

Proposal 1 - Delete Bylaw 13.2.3 (Membership Classes)

Rationale:

Even though the majority of the members are located in the USA, there is also a substantial number of members in other parts of the world. e.g. in December 2020 TICA had 7,865 members of which 3,016 (38%) were outside the US. TICA is an international organisation and the revised membership fee structure makes no division between “regular” and “international” members except for the cost of a printed TREND outside North America.

With the new membership fee structure, the need for “International Family” members in the Bylaws has been removed.

PROs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Members, regardless of location, now pay the same Membership Fee. Brings the By-laws in line with current Membership Classifications and Fees	CONs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None identified
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Amend Bylaw 13.2.3:

13.2 Classes of Members. Members shall be divided into four classes: Life Members, Regular Members, Family Members and Junior members. A member's region of record is the region where the member resides.

13.2.1 Regular Members. Those members 18 years of age or older who have paid the regular membership fee. Regular members are eligible to vote and to receive all rights, privileges and honors accorded.

13.2.2 Family Members. Additional members of a regular member's family, over the age of 18 years, who pay family membership dues. Family members have the same rights and privileges as regular members. Only one family member per regular member may vote.

~~13.2.3 Rule Deleted International Family Members. Additional members of an International member's family, over the age of 18, who pay international family membership dues. Family members have the same rights and privileges as International members, excluding a TICA TREND subscription. Only one a additional family member per International member may vote.~~

13.2.4 Junior Members. Those members under 18 years of age who pay junior membership dues. Junior members have the same rights and privileges as regular members except the right to vote and hold office.

13.2.5 Life Members. Those members who pay the life membership fee. Life members have the same rights and privileges as regular members.

Proposal 2 - Amend Bylaws 15.5 (Production Companies)

Rationale:

The sentences about the 1994 elections are so far in the past that they can be removed.

PROs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removes outdated language that no longer applies	CONs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Removes historical reference.
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Amend Bylaw 15.5:

15.5 In order to avoid a possible conflict of interest no person(s) who is a principal(s) in any show production company shall be eligible to serve as an officer or director of this association. ~~Should any such person be elected in the 1994 elections that person shall have the option of severing all connections with the production company or withdrawing from office. Should any person withdraw from office under this section the person receiving the next highest number of votes shall take the position.~~

Proposal 3 - Amend Bylaws 114.2, 114.6 and 14.1 (Gender Neutrality)

Rationale:

Most of our Bylaws are already gender-neutral. The following Bylaws need amending to comply with this: 14.1, 114.2, and 114.6.

PROs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensures consistent use of pronouns throughout the Bylaws	CONs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gender-neutrality is usually assumed when interpreting rules, regardless of the actual words used
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Amend Bylaws 14.1:

14.1 Breed Section. A Breed Section(s) shall be established for each breed or breed group and one or more sections for household pets. Each member must show proof of ownership of the breed or breed group in order to belong to one Breed/Breed Group Section as a part of ~~his or her~~ **their** membership otherwise they will be assigned to the Household Pet Section.

Amend Bylaws 114.2:

114.2 Announcement of Candidates. Any member who has been a member in good standing for 2 consecutive years immediately preceding shall be eligible to seek office and shall declare ~~his~~ **their** candidacy in writing to the Executive Office not more than 4 months nor less than 2 months before the election month with the filing fee established by the Board of Directors. If no member in the region or no member in the Breed/Breed Group Section has been a member for the 2 years immediately preceding the election, the 2-year membership requirement shall not apply. This shall entitle the candidate to be listed as a candidate for the office sought in every issue of the newsletter including the newsletter prior to the ballot being mailed to the membership. Each candidate shall be entitled to publish a summary of ~~his/her~~ **their** experience, credentials and platform in accordance with Standing Rules.

Amend Bylaws 114.6:

114.6 Responsibilities of Members. Each member shall be responsible to ensure that ~~his~~ **their** ballot is properly authenticated and forwarded as set forth in 113.3.5 above. No member shall attempt to invalidate or otherwise tamper with the TICA election process in any manner whatsoever.

Proposal 4 - Amend Show Rule 24.3, 24.4, Standing Rules 1026 (Bad Debts)

Rationale:

The current Bad Debt process does not cover debts to exhibitors with a timeframe for such payments and, as this is one-sided, it needs correcting.

In addition, the Standing Rules covering the Bad Debt process still contain references to US-centric postal services and, since the majority on correspondence is now by e-mail, these rules need updating.

This will allow TICA to take care of both our clubs and exhibitors.

PROs:	CONs:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides a process for exhibitors to get redress on debts from clubs that mirrors the current process for clubs getting redress for debts from exhibitors.• Updates the Bad Debt process to use email communications and non US-centric language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• By specifying a timescale on refunds, a club may incur cash flow issues in making refunds.• Not all officers listed on the club charter may be actively involved with a particular show's operation and finances. These Standing Rules may discourage people from becoming an officer of a TICA chartered club.

Amend Show Rule 24.3:

24.3 Each entry shall be accompanied by the published fee. No entry fee or related charges will be returned except for failure on the part of the sponsoring club to hold a "Vetted" show as advertised, or there is a change in the advertised judges, date, location and/or format of the show as set forth in Show Rule 24.3.1. In such cases, the club shall refund the total amount if requested by the Exhibitor **within 10 calendar days**.

24.3.1 A sponsoring club must, at least 10 days prior to the advertised closing date of a show, announce and make known to any exhibitor who inquires, who the contracted and confirmed judges are. Any exhibitor who has previously entered the show shall be notified of any change in judges and may withdraw his entries and have entry and related fees returned, **within 10 calendar days**, if requested before the advertised closing date of the show.

Amend Show Rule 24.4:

24.4 If an exhibitor fails to pay any entry fee or other show related debt or if a ~~check~~ *in* payment of said fees or debts is returned, the club shall notify the exhibitor as set forth in the Standing Rules.

If a club fails to refund any entry fee or payment of said fees or debts is returned, the exhibitor shall notify both their Regional Director and the Executive Office as set forth in the Standing Rules.

24.4.1 A procedure shall be established, as set forth in the Standing Rules, whereby the exhibitor will be notified of any outstanding debt to a TICA club, **or a club notified of any outstanding debt to the exhibitor**, and may provide for disciplinary action, with or without a hearing, including, but not limited to, withholding of wins, titles and points accrued from the date of the show for which the debt is incurred, or such other date as may be established, and/or temporary suspension of TICA services until the debt has been paid.

If these changes pass the ballot, then amend Standing Rules 1026 as follows:

1026 Bad Debts.

[NB: Those parts of 1026 that are unchanged are excluded for brevity]

1026.1 Bad Debts. A “Bad Debt” for the purposes of this section may be either a debt to TICA, a debt to a TICA affiliated organization or club, **a debt to an exhibitor**, or a debt to a TICA judge and/or official.

1026.4 Responsible Party.

1026.4.1 In the event that the Debtor is a TICA ~~sanctioned~~ club or **affiliated** organization, and the debt is based on a check that has been returned unpaid, the Responsible Party is the signatory of the check. **In the event that the Debtor is a TICA club or affiliated organization, and the debt is based on an electronic payment that has not been refunded or returned, the Responsible Party includes all club officers as listed on the current club charter or all officers of the affiliated organization. For the purposes of identifying the Responsible Party, the Counselor is an advisor to the club and not considered as an officer of the club.**

1026.5 Debts to TICA.

1026.5.2 The Executive Office shall notify the Debtor or Responsible Party by ~~certified electronic mail, return receipt requested~~, with a copy sent **by post via regular United States Mail, First Class, Postage Prepaid**, and shall inform the Debtor **or Responsible Party** of the entire sum due.

1026.6 Debts to TICA Clubs or to Exhibitors

1026.6.1 In the event that an individual is indebted to a TICA club or organization for show entry fees, or other fees associated with entry or participation in a show, **or a TICA club is indebted to an exhibitor for show entry fees, or other fees associated with entry or participation in a show**, documentation supporting such debt may be forwarded to the Executive Office for further action. The documentation shall include correspondence sent to the individual **or club**, within 14 days after the completion of the show, but not later than May 5 of the subsequent show year,

whichever is earlier, with a precise amount owing and an address to which the payment should be sent, and shall be in substantially similar format to the following:

Dear Exhibitor **or Club**,

You still owe [Name of Club **or Exhibitor**] the sum of \$[exact sum of money owed ~~to Club~~] for the show held on [dates of show]. You must immediately pay the amount due. If you do not pay the amount due, [Name of Club **or Exhibitor**] may forward information regarding your failure to pay that sum to TICA, and you will be subject to the consequences set forth in the TICA Show Rules and Standing Rules, including, but not limited to:

(For exhibitor as debtor)

- Loss of all points from the date of the show until the date the debt is paid
- Suspension from TICA services

(OR – for Club as debtor)

- **Suspension from TICA services of all officers listed on the club charter.**
- **Refusal or withdrawal of show licenses for future shows.**

You may pay the debt by mailing funds to [Specific name and address to which funds should be mailed] or ~~by PayPal to [PayPal Address — Note that Club is not required to accept]~~ or by [any other method **acceptable to both parties** ~~by which the Club will accept~~]. Payment must be received by [date at least 14 days after correspondence is sent or May 10, whichever date is sooner]. If you dispute that this payment is due, you must send your reasons for the dispute to [name and address of the person to send dispute to], with a copy to your Regional Director by [date at least 14 days after correspondence is sent or May 10th, whichever date is sooner].

1026.6.2 Upon giving notice the Executive Office may place the Debtor **or Responsible Party** on Temporary Suspension. **If the Debtor is a club, the club shall be considered to be not in good standing for any purpose of TICA.**

1026.6.2.1 The Temporary Suspension period for debts which are related to a TICA show shall begin on the first day of the related show.

1026.6.2.1.1 The Debtor **or Responsible Party** shall be automatically ineligible to receive any TICA services until the debt is paid in full including registration of cats and/or litters and any other service or product provided by TICA.

1026.6.2.1.2 There will be no accumulation of wins, titles or points or other scoring of cats for the show from which the debt has arisen and/or any subsequent show until the debt is paid in full, or the debt is found invalid by the Board of Directors.

1026.6.2.2 If the debt remains unpaid after 30 days from the mailing of notice, and the ~~Debtor does not dispute that the~~ debt is **not disputed** ~~owing~~, the Debtor **or Responsible Party**'s name(s) shall be included in the "Temporary Suspension" list published in the TICA TREND automatically. In the event the Debtor **or Responsible Party** does dispute that the debt is owing, the matter shall be heard by the Board of Directors, who shall then determine the validity of the debt.

1026.6.3 If the club **or exhibitor** does not provide the information required by 1026.6.1 to the Executive office within 45 days after the show, or May 11, whichever date is sooner, the club **or exhibitor** shall waive any involvement of the Executive Office. The procedure set forth in these Standing Rules may not be used if the club **or exhibitor** fails to provide information in accordance with the above timeline.

1026.6.4 Within 10 days of receipt of the documentation supporting the debt, or by May 12, whichever date is sooner, the Executive Office shall notify the Debtor **or Responsible Party** by ~~certified~~ **electronic** mail, ~~return receipt requested~~, with a copy sent **by post** ~~via regular United States Mail, First Class, Postage Prepaid~~, and shall inform them ~~Debtor~~ of the entire sum due.

1026.6.5 If the debt remains unpaid after 30 days from the mailing of notice, or by May 25, whichever date is sooner, and the Debtor **or Responsible Party** does not dispute that the debt is owing, the Debtor **or Responsible Party** shall be suspended from TICA services, until the debt is paid, and proof of payment furnished to the Executive Office.

1026.6.6 Upon giving notice the Executive Office shall place TICA services provided to the Debtor **or Responsible Party** on hold until the expiration of the 30 days or until May 25, whichever date is sooner. After that date, if the debt has been paid, the Executive Office shall process the work on hold; if the debt has not been paid the Executive Office shall:

1. Return the held work to the Debtor **or Responsible Party**, unprocessed;
2. Suspend TICA services to the Debtor **or Responsible Party** until the debt is paid in full; and
3. Retroactively revoke any points accrued by any cats owned by the Debtor **or Responsible Party** from the first day of the show to which the debt relates until the debt is paid in full.
4. **If the Debtor is also a TICA Club, the club will remain not in good standing for any purpose of TICA.**

1026.6.7 In the event ~~the Debtor disputes~~ the debt **is disputed**, the Debtor **or Responsible Party** may request the matter be determined by the Board of Directors. They ~~Debtor~~ must request this determination, in writing, using the official TICA complaint form. The filing fee for this matter, ~~including up to ten (10) attached pages~~ **based on a single electronic file**, shall be zero. The filing fee for any additional ~~pages files~~ is specified in rule 1022.2.1.3. ~~The Debtor is not entitled~~ **There is no entitlement** to a "live" hearing before the Board of Directors; the Board of Directors may determine the matter at a meeting or otherwise, as it may see fit.

1026.7 Debts to TICA Judges

1026.7.1 In the event that a debt is owed to a TICA judge for judging fees or travel expenses, documentation supporting such debt may be forwarded to the Executive Office. The Executive Office shall notify the Debtor or Responsible Party by ~~certified~~ **electronic** mail, ~~return receipt requested~~, with a copy sent **by post** ~~via regular United States Mail, First Class, Postage Prepaid~~, and shall inform the Debtor or Responsible Party of the entire sum due.

1026.7.2 Upon giving notice the Executive Office may place the Debtor **or Responsible Party** on Temporary Suspension as of the first day of the related show.

1026.7.3 If the debt remains unpaid after 30 days from the mailing of notice, and the Debtor or Responsible Party does not dispute that the debt is owing, the Debtor **or Responsible Party's** name(s) shall be included in the "Temporary Suspension" list published in the TICA Trend automatically. In the event the Debtor or Responsible Party does dispute that the debt is owing the matter shall be heard by the Board of Directors, who shall then determine the validity of the debt.

Proposal 5 - Amend various Show Rules (Gender Neutrality)

Rationale:

Most of our rules are already gender-neutral. The following rules need amending to comply with this: 25.4, 29.5.1.2, 213.4, 216.2, 216.7, 216.8.1, 216.10

PROs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensures consistent use of pronouns throughout the Show Rules	CONs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gender-neutrality is usually assumed when interpreting rules, regardless of the actual words used
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Amend Show Rules 25.4:

25.4 All Shows. These Show Rules must be presented to the veterinarian prior to ~~his/her~~ **their** inspection of the entries.

Amend Show Rules 29.5.1.2:

29.5.1.2 Statements of qualifications, platforms or similar matters by candidates for a TICA recognized office provided that the candidate has announced ~~his/her~~ **their** candidacy in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws.

Amend Show Rules 213.4:

213.4 A contracted judge must give notice to the club at least 14 days prior to the advertised entry closing date if ~~he/she~~ **they**, for whatever reason, ~~is~~ **are** unable to fulfill ~~his~~ **their** contract.

Amend Show Rules 216.2:

216.2 A judge shall judge all cats and place ~~his/her~~ **their** awards in accordance with the TICA Standards, not upon ~~his/her~~ **their** personal likes or dislikes.

Amend Show Rules 216.7:

Withholding Awards:

216.7 When an otherwise eligible entry has faults of such nature that it fails to conform to the standard of its breed, and, therefore, lacks merit, or when the entry is in such poor condition that it should not be shown, the judge may:

216.7.1 Withhold All Awards in which case the judge shall mark "WW" in the space provided for awards in ~~his/her~~ **their** judge's book. No further notation is required; or

216.7.2 Award less than Best of Color, in which case no higher division award may be made than that made in the color class. The judge shall indicate that award place (i.e. second, third, fourth, fifth) in the space provided for awards in ~~his/her~~ **their** judge's book. No further notation is required.

Amend Show Rules 216.8.1:

216.8.1 When an entry is disqualified, the judge shall mark "DQ" in the space provided for awards in ~~his/her~~ **their** judge's books. The judge shall state the reason for "DQ" on the Executive Office copy.

Amend Show Rules 216.10:

216.10 A judge shall disqualify any cat showing evidence of intent to deceive the judge by artificial means. Should a judge suspect fraud in any classes previously judged, ~~he/she~~ **they** may reopen and re-judge such classes.

Proposal 6 - Amend Reg Rule 33.10.3.5 (Move Transfer New Breed fee to Standing Rules)

Rationale:

Some time ago, the Board decided that all fees should be specified within the Standing Rules. This particular fee (for a Transfer New Breed to advance to ANB) was overlooked at the time and now needs correcting.

PROs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correcting oversight	CONs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None identified
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Amend Reg Rule 33.10.3.5:

33.10.3.5 A processing fee ~~of \$50~~ **as specified in the Standing Rules.**

Add Standing Rule 303.10.3.5:

303.10.3.5 A processing fee of \$50

Proposal 7 - Add Reg Rule 34.3.1 (Clarify status of new colors)

Rationale:

The current Reg Rule 34.3 explicitly excludes new colors from being eligible for Championship competition but it is only implicit (but not explicit) that the New Traits process should be used in current Championship breeds to progress that color.

Because of this ambiguity, the Board recognised that an incorrect decision had been made at the Winter 2022 Meeting, and so this change will prevent any further misunderstandings until a more comprehensive New Color process has been created.

Also, it is not clear that the term “color” in the present rules should also apply to an Agouti Shift Modifier or a Pattern Effect.

PROs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarifies rules for new patterns and colors.• Allows Judges and Breeders/Exhibitors to learn about the New Trait before entering Championship	CONs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cats that have been shown as another color, when reclassified as the new color, would no longer be eligible for Championship, Titles or RW/IW until the New Trait process has been successfully completed.
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Add Rule 34.3.1:

34.3 Limitations.

Acceptance of a cat of a color and breed for registration purposes does not imply eligibility for championship competition. Colors which are recognized for registration are not necessarily recognized for championship exhibition by the breed in question. (For a list of colors recognized for championship one is referred to the appropriate sections of the TICA Show Rules, Registration Rules, Standards and the Uniform Color Descriptions.)

34.3.1 Any new color added to the UCD (including Agouti Shift Modifiers and Pattern Effects) must go through the New Traits process before being recognized as a Championship color by any breed. One genetic factor that affects multiple different coat colorations shall be considered as a single New Trait.