, experienced and qualified leaders dedicated to maintaining and exceeding the standards of service and proficiency, established by the Central Division and the NSPS, in all of the Region programs.

1.2.5 FORMATION AND SUPPORT OF LOCAL PATROLS: To promote and support the formation and effective operation of local ski Patrols in the Region.

## 2. ORGANIZATION:

2.1 SECTIONS: The Region is subdivided into four

sections. Each section serves two or more ski patrols in a contiguous geographic area. The Region serves these patrols through the section's activities and with Region-wide programs.

2.2 BOARD OF GOVERNORS: A Region Board of Governors, composed of the Region Director, Assistant Region Directors, Section Chiefs, and one NSP Patrol Representative from each Section selected by the Section Chief, is responsible for the application of NSPS policy by the Region through Region program and budget reviews and approvals, program evaluations, the creation and abolishment of Region standing committees and advisorships and also for helping the Region Director in Region administration. The immediate past Region Director is an *ex officio* member of the Board of Governors.

2.3 REGION DIRECTOR: The Region Director is elected and is the Region's highest ranking NSPS administrator. The Region Director is also an *ex officio* officer of the Central Division with duties specified in the Central Division Bylaws and Operations Manual. The Region Director appoints qualified patrollers to serve as Assistant Region Directors, (one of which shall be designated the first Assistant Region Director), Coordinators, Advisors, standing committee chairs, and other permanent Region positions established by the Region Board of Governors. The First Assistant Region Director shall temporarily succeed the Region Director in the event of a vacancy in that office. Where Region program administrators are recommended by Division or NSPS level officials, the Region Director will have final approval of the appointment of qualified Region candidates.

2.4 SECTION CHIEFS: Section Chiefs are elected. Section Chiefs may appoint Assistants and Advisors. When there is no section advisor, the Section Chief shall assume those responsibilities.

2.5 NSP PATROL REPRESENTATIVES: NSP Patrol Representatives of local patrols within the Region are either elected as provided by the Bylaws or other operating rules of the respective Patrols or selected by their Area Management.

2.6 LINE OFFICERS: The Region Director, Section Chiefs and NSP Patrol Representatives are the line



officers of the Region with special voting responsibilities in Region, Division and NSPS elections. Assistant Region Directors and the line officers are considered the officers of the Region.

**2.7 OFFICERS' RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY:** No Region Bylaw or Operation Policy can restrict or expand the constraints on authority or responsibilities of Region officers as they are currently prescribed by the NSPS in the *NSP Policies and Procedures* or the Central Division in the *Central Division Operations Manual*. Sections of the Ohio Region Operations Manual detail responsibilities and authorities of the Region officers and other permanent positions.

### 3. MEETINGS:

**3.1 REGULAR BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS:** The Board of Governors shall meet two times each year to conduct general business.

**3.2 SPECIAL MEETINGS:** The Region Director can, upon at least a one week notice to all Board Members, call a special meeting of the Board of Governors. Except for the Treasurer and the Recording Secretary and any other individuals who are requested to attend, other Region appointed officials are not required or expected to attend a special meeting.

**3.3 PROXIES:** When possible, members shall provide prior notification about their expected absences to the Region Director or their reporting Assistant Region Director. An absent member may designate a proxy by letter to the Region Director. A proxy shall not be another member of the Board of Governors.

**3.4 QUORUM:** A majority of board members is a quorum for conducting business at a regular or special meeting of the Board of Governors. For purposes of establishing a quorum, proxies are counted. Each member has one vote except the Region Director, who votes only to break a tie.

**3.5 ATTENDANCE AT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS:**

**3.5.1 ADVISORS:** All appointed Region advisors, coordinators and administrators should attend general business meetings of the Board of Governors to report on plans and accomplishments and to receive guidance from the Board. However, an Assistant Region Director can excuse a supervised Advisor from attendance by presenting the Advisor's report and receiving guidance from the Board for the absent Advisor.

**3.5.2 NSP PATROL REPRESENTATIVES:** NSP Patrol Representatives who are not Section patrol representatives are encouraged to attend regular Region Board of Governors meetings. If a NSP Patrol Representative requests a place on the agenda, the Region Director will provide that NSP Patrol Representative an opportunity to address the meeting.

**3.5.3 PATROLLERS:** All patrollers in the Ohio Region are welcome to attend any meeting of the Board of Governors. If time on the agenda allows, visiting patrollers, at their request, may be recognized by the chair and given time to address the meeting.

**3.6 ROBERTS' RULES:** Except as may be provided in these Bylaws, Roberts' Rules of Order, current edition, shall govern the conduct of the meetings of the Board of Governors of the Ohio Region.

### 4. TERMS OF OFFICE:

**4.1 REGION DIRECTOR:** The term of office of the Ohio Region Director is for two years as provided in the *Central Division Bylaws*, from July 1 of even numbered years through June 31 of the next even numbered year. A Region Director shall serve no more than three consecutive terms. A vacancy in the position of Region Director shall be filled by the first Assistant Region Director until a special election can be held to fill the remaining term or until the next regularly scheduled election for Region Director, at the Division Director's option.

**4.2 SECTION CHIEF:** The term of office of a Section Chief shall be for two years starting July 1 on odd numbered years for odd numbered sections and on July



1 for even numbered years for even numbered sections. Section Chiefs shall serve no more than three consecutive terms. As specified in the *Central Division Bylaws*, vacancies shall be filled by the Region Director until a special election can be held or until the next regular election is held at the option of the Region Director.

4.3 APPOINTED POSITIONS: The normal term of office for any Region Advisor and those Region Officers appointed by or by the authority of the Region Director shall begin upon notification of the appointment by the Region Director and shall terminate when a new Region Director takes office unless the new Region Director extends the term or reappoints the incumbent. In the event of resignation or removal from office of any such Officer or Advisor, the term of office of that person shall end upon acceptance of that resignation or upon written notice to the incumbent from the Region Director listing reasons for removal.

4.4 NSP PATROL REPRESENTATIVES: The term of office of the various NSP Patrol Representatives shall be as established in the Bylaws or other rules of operation of the individual Patrols; if there is not a contrary provision, the normal term of office shall be from July 1 through the following June 30.

## 5. ELECTIONS:

5.1 REGION DIRECTOR AND SECTION CHIEFS: Elections for the Region Director and Section Chiefs shall be conducted and scheduled to meet the requirements specified by the *Central Division Bylaws*. The Ohio Region will schedule these elections to allow the nomination and election process times required by the Division and shall advance the entire Division election timing guidelines schedule to permit the announcement of election results at the Region annual spring meeting and awards ceremony.

## 6. FISCAL YEAR:

6.1 COMPLIES WITH DIVISION: The fiscal year of the Ohio Region and all Sections and Patrols therein shall comply with the fiscal year of the Central Division. All financial statements of Patrols and Sections are due to the Region Director or designated Region

official in accordance with Division and Region specified deadlines.

## 7. OHIO REGION OPERATING POLICIES:

7.1 OHIO REGION OPERATIONS MANUAL: The Ohio Board of Governors shall codify and publish Region operational requirements and policies for all permanent Advisorships and other permanent positions and program areas in the Operating Policies part of the *Ohio Region Operations Manual*. No Region operating policy can stand in conflict with any current or future policy published in the *NSP Policies and Procedures* or the *Central Division Operations Manual*. The Board of Governors shall have the authority to amend any Region operating policy. Such action can be taken at any regular or special meeting of the Board, and shall be accomplished by motion, duly seconded, and approved by a simple majority of the voting members present of the Board of Governors.

7.2 PROPOSALS TO AMEND REGION OPERATING POLICIES: Amendments to any operating policy in the *Ohio Operations Manual* may be recommended in writing by any patroller in the Region, however, a motion to amend a policy can be made and seconded only by a member or a duly authorized proxy of the Board of Governors.

## 8. AMENDMENTS TO OHIO REGION BYLAWS:

8.1 BYLAW AMENDMENT PROCESS: Amendments to these bylaws must be recommended in writing. Recommendations may be submitted by any registered patroller in the Region. All amendments shall be submitted to the Region Director at least 14 days before a regular spring or fall Board of Governors meeting. Amendments can be moved and seconded only by a member of the Board of Governors. If seconded and approved by a simple majority of the voting members present, that proposed amendment shall be tabled until the next regular business meeting of the Ohio Region Board of Governors, at which time it shall be voted upon as provided in Article 8.2.



#### 8.2 MAJORITY REQUIRED TO AMEND BYLAWS:

Amendments to the Bylaws require an affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the voting members of the Board of Governors, as contrasted with a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

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September 1, 1980

/Signed/

John R. Birchfield, Region Director  
Ohio Region, Central Division  
National Ski Patrol System, Inc.

Second Edition, 5/18/85  
Revisions: 4/11/81, 6/1/81,  
9/13/81, 10/3/82, 5/9/84,  
5/18/85

/signed/

C. Richard Ike, Region Director  
Ohio Region, Central Division  
National Ski Patrol System, Inc.

Third Edition: Reorganized,  
renumbered, and revised  
9/28/86

/signed/

Clifford H. Eck, Region Director  
Ohio Region, Central Division

Ski Patrol System, Inc.

National

Fourth Edition: Reorganized  
renumbered, and revised  
9/26/93

Gary Bizjack, Region Director  
Ohio Region, Central Division  
National Ski Patrol System, Inc.

Fourth Edition :Revised  
9/ /2001

Jim Woodrum, Region Director  
Ohio Region, Central Division



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