Bylaws of the Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy

August 2014, Revised February 2021

Article I Name
The name of the organization is Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy Specialty Council.

Article II Purpose
The purpose of the Specialty Council shall be to promote, serve and protect the interests of Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy as a specialty in professional psychology by:

1. Ensuring the development and maintenance of education and training guidelines for the specialty of Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy that conform to the education and training guidelines of the American Psychological Association;

2. Reviewing and periodically updating the “core domains and proficiencies” of the specialty of Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy, as necessary, to reflect the contemporary state of the specialty;

3. Representing the specialty of Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy to the American Psychological Association Commission on Accreditation (CoA), Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology (CoS), and the American Psychological Association Commission on Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP);

4. Petitioning the American Psychological Association (APA), consistent with procedures and timelines established by CRSPPP, for periodic renewal of APA recognition of Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy as a specialty in professional psychology; and

5. Engaging in other activities or initiatives for the betterment of the specialty of Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy and in the service of its role as a CoS member Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy Specialty Council

Article III Membership

1. The membership of the Specialty Council shall consist of one representative from each co-sponsoring specialty organization and approved affiliates.

2. The initial co-sponsoring specialty organizations eligible for representation on the Specialty Council are the:
   Division 49 : Group Psychology and Group Psychotherapy
   American Group Psychotherapy Association
   The Adelphi University Postgraduate Group Training Program
   The Florida State University Counseling Center Group Training Program
   Behavioral Health Institute – Catholic Health Services
ABPP

3. Organizations seeking membership and representation on the Specialty Council must be approved by unanimous vote of existing members. Initially eligible organizations listed in Paragraph 2 above are exempted from this requirement except as stipulated by Article X.

4. Each representative shall be appointed for a term of four years and may serve consecutive terms.

5. Terms of representatives to the Specialty Council and officers thereof shall begin on January 1.

6. Representatives to the Specialty Council commit themselves to active participation and regular attendance at meetings. Appointment of a new representative may be required by the Specialty Council in the case of insufficient participation by a representative. Such requirement shall be acted upon by the member organization within 30 days of written notice being given (by email or postal service) to the executive officer of the member organization.

7. The officers of the Specialty Council shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer each serving contiguous two-year terms. Officers may be reelected for consecutive terms.

8. An Executive Committee will be formed consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and representatives from AGPA and ABGP. The Executive Committee will meet monthly and minutes of the meetings will be distributed to all Council members.

8. The Specialty Council may invite non-voting liaisons from non-member organizations and/or subject matter experts to attend meetings or to participate in its various activities and initiatives in order to optimally promote, serve and protect the interests of the specialty.

Article IV Dues

1. Member organizations agree to pay annual membership dues to the Specialty Council to cover its expenses that are approved by the Specialty Council.

2. Initial membership dues shall be set at $100 annually and may be modified by majority vote of the Specialty Council.

3. Dues are due and payable on January 15 of each year and within 30 days of notice of any supplemental dues approved by majority vote of the Specialty Council.

Article V Meetings

1. Meetings shall be held at least once annually and may be held telephonically or online.

2. Meetings may be attended by liaisons and observers by invitation or with approval of the majority of the Specialty Council.

3. The Specialty Council may conduct business outside of the regularly scheduled meetings. Votes may be conducted by telephone, mail, e-mail or fax.
Article VI
Representative to the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology
Members of the Specialty Council shall elect one of its members to represent the Specialty Council to the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology (CoS). The term of the CoS Representative shall be three years, effective January 1 in the year of appointment, and may be extended by one additional three- year term. Only full terms are considered in the calculation of the maximum length of representation.

Article VII Member Disaffiliation
Members of the Specialty Council may be disaffiliated from the Specialty Council only by unanimous approval by representatives of all other existing members and only under the following circumstances:
1. One or more policies and/or actions of a member organization have been determined by the Specialty Council to be substantially detrimental to the collective interests of the specialty and repeated efforts by the Specialty Council to address these issues with the member organization have been unsuccessful; or
2. The member organization has failed to pay its dues and repeated efforts to negotiate a resolution acceptable to both the Specialty Council and the member organization have been unsuccessful.

Article VIII Rules of Order
The Specialty Council shall conduct its meetings in accordance with the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order.

Article IX Amendments
Amendments to these Bylaws may be made by a majority vote of the members of the Specialty Council.

Article X
Signatories of Initially Eligible Co-Sponsoring Member Organizations
The eligible co-sponsoring member organizations referenced in Article III, Paragraph 2 agree to accept the privileges and obligations of membership and representation on the Specialty Council, as evidenced below by the signature of their respective organization’s executive officer. Any eligible co-sponsoring member organization that has not authorized membership and representation to the Specialty Council on or before December 31, 2014 must meet the requirement of Article III, Paragraph 3 if it subsequently seeks membership.