



Florida Fire Sprinkler Association Code of Ethics and By-Laws

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FLORIDA FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS

Preamble

THE MEMBERS OF the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association recognize that their work has a direct, as well as indirect, impact on the quality of life for all humanity. Accordingly, the services provided by FFSA members require honesty, impartiality, fairness and equity, and must be dedicated to the preservation of life and property and the further enhancement of the public safety, health and welfare.

In practice of their profession, members of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association must maintain and constantly improve their competence and perform under a standard of professional behavior which requires adherence to the highest principles of ethical conduct with balanced regard for the interests of the public, clients, employees, colleagues and the greater fire protection community they serve. Members of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association are expected to act in accordance with the provision of this code of ethics and all applicable laws, and actively encourage others to do the same.

Fundamental Principles

Florida Fire Sprinkler Association members uphold and advance the honor and integrity of their profession by:

- Using their knowledge and skill for enhancement of human welfare;
- Being honest and impartial, and serving with faithfulness the public, their employees and clients;
- Striving to increase the competence and prestige of their profession.

The Code

Knowledge and Skill

- Members of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association shall be dedicated to the safety, health and welfare of the public in the performance of their profession. If FFSA members become knowledgeable of unsafe conditions that threaten the present or future safety, health or welfare of the public, then they shall so advise their employers or clients. Should knowledge of such conditions not be properly acted upon, the FFSA members should notify the appropriate authority having jurisdiction.
- Members of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association shall be encouraged to contribute their services for the advancement of the safety, health and welfare of the community and to

support those causes as an enhancement to the safety of life and the preservation of property.

Honesty and Impartiality

- Members of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association shall perform their professional services only in the areas of their competence, and after full disclosure of their pertinent qualifications.
- FFSA members shall be honest and truthful in presenting data and estimates, professional opinions and conclusions, and in their public statements dealing with professional matters, and shall not engage in improper solicitation of professional employment or contracts.
- FFSA members shall act in a professional manner at all times for each employer or client as faithful agents or trustees and shall not disclose matters of confidentiality concerning the business affairs or technical processes of any present or former client of employer without consent.
- FFSA members' decisions shall be made and actions taken without bias because of race, religion, sex, age, national origin or physical handicaps.
- FFSA members shall make prior disclosure to all interested parties of all known or potential conflicts of interest or other circumstances which could influence or appear to influence their judgment or the quality of their work.

Competence and Prestige

- FFSA members shall perform their work/services and associate with others only in such manner as to uphold and enhance the honor and integrity of their profession.
- FFSA members shall continue their professional enhancement throughout their careers and shall provide opportunities for the professional development of those individuals under their supervision.
- FFSA members shall accept the responsibility for their actions, accept and offer honest criticism of their work, properly credit for the work of others.
- FFSA members shall strive to advance the knowledge and skills of their profession, and to make these advancements available to colleagues, clients and the public.

FLORIDA FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

Article I- Mission and Purposes

The mission statement of the Corporation shall be “The Florida Fire Sprinkler Association is a professional organization dedicated to public safety that leads and promotes the fire sprinkler industry with integrity, education and stakeholder development.”

In fulfilling this mission, it shall be the purpose of the Corporation to promote the fire sprinkler industry, protect the fire sprinkler industry, and strengthen the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association, as a unique identity in itself and to conduct such programs and undertake such projects and services as are in keeping with these objectives.

Such projects and services may include but is not limited to:

Building and Fire Codes

To promote the acceptance of fire sprinklers among the building regulatory bodies including the Model Code Organizations, federal, state, county and city agencies.

Legislation

To represent the industry in such legislative matters as may be from time to time determined to be in keeping with the objective and purposes of the Corporation.

Field Programs

To maintain a coordinated statewide field service program designed to promote and enhance the fire sprinkler market and to serve the goals and objectives of the Corporation and member firms.

Membership

To seek the broadest possible participation of all firms which manufacture and/or install fire sprinklers and/or provide related equipment or services and to promote harmonious relations among all members and stakeholders.

Education

To conduct educational programs and/or seminars, on regional and/or statewide basis for the purpose of executing the general purpose expressed in this Article.

Membership Services

To provide services intended to enhance the business of the fire sprinkler industry. Examples may include but, not be limited to publication of periodicals, newsletters, technical and management oriented journals and papers, advice on compliance with OSHA and other safety requirements, affirmative action programs, supplementary installation rules as promulgated by insurance engineering authorities, fire marshals, building officials, or other authorities having jurisdiction.

It may also include the development of engineering certification programs to improve the skills, knowledge, and standing of fire protection system designers and technicians.

Article II: Membership

Section I- Membership

Any person, firm or corporation, trade association, or professional society engaged in the sale, design, installation, maintenance, promotion, and/or regulation of fire sprinkler systems or their components shall be eligible for membership in the Corporation. All members of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association must be members of the National Fire Sprinkler Association.

Section II- Classes of Membership

A. Active Members- voting member.

Any person, firm, or corporation who holds a State of Florida license as a contractor I, II, IV, or V for the automatic fire sprinkler industry is eligible for membership as an active member.

B. Supplier and Manufacturer Member- voting member.

A Supplier and Manufacturer member is a person, firm, or corporation which manufactures, sells or distributes materials or services whose end use is intended for inclusion in fire sprinkler systems, but who is not eligible for other classes of membership as defined in Section 2, Subsections A, C, or D.

C. Professional Members- non-voting member.

A trade or professional association, society or institute whose principal service is to the construction of fire protection industries, such as architects, engineers, consultants, insurance firms and accountants, are eligible for non-voting membership.

D. Subscriber Members- non-voting member.

A Subscriber Member is a person, firm, or corporation, trade association or professional society not eligible for membership under Section 2, Subsections A, B, or C:

Any person, firm or corporation may hold multiple memberships in accordance with the classes of membership as defined herein.

E. Friend of the Industry- non-voting member.

A Friend of the Industry includes vendors, such as attorneys, accountants, insurance agents, manufacturer representatives, printing companies, as well as any and all companies that are not directly involved in the fire sprinkler industry, but offer their services to NFSA and its members.

F. Florida Associate Member- non-voting member.

A Florida Associate Member is a person, firm, or corporation which manufactures, sells, distributes materials or services whose end use is intended for inclusion in fire sprinkler systems and whose business is limited to activity within the State of Florida only. Membership as a Florida Associate Member does not afford one access to the multitude of NFSA services, but does allow recognition within and access to FFSA sponsored functions and publications.

Section 3- Approval of Membership Application

Florida members who have applied to and been accepted by the National Fire Sprinkler Association, in accordance with NFSA By-Laws and procedures, will automatically become members, within the appropriate category of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association. Approval of a Florida Associate Member is by the Board of Directors of the FFSA at any regular or special meeting, a quorum being present.

Section 4- Termination of Membership

The membership of any member of FFSA, except a Florida Associate Member, may be terminated pursuant to the procedures of membership termination established in the NFSA By-Laws. Termination of a Florida Associate Member is by the Board of Directors of FFSA at any regular or special meeting, a quorum being present.

Article III: Board of Directors

Section 1- Selection of Directors

There shall be fifteen (15) Directors.

- A. Eight (8) Directors will be Active Members elected from eight (8) different geographic locations. The geographic locations will be designated by the Board of Directors.
- B. At the option of the Board of Directors, up to five (5) Active Members may be elected at large from any area of the State of Florida.
- C. Two (2) Directors from the Suppliers and Manufacturers shall be elected by and from the Suppliers and Manufacturers members.
- D. The immediate Past President shall be a Director, ex-officio.

Section 2- Meeting of the Board of Directors

Four (4) meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held annually. Meetings shall be held on the second Tuesday of March, June, September, and December at such times and places as may be determined by the President of the FFSA Board of Directors and confirmed by the Board. Every effort shall be made to hold meetings throughout the state to afford the widest opportunity for the General Membership to attend. All regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors shall be open to any member of the Association in good standing.

Section 3- Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the President of the Board, and shall be called by the Chairman or the Secretary of the Corporation upon the written request of three (3) Directors. Notice of special meetings shall be given by the Secretary orally, by fax, or by mail. Such notice shall be given or sent not less than seven (7) days before the meeting. Meetings may be held at any time without notice if all the Directors are present, attend by electronic video or telephonic conference or if those not present waive, in writing, notice of the meeting before the meeting.

Section 4- Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association shall be held concurrently with the December Board of Directors Meeting.

Section 5- Quorum

The majority of the Board members present, but in any event not less than eight (8) members, shall constitute a quorum for the Board meetings. Eight (8) FFSA Board of Director members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting business at any regular or special meeting of the membership.

Section 6- Voting

Each Director shall, at each meeting of the Directors, be entitled to one (1) vote on any matter duly coming before the meeting. All questions shall be decided by a simple majority of votes cast, except as otherwise provided by statute, the Certificate of Incorporation or these By-Laws. At the option of the Board, a Proxy vote on issues may be permitted.

Section 7- Vacancies

If the office of any Director becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, retirement, disqualification or removal from office, a successor Director shall be elected by the Board of Directors. Any successor Director shall hold office until the expiration of the term of the Director who he or she succeeded.

Section 8- Removal of Directors

Any Director may be removed at any time for cause by a majority vote of the Directors present at any special meeting called for that specific purpose. A quorum shall be present.

Section 9- Informal Action

Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Board of Directors or any Council or Committee may be taken without a meeting if, prior to such action, a written consent thereto is signed by all members of the Board or of the Council or Committee, as the case may be, and such written consent is filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board or such Council or Committee.

Article IV: Terms of Office

Section 1

Each Director shall assume office at the beginning of the March meeting of the Board of Directors immediately following his or her election and shall serve for a term of two (2) years.

Section 2

The Supplier and Manufacturer Director shall assume office at the beginning of the March meeting of the Board of Directors immediately following his or her election by the Supplier and Manufacturers Committee and shall serve for a term of one (1) year.

Section 3

Effective the first election following the date of approval of this by-laws revision, no firm or corporation shall have more than one (1) representative on the Board of Directors.

Article V: Officers

At each Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors, shall elect a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and a Secretary/Treasurer. These Officers will serve as the Executive Committee. These officers shall serve a one (1) year term and may succeed themselves.

These officers must be Directors and where possible, have served as Chairperson of one or more standing committees of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association. A nominating committee, consisting of the current year's Executive Committee will nominate the slate of officers for the next Executive Committee.

Article VI- Duties of Officers

Section 1- President

The President shall be the chief elected officer of the Association. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Association, the Board of Directors, and the Executive Committee, appoint the chair and members of all standing and special committees and perform all duties necessarily incidental the office of President.

Section 2- First Vice-President

The First Vice-President shall assist the President and carry out all duties delegated to the office of the First Vice-President by the President or the Board of Directors. In the absence of the President, the First Vice-President shall assume all the duties and responsibilities of the President.

Section 3- Second Vice-President

The Second Vice-President shall carry out the duties delegated to this office by the President or the Board of Directors. In the absence of the President and the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President shall assume all the duties and responsibilities of the President.

Section 4- Secretary/Treasurer

The Secretary/Treasurer shall be responsible for the proper and legal mailing of notices to the membership, the proper recording of the proceedings of all meetings of the Association, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and the maintenance of an accurate roster of the membership.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall serve as a liaison between the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association and the National Fire Sprinkler Association on the financial matters.

The Executive Assistant of the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association will serve as the functional Secretary/Treasurer of the FFSA Board of Directors, with oversight from the elected Secretary/Treasurer of the FFSA Board of Directors.

Article VII: Executive Director

The Board of Directors will coordinate with the President of the National Fire Sprinkler Association to select, hire, and fire an Executive Director and other staff positions necessary to administrate and manage the affairs of the Association. The Executive Director shall perform all duties as prescribed by the Florida Fire Sprinkler Association and National Fire Sprinkler Association.

Article VIII: Board of Director Committees

Section 1- Standing Committees

Standing committees of the Association shall be the Nomination, Membership, Legislation, Education and Promotion Committees, each made up of a chair and additional members. Efforts should be made to secure at least one (1) member of each of the eight (8) geographical regions of Florida. The chair of each committee is responsible for securing and appointing committee members.

The exception is the Nomination Committee, which shall be made up of members of the outgoing Board Executive Committee who is responsible for nominating a slate of officers for the next FFSA Executive Committee.

Section 2- Special Committees

Special committees may be established by the Board of Directors. The chair and other member of each such committee shall be appointed by the President.

Article IX: Dues

Section 1

Membership dues and effective dates for these dues shall be determined by the NFSA Board of Directors. Florida Associate Membership dues shall be determined by the FFSA Board of Directors.

Section 2

The FFSA Board of Directors may call for a special assessment for any purpose consistent with the mission of FFSA as outlined in Article I, said assessment shall be due as required by the Board.

Article X: Financial Matters

Section 1

Financial matters of the FFSA shall be co-managed between the FFSA and NFSA. In addition the FFSA shall maintain its own cash account with full authority regarding its use.

Section 2

NFSA shall make a distinction in its accounting for additional funds generated by the FFSA through special assessments or programs. These special monies shall be distributed only after approval by the FFSA Board of Directors.

Article XI: Dissolution

Section1- Dissolution by Members

Subject to the laws of Florida, the Corporation may be dissolved at any time by a vote of the Directors at regular or special meetings of the Board of Directors, provided that the notice of such meetings shall refer to the proposal to vote upon dissolution. The vote for dissolution must be two-thirds (2/3) of the Directors present.

Section 2- Distribution of Corporate Property Upon Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, after paying or adequately providing for its debts and obligations, the remaining assets and property, if any, shall be applied and distributed as follows in the order specified:

A. Each member of the Corporation in good standing shall be entitled to a refund of the unearned portion of the annual dues for the number of months remaining in the fiscal period for which dues were paid after the adoption for the resolution of dissolution;

B. The net assets of the Corporation remaining, if any, shall be divided among the members of the Corporation in such a way that each such member shall receive that proportion of said assets which the total amount of dues paid by that member to the Corporation for the past five (5) years (including the year in which dissolution occurs) bears to the total amount of dues paid by all members for the same period.

Article XII: Miscellaneous

Section 1- Offices

The principal office of the Corporation shall be at Tallahassee, Florida, but the Corporation may also have any offices and place of business at such other places as the Directors may determine.

Section 2- Seal

The seal of the Corporation shall be circular in form and shall bear the name of the Corporation and the year and state of its incorporation.

Section 3- Waiver of Notice

Any member, officer or Director may, in writing, waive any notice, required to be given under these By-Laws.

Section 4- Fiscal Year

The Corporation's fiscal year shall be the calendar year

Article XIII: Amendments

Subject to the limitations imposed by law, these By-Laws may be amended by any of the following methods:

- A. By the action of all Directors of the Corporation in accordance with Section 9 of Article III or;
- B. By the vote of a majority of all the Directors of the Corporation at a regular or special meeting, the notice of which shall have contained the substance of the proposed amendment.