

Summary of amendments to the PPTC by-laws approved February 16, 2015

At its regular monthly meeting on February 16, 2015, the Board of Directors of Prospect Park Track Club, Inc. approved two amendments to the Club's by-laws.

Each was passed by a vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, exceeding the threshold of 80% of Directors and Officers then in office required by Article X of the by-laws. (One Director position was vacant at the time.)

Both amendments were discussed in depth over several months and considered separately. Explanations follow.

Amendment 2015-1: term length of some Director positions

Amendment 2015-2: "instant runoff" method of voting

Amendment 2015-1: Article III, Section 3

What it does: Changes the term length of some Director positions so that a minimum of two Director positions will be open each year.

Old language:

Directors: Eligibility, Term of Office and Election

3. A) Each Director must have been a Member in good standing for at least one year prior to election, and not a current member of a competing running club.

B) Directors will serve for staggered three (3) year terms. At every annual Election there will be a class of Directors that are to be regularly elected. Additional Directors may be elected to fill any vacancies that may exist at that time or to ratify by the Members the election of a Director by the Board to serve out the term of a vacating Director. All such non-regularly elected Directors will thereafter continue to serve out the remainder of the term as determined by the class of the vacating Director.

C) Directors shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast during the Election by the Members in good standing entitled to vote.

New language:

Directors: Eligibility, Term of Office and Election

3. A) Each Director must have been a Member in good standing for at least one year prior to election, and not a current member of a competing running club.

B) Directors will serve for staggered terms in two Classes. There will be three (3) Class I Directors and two (2) Class II Directors. Class I Directors will serve terms of three (3) years, and Class II Directors will serve terms of two (2) years.

C) At every annual Election there will be two Director positions to be regularly elected: one from each Class. Additional Directors may be elected to fill any vacancies that may exist at that time. All such non-regularly elected Directors will thereafter continue to serve out the remainder of the term as determined by the Class of the vacating Director.

Rationale for Amendment 2015-1:

In 2014, there was only one Director position scheduled to be open. This would happen every third year under the previous by-laws, limiting the ability of members to join the Board.

Now, each year, top candidate will get a 3-year term, and the second-place candidate will get a 2-year term.

This means that at least two Director positions will be up for election each year. Members will therefore have more – and consistent – opportunities to become part of the leadership. Here's an image to illustrate how this will work.

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Lynda	Yellow			Yellow			Yellow		
Matt	Yellow		Yellow			Yellow			
Nicole	Yellow		Yellow			Yellow			
Steve	Green			Green			Green		
Keith	Green		Green			Green			

Amendment 2015-2: Article II, Section 5

What it does: Adopts an "instant runoff" method of voting to ensure the Director candidate most preferred by the membership receives the longest term.

Old language:

Election to Office

5. Officers and Directors shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast during the Election by the Members in good standing entitled to vote.

New language:

Election to Office

5. All elections of Directors and Officers shall be by secret ballot, using a system of instant runoff voting. The Elections Committee shall arrange for the implementation of a voting protocol according to these guidelines:

- A. The ballot shall give voters the option of ranking candidates in order of preference.
- B. If a candidate receives a majority (over 50 percent) of first preferences, that candidate is elected.
- C. If no candidate receives a majority of first preferences, the Elections Committee shall perform an instant runoff, which shall be conducted in rounds. In each round, each voter's ballot shall count as a single vote for whichever continuing candidate the voter has ranked highest. The candidate with the fewest votes after each round shall be eliminated until one candidate has received a majority (over 50 percent) of remaining votes.
- D. The Elections Committee may adopt additional rules consistent with this subsection to implement these standards.

If multiple Director positions are open, the above process will be used as many times as is necessary, starting with the longest term of office to be filled. In these subsequent iterations, a vote for a Director already elected shall be disregarded, as if the candidate had been eliminated.

Rationale for Amendment 2015-2:

This method is now used by many political jurisdictions around the world, as it eliminates the issue of votes "wasted" on third-party candidates. While generally a fairer system, it is particularly necessary to ensure the most-popular candidate receives the longer (or longest) Director term.

Voters rank candidates in order of preference. Think of it this way: "Hey, honey, if you go to the store, could you pick up some ice cream? If they have Cherry Garcia, great. If not, my next choice is Rocky Road. If that doesn't work, then get me..."

If no one gets a majority (50% + 1 vote), the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and whoever was ranked next on those eliminated ballots then receives the count.

Counting the votes is no more difficult than with a "normal" election.

Here is an example. After Round 1, Elliot has the fewest votes, with 3, so he's eliminated. One person had John as his next choice, and 2 had Sarah. We continue until one person has more than 50% of the votes.

	Rd 1	Next choices from Elliot's ballots	Rd 2	Next choices from John's ballots	Rd 3	Next choices from Vaughn's ballots	Rd 4
Elliot	3						
John	4	1	5				
Julia	7		7	3	10	4	14
Sarah	5	2	7	1	8	3	11
Vaughn	6		6	1	7		