



Unit Bylaws – December 2025

Administration - 12/18/2025

Procedure in Acceptance of Members and Forms – 12/18/2025

Fees/Financial Obligations – 12/18/2025



ADMINISTRATION

A. THE ANNUAL MEETING

- 1) The Annual Meeting of Sokol St. Louis will take place on the 4th Thursday of December at 7:00 p.m. at the American-Czech Educational Center. The meeting date can be changed (such as for holiday conflict) by a means of majority vote at a Regular Membership Meeting. Notification of the new meeting date will be announced at Regular Membership Meeting, through email (the Sokol Falcon), and through the Sokol Newsletter.
- 2) All elected officers shall attend the Annual Meeting.
- 3) The Annual Meeting shall:
 - a) Elect the following Executive Board Members of Sokol St. Louis: President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Membership Director, Public Relations Director, Newsletter Editor, Educational Director, By-Laws Director, and Board of Trustees;
 - b) Elect the following Chairs/Committee Heads of Sokol St. Louis: Archives, Camp Committee Chair(s), Central District Representative, Children's Camping Director(s), Youth Ambassadors, Cheer, In Memoriams, Entertainment, and Membership Milestones;
 - c) Approve the election of the Women's Physical Director, and Men's Physical Director on the recommendation of the Board of Instructors;
 - d) Elect sixteen (16) members as delegates of Sokol St. Louis to the American-Czech Educational Center Board of Directors;
 - e) Approve revisions or additions to the Unit Bylaws that have been submitted to the By-Laws Director at least three months prior to the Annual Meeting.

B. REGULAR MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- 1) The Regular Membership Meeting of Sokol St. Louis will take place on the 4th Thursday every month at 7:00 p.m. at the American-Czech Educational Center. The meeting date or location can be changed by a means of majority vote at a Regular Membership Meeting. Notification of the new meeting date or location will be announced at Regular Membership Meeting, through email (the Sokol Falcon), and through the Sokol Newsletter.
- 2) Executive Board Members and Chairs/Committee Heads shall report of all of their monthly activities.
- 3) The monthly membership meeting shall:
 - a) Administer all matters of the unit except those which come under the jurisdiction of the Annual Meeting;
 - b) Elect alternates to fill vacancies of the Unit Executive Board, Chairs/Committee Heads, and delegates;
 - c) Approve revisions or additions to Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, and Forms of Sokol St. Louis Physical Programs, Sokol Camp, and Children's Camping if the revisions or additions are recommendations from the respective committees. If committee recommendation(s) for revisions or additions to Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, and Forms do not receive majority approval from Regular Membership Meeting, the recommendation(s) is returned to the committee for further revision.

C. THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING

- 1) The Anniversary Meeting of Sokol St. Louis will take place at the American-Czech Educational Center on the Saturday (or Sunday) closest to the date of the establishment of Sokol St. Louis, February 14th. Notification of the meeting date will be announced at Regular Membership Meeting, through email (the Sokol Falcon), and through the Sokol Newsletter.
- 2) All officers to be installed shall attend the Anniversary Meeting in Sokol dress uniform or as close as possible.
- 3) The Anniversary Meeting shall:
 - a) Honor deceased members with a memoriam;
 - b) Introduce new members;
 - c) Present membership awards and special recognition; and
 - d) Install elected officers.
- 4) A printed Annual Report of the previous year shall be available at the Anniversary Meeting

and shall consist of the following:

- a) List of Officers, Chairs/Committee Heads, and delegates to be installed;
- b) List of Honored Members of the previous year;
- c) Year in Review;
- d) Annual American-Czech Educational Center Report;
- e) Annual Board of Instructors Report;
- f) Annual Camp Committee Report;
- g) Annual Financial Report;
- h) Annual Newsletter Report; and
- i) List of active Members as of December 31st of the previous year.

D. VOTING PROCEDURES

Voting will be by show of hands unless a roll call or secret ballot is requested. If the vote count is close, the secretary's minutes should reflect the numbers of the voted decision.

Approved 12/18/2025



PROCEDURE IN ACCEPTANCE OF MEMBERS

- 1) Application for membership requires that each applicant shall:
 - a) accurately fill out and sign an official form entitled “Application for Membership”;
 - b) be sponsored by at least one member of the unit;
 - c) submit with the application a registration fee which shall be returned to the applicant if he/she shall be rejected.
- 2) The applicant for membership shall be interviewed by a committee to determine which type of membership meets their needs. On the recommendation of this committee, a vote for acceptance or rejection of the applicant shall be taken in his/her absence.
- 3) The applicant for membership must be approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of those members voting at a regular meeting of the unit. The unit is not obliged to give reason for non-acceptance.
- 4) The applicant shall be introduced at a regular meeting of the unit by the President and shall make the official membership pledge. He/she shall be given a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of the American Sokol, and at that time is required to pay the allocated fees and initiation fee. (A new member pays fees for the whole quarter in which he/she has been initiated, i.e. a person joining Sokol in the first quarter—January 1 to March 31—pays fees retroactive to January 1).
- 5) A rejected applicant shall have the right to reapply for membership after six months.
- 6) The name and address of the new member shall be announced to the Executive Board of the American Sokol and the Central District by the Financial Secretary of the unit in quarterly reports.
- 7) An applicant that has been approved for membership and fails to attend a meeting to take the official oath will be dropped after three months. The registration process would start over including the payment of the registration fee, if the applicant still wants to become a member.
- 8) Members must be members for one consecutive year before sponsoring any new member.

Initiation Fee

The screening and initiation fee to Sokol St. Louis is \$45.00 per individual.

- 1) This does not apply to Juniors who have 50% attendance in gym classes for 2 prior consecutive years and join within 90 days of the required age eligibility.
- 2) Juniors who have reached the age of 17, but are enrolled in the junior class and are still in high school are required to join Sokol at the end of the gym semester and school year to be eligible for membership privileges.

Registration Fee

A registration fee of \$5.00 is payable to Sokol St. Louis, who in turn, transfers this amount to the American Sokol.

Reinstatement Fee

A member whose membership has been terminated shall be eligible for reinstatement providing:

- 1) He/she applies for reinstatement within 6 months of his/her termination, and
- 2) He/she pays the current year's dues in total (January through December) plus an additional \$10 reinstatement fee, of which \$5 is paid to the American Sokol.
- 3) A reinstated member will retain continuous enrollment without a break in membership.

Revised 12/18/2025



SOKOL ST. LOUIS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. __

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Birth Date or Birth Year: _____

Type of Membership:

Family - Two Individuals with Children (two applications required) -- \$150

Family - Individual with Children -- \$150

Individual -- \$75

Student -- \$50

Name of Spouse: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

Why do you want to be a member of Sokol?

Have you ever applied for membership in any other Sokol Unit: Yes No

If yes, please state Unit name, results, and current membership status:

Have you ever been expelled from any other organization? Yes No

Occupation: _____ Other Skills: _____

How could you share your talents with Sokol: _____

If approved for membership, which committees are you interested in helping?

Board of Instructors Public Relations Membership Entertainment Camp Committee

Children's Camping Bylaws & SOPs Educational Newsletter Other: _____

Could you attend monthly membership meetings: Yes No

(Meetings currently held on 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM)

Upon admission to membership, I promise to be governed by the Bylaws of the American Sokol Organization and the Sokol St. Louis Unit in all my activities on their behalf.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Sponsor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Screened by: _____ Date: _____

For Unit Use

Date Installed as Member: _____

Member Type: Voting Non-Voting

Date entered in national database: _____

7/6/2023



FEES/FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Our Sokol St. Louis Unit is a unit of the American Sokol (AS), headquartered in Chicago, and is a member of the Central District of the AS, also headquartered in Chicago. Our activities must be carried out according to the By-Laws of the AS, and our own rules cannot conflict with these National By-Laws.

The Financial Secretary keeps record of all members, including their addresses, fees payments, membership category, date of admission, and withdrawal and communicates with the AS and Central District Financial Secretaries, including the preparation of quarterly reports. He/she sends our financial obligations to the AS and to the Central District. He/she counts and records all income prior to their handling by the Treasurer.

The Treasurer receives all income and bills from the Financial Secretary. He/she writes checks, deposits income and handles all record keeping in relation to the checking accounts that represent the treasury.

The Financial Secretary and Treasurer cooperates in seeing that their records agree. One of them prepares the annual spreadsheet and the annual tax report and communicates with the accountant on tax return preparation.

Officer Remunerations

Officers' annual expense remunerations of \$50 shall be paid to the following: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary. Allowances will be paid by March 31st of the year following the completed year of service. All officers shall keep track of any postage use or other substantial expenses and bill at least yearly for the required amount.

Sokol St. Louis Fees Payment

Fees currently are:

Individual Member	\$75.00 per year
Family Plan Member	\$150.00 per year
Student (full-time)	\$50.00 per year
Friends of Sokol Non-Voting Member	\$75.00 per year plus hourly gym fees
50 Year Honorary Members	No fees required
Gold Card Honorary Member	\$50.00 per year

FEES ARE TO BE PAID BY DECEMBER 31ST FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR. Any members whose dues are not paid in full before February 15th of the current year will be terminated. Fees are set or raised by a vote of the members at the Annual Meeting in December.

Membership Categories

1. **Students** are those members who are not employed full time, and whose time is primarily devoted to their studies and not to employment. Children of members who have reached the age of 17 are no longer eligible for Sokol privileges under their parent's membership, unless he/she is enrolled in the Junior class. In such cases, the student is eligible and encouraged to join Sokol at the end of the gym semester and Senior school year to be eligible for membership privileges.
2. **Family Plan Members** are anyone with children under the age of 18, and whose spouse is not also a member.
3. **Individual Members** are members who are not student or family plan members, including members whose spouse is also a member. An individual who has children under the age of 17 (and whose spouse is not a member) needs to pay the Family Plan Membership fee before his/her child is eligible for membership privileges in the gym and at Camp.
4. **50 Year Honorary Members** are members who have completed 50 consecutive years membership or members who are given Honorary Member distinction by a vote of members at a membership meeting because of disability.
5. **Gold Card Honorary Members** are at least 80 years of age and have completed 15 consecutive years of membership.
6. **Friends of Sokol Members** are non-voting members with gym class privileges. They receive the American Sokol publication and the Sokol St. Louis Newsletter. They do not have Camp privileges.
7. **Local Honorary Member** Since the early 2000s members 80 years of age with at least 15 years of membership pay the same as students, covering the dues to the District and National level. Should such a member become unable to handle his or her own finances and no longer be able to afford the dues, Sokol St. Louis will no longer pay for his/her membership at the District or National level, but will consider him/her to be a local honorary member unless the member or family requests otherwise. Further, the member or next of kin will be notified of this new status or local honorary member of Sokol St. Louis. This status must be approved at a regular membership meeting.

Additional Fee Information

1. A member may not pay family plan dues in order to enroll a grandchild in gym class or children's camping unless that grandparent is the legal guardian. Neither may a member couple enroll a grandchild unless they are the legal guardian.

2. Fees are payable on October 1st of the previous year. Members shall pay their fees in full by February 15th of the current year or be considered suspended under the American Sokol bylaws. Members who have not paid in full by the February membership meeting will be declared terminated on the annual report to the American Sokol and the Central District. Waivers of this rule because of financial need shall be voted on in any regular meeting prior to submission of the annual report; it is the member's responsibility to ask for the waiver.
3. Parental fees payments are due in full by January 1st and shall be a condition of the children's continued participation in gym class. The Board of Instructors and the Financial Secretary shall exchange information on January 1st regarding the fees status of gym parents known to the Financial Secretary as well as updated class lists.
4. Divorced or separated members may each continue to pay individual membership fees for their children to receive membership privileges. In order for additional children of blended families to receive membership privileges, a family plan membership must also be paid.

Financial Obligations to the AS & Central District

Our unit has financial obligations to the national AS and to the Central District. Currently, we pay national dues of \$35 per member annually to the AS and \$1.25 per member every 3 months to the Central District. In addition, there is an annual assessment by the AS of \$5.00 per member and an annual assessment by the Central District of \$2.00 per member. If any member no longer wishes to retain their Sokol membership, it is that member's responsibility to inform the Financial Secretary by February 15th so that we do not continue paying national and district fees on that member's behalf.

Revised 12/18/2025