

Constitution of the Constraint Programming Society in North America

Article I – *Establishment*

With this constitution, we establish an organization that shall henceforth be known as the *Constraint Programming Society in North America*, to which we refer in short as CPNA. The organization shall foster, represent, and propagate constraint-based research and technology on the North American continent. It shall be an association of scientists and users alike, persons and organizations, any North American entity that creates or benefits from any form of existing or novel form of constraint technology. The CPNA shall be a transparent and democratic society that welcomes, motivates, and initiates innovation in constraints in the broadest sense; that reaches out to related research areas and new users; and that advances constraint programming by increasing awareness and facilitating technology transfer between academia and industry.

Article II – *Objectives*

The CPNA serves three major objectives:

- a) To provide a unifying common platform for all constraint programming researchers and users on the North American continent.
- b) To act as the democratic representative that protects and voices the interests of constraint researchers and users in North America.
- c) To advance and disseminate constraint programming technology.

All actions and decisions of the CPNA shall be taken to further these main objectives.

Article III – *Organization*

1. Membership

Eligibility - All persons age 18 or older who subscribe to our mission as outlined in Articles I and II are eligible to become members of the CPNA.

Privileges - All members together form the *Body* of the CPNA which functions as the democratic sovereign of the entire society. Every member has the right to vote, to nominate, and to be nominated for election into the Steering Committee. Members may resign their affiliation with the CPNA at any time by submitting their resignation in writing to the Steering Committee.

2. Structure

General Assembly - The Body of the CPNA shall meet physically at least once a year in a *General Assembly (GA)*. The GA shall hear and openly discuss the report of the officers regarding the last and the upcoming year. The future budget of the society must be approved by the GA. Once in two years, prior to the GA, the Body elects the society's officers by means of electronic voting.

Steering Committee – The CPNA shall be governed by the *Steering Committee (SC)* which consists of six elected members of the society. The SC is the highest council of the CPNA and it has the sole right to interpret its constitution and by-laws. The SC votes two of its members to staff the following two offices:

- a) The President sets the agenda for the society in collaboration with the other officers and has the decisive vote when the SC or the GA is tied, unless for elections of personnel for which a coin-toss is used to break ties. (S)He shall preside over and set the agenda for all meetings of the GA and the SC. The President shall ensure that the society abides by its own standards of democracy, transparency, and inclusiveness and shall act as the highest representative of the CPNA.
- b) The Secretary-Treasurer schedules all meetings after prior consultation with the President. (S)He also maintains an accurate membership directory, a record of all meetings of the GA and the SC, and a record of organization transactions. Moreover, (s)he shall collect dues, and develop a yearly budget for the SC to be approved by the GA. All financial transactions must be signed by the President and the Treasurer.

The SC shall act in the best interest of all members and it must report yearly to the Body who in turn elects the SC and approves the SC's budget on a yearly basis.

Article IV – Rules

All meetings shall be held in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Elections shall be general, free, equal, direct, and ballots shall be secret. A 75% quorum of all members is required for amendments to the constitution and a 66% quorum is required for amendments to the by-laws. All other decisions do not require a quorum.

Article V – Finances

Membership fees shall be set by the SC subject to revision for not more than once per year. For expenditures, the signatures of both the Treasurer and the President are required. The monies of the society shall be handled responsibly and in accordance with the principle of sound financial management.

Article VI – Flexibility

If action by the society should prove necessary within the framework of this constitution in order to attain at least one of the objectives set by Article II and neither the constitution nor the by-laws has provided the necessary powers, then the SC, acting unanimously, may take the appropriate measures.

Article VII – Amendments

Any member of the organization may table proposals for amendments to the constitution and by-laws. Such proposals shall be submitted to the SC at least three weeks before the next GA of the society. During this time, the proposed amendment shall be made aware to the members of the society who shall vote no later than ten days before the meeting whether the proposal shall be discussed at the GA. Amendments need to be supported by at least 15% of all members or 40% of the officers serving on the SC before they are eligible for open deliberation at the GA. Eligible amendments are then discussed at the GA and voted upon electronically within one month after the meeting. A 66% majority vote and a quorum of 75% of all members is required to pass amendments to the constitution. A simple majority vote and a quorum of 25% is required for amendments to the by-laws. Further councils and boards must be introduced using the by-laws and must be active for a period of at least two years before they can become part of the constitution.

Article VIII – Dissolution

The CPNA can dissolve itself by following the same rules that govern amendments to the constitution. In the event of dissolution of the society, all assets belonging to society shall be split evenly between the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence and the Informs Computing Society.

By-Laws of the Constraint Programming Society in North America

Article I – *SC Elections*

Time of Election - The SC shall be elected by the Body one month prior to the GA where the old SC shall report about the last year and the new SC shall present its plans and budget for the next year.

Nominations and Candidacy - Candidates standing for election must be members and must be nominated no less than two weeks before the election by at least one member of the society (including potential self-nominations). A member may only candidate if (s)he has not served on the SC for more than three years within the last five years, counted from the point in time when the term of the current SC ends.

Voting – Elections are conducted electronically. Every member can vote for at most four candidates. In all elections of personnel, a coin-toss shall be used to break ties.

Term - The term of the elected candidates begins with the first GA meeting after their election. A regular term ends after two years, when an SC member resigns, or when the entire SC is forced to resign by impeachment. In case that an SC member resigns before the nomination phase of elections that are conducted more than one year prior to the end of the term of the respective officer, then the vacant position shall be filled in that election by granting the candidate with the highest number of votes a three-year term (prolonged term of replacement officers). In case that more than two positions in the SC are vacated more than eight months before the next regular elections are held, then the vacancies shall be filled by an irregular election that is held at most two months after the third vacancy occurs. The term of the replacing officers begins immediately after the irregular election and lasts until two years after the next regular GA (prolonged term after irregular elections). In case of an impeachment of the SC, the old SC shall conduct new elections immediately. The three candidates with the highest number of votes shall serve a term that begins immediately after the election and lasts until three years after the next GA. The three runner-ups serve a term that begins immediately after the elections and lasts until two years after the next GA.

Article II – *Impeachment and Resignations of Officers*

The SC can be forced to resign before its regular term is up by a movement of the Body. The same quorum and majorities that govern the change of the constitution are also required for such an impeachment movement. In case that at most two officers serving on the SC resign and their term does not end at the next GA, then the vacancies will be filled at the next election. Replacement officers serve a prolonged term of three years and are determined at the next election by those candidates that have the highest number of votes.

If more than two officers resign from the SC earlier than eight months before the next GA and in case of impeachment, the old SC needs to conduct a replacement election within two months after the second resignation, asking the Body for nominations immediately. The term of the newly elected SC members begins immediately after the election (without the need of a meeting of the GA) and their term ends after two years after the next regular GA. The new SC shall set a time and place for the next (potentially irregular) GA meeting no later than nine months after the irregular elections. In case of impeachment of the SC, all six members have to be elected anew. The three candidates with the highest number of votes shall serve a three-year term.

Article III – Duties of Members

Membership may be revoked if a member does not fulfill his or her responsibilities, which include the timely payment of membership fees and refraining from any actions that stand in direct opposition to the goals of the organization as outlined in Articles I and II.

Article IV – Meetings

The Body conducts one regular physical meeting every year, which is called the General Assembly. These meetings shall be called for by the current SC no later than three months in advance, specifying the time and place of the meeting. Elections for the SC are conducted electronically and must be announced to all members at least two months in advance. The SC shall conduct at least one physical meeting per year, and stay in close contact at all times.

Article V – Finances

Finances are handled by the Secretary-Treasurer who collects membership dues and all other sources of income such as donations or sponsoring to be kept in a save account. The amount of membership fees per member shall be determined by the SC by simple majority vote.

Policies and Procedures

Article I -- *Offices*

The following offices shall be staffed by appointment of the SC:

- a) The Platform Chair shall facilitate the collaboration of members (for example by organizing research workshops or arranging invited talks) and to strengthen the unity of the society. (S)He also acts in place of the President with respect to internal affairs whenever the latter is absent or otherwise unable to perform the presidential duties.
- b) The Academic Ambassador shall increase the awareness of constraint programming by reaching out to academia at large, other constraint organizations as well as adjacent research areas. (S)He also represents the CPNA to the outside whenever the President is absent or otherwise unable to do so.
- c) The Funding Chair is responsible for raising funds for the society and to increase the awareness of constraint programming at funding institutions.
- d) The Career Chair shall help the society's members to advance their careers in academia or industry (for example by maintaining a list of open employment positions and providing career advice). (S)He also assists the Secretary-Treasurer and also perform his or her duties whenever (s)he is absent or otherwise unable to do so.
- e) The Liaison facilitates the information transfer between researchers and industrial and governmental users of constraint technology (for example by organizing user workshops or collecting a repository of real-world problem data).