

Bylaws of the Society of Physics Students (SPS)

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Date of Adoption: 08/10/2025

Article I – Name

The official name of this organization shall be the **Society of Physics Students, Indiana University of Pennsylvania**, hereafter referred to as “Society of Physics Students” or “SPS.”

Article II – Affiliation

The Society is a recognized chapter of the **National Society of Physics Students (SPS)**, a professional association of the **American Institute of Physics (AIP)**.

This chapter will operate in accordance with the rules, policies, and guidelines of the national SPS.

Article III – Purpose

The purposes of the Society are to:

1. Promote the understanding and enjoyment of physics and related sciences among students.
2. Provide opportunities for academic and professional development in the physical sciences.
3. Encourage participation in research, scholarly activities, and community outreach.
4. Facilitate interaction between students, faculty, alumni, and professionals in physics and allied fields.
5. Represent the interests of physics students within the institution and to the public.
6. Organize lectures, demonstrations, field trips, competitions, and social events that enhance the appreciation of physics.

Article IV – Membership

Section 1 – Eligibility

Membership is open to:

1. Any student enrolled at [Institution Name] with an interest in physics, regardless of major.
2. Faculty and alumni who wish to participate as non-voting associate members.

Section 2 – Classes of Membership

1. **Active Members** – Students who have paid any required dues, participate in meetings, and engage in chapter activities.
2. **Associate Members** – Alumni, faculty, and non-students who wish to support the Society but do not have voting rights.
3. **Honorary Members** – Individuals recognized for significant contributions to the Society or the field of physics.

Section 3 – Rights and Privileges

Active members may:

- Vote on Society matters.
- Hold elected office.
- Represent the Society at regional or national SPS events.

Section 4 – Responsibilities

Members are expected to:

- Attend meetings and events regularly.
- Contribute to the success of the Society's programs.
- Uphold the Society's values and maintain professional conduct.

Article V – Officers

Section 1 – Elected Officers

The elected officers of the Society shall include:

1. **President** – Presides over meetings, represents the Society, and coordinates activities.
2. **Vice President** – Assists the President, oversees committees, and assumes leadership in the President's absence.
3. **Secretary** – Maintains meeting minutes, attendance records, correspondence, and archives.
4. **Treasurer** – Manages finances, prepares budgets, and maintains accurate records of all transactions.
5. **Outreach Coordinator** – Organizes public events, science demonstrations, and community engagement.
6. **Events Coordinator** – Plans lectures, workshops, field trips, and competitions.
7. **Social Media Chair** – Manages the Society's official accounts on social media platforms, promotes upcoming events, meetings, and activities to members and the public.

Section 2 – Election of Officers

1. Elections shall be held annually in May for terms beginning the following academic year.
2. Nominations may be submitted by any active member and must be seconded.
3. Officers shall be elected by a simple majority vote of active members present.
4. In the event of a tie, the Faculty Advisor will cast the deciding vote.

Section 3 – Terms of Office

1. All officers shall serve one-year terms.
2. Officers may be re-elected without term limits.

Section 4 – Officer Vacancies

Vacancies will be filled by a special election within one month of the position becoming vacant.

Article VI – Faculty Advisor

1. The Society shall have at least one Faculty Advisor who is a member of the institution's faculty in the Department of Physics or a related field.
2. The Advisor shall:
 - o Provide guidance and continuity.
 - o Serve as a liaison between the Society and the institution.
 - o Approve financial expenditures and event proposals.
3. The Faculty Advisor shall be appointed annually by a majority vote of active members.

Article VII – Meetings

Section 1 – Regular Meetings

1. The Society shall hold regular meetings at least twice per month during the academic term.
2. Meetings shall be announced at least one week in advance.

Section 2 – Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the President, Executive Board, or upon written request by at least 25% of active members.

Section 3 – Quorum

A quorum for conducting official business shall consist of at least 50% of active members.

Section 4 – Decision-Making

Unless otherwise stated, decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote of active members present.

Article VIII – Committees

Section 1 – Standing Committees

1. **Outreach Committee** – Plans public engagement activities and coordinates with schools and community organizations.
2. **Program Committee** – Organizes academic lectures, workshops, and seminars.
3. **Competition Committee** – Prepares members for physics contests, hackathons, and Olympiads.

Section 2 – Ad Hoc Committees

Temporary committees may be formed by the President or by a majority vote for specific projects or events.

Article IX – Finances

1. **Dues** – If deemed necessary, membership dues shall be determined by a majority vote of active members at the start of each academic year.
2. **Budget Approval** – The Treasurer shall present a proposed budget each semester for member approval.
3. **Expenditures** – Any spending over \$100 must be approved by a majority vote of officers and the Faculty Advisor.
4. **Financial Reports** – The Treasurer shall present a financial report at least once per semester.

Article X – Amendments

1. Proposed amendments to these bylaws must be submitted in writing to the Secretary.
2. The proposed amendment shall be read at a regular meeting and voted on at the next regular meeting.
3. Adoption requires a two-thirds majority vote of active members.

Article XI – Dissolution

In the event of dissolution, all assets shall be transferred to the Department of Physics at Indiana University of Pennsylvania or to the national Society of Physics Students, as determined by a majority vote of remaining active members.