

Proposed Amendment to the AVA Bylaws

Title: Modify Vote Required for Amendment of the AVA Bylaws

Motion: Amend Article XIII “Amendments” of the Bylaws

Current	Changes	If Adopted
13.1 Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the AVA by a majority vote of the eligible delegates represented in person or by proxy, provided that the proposed amendment has been submitted to the National Executive Council and submitted, in writing, to all member clubs at least sixty days prior to the regular or special membership meeting at which vote shall be taken.	13.1 Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the AVA by a majority <i>two-thirds</i> vote of the eligible delegates represented in person or by proxy,	13.1 Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the AVA by a two-thirds vote of the eligible delegates represented in person or by proxy,

Rationale:

Bylaws contain the enduring foundational elements of an organization—purpose, membership, meetings, duties of officers and directors, election, etc. Being fundamental they transcend day-to-day operations. As such they should reflect the results of deep thought about how the organization should be structured and should only be changed with broad consensus, in other words a super majority of support of the membership. *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*, 11th edition, §57, defaults to a “two-thirds” vote for amending bylaws, and in §2 explains that all rules that the organization considers so important should not be changed without...the vote of a specified large majority (such as a two-thirds vote).

How organizations function day-to-day is contained in its rules, regulations, policies, and procedures, not the bylaws: *The AVA Policy Handbook, the NEC Handbook*, etc. As such, this important part of how the AVA, or any organization, operates is subject to a lower threshold for change in order to be agile in a changing environment. Requiring a super majority to change the bylaws wouldn’t affect day-to-day operations, such as the development of new and improved programs that promote volkssports and pursuing innovative ideas.

BTW, amending the U.S. Constitution requires approval by two-thirds votes in both houses of Congress and two-thirds of the states.

Sponsor: Loudoun Walking and Volkssport Club, Inc. (AVA-0892)

The National Executive Council recommendation: Not Approve