



79th NATIONAL CONVENTION
JACKSONVILLE, FL
JULY 8, 2024

REPORT OF THE CONVENTION RULES COMMITTEE

The Convention Rules Committee has been appointed by National President Paul Mimms and consists of Wade Davis, Chairperson, and Tracy Ferro, Co-Chairperson.

The committee unanimously recommends to the members assembled the adoption of the following rules as a means of effecting a fair, orderly, and democratic submission for consideration of all questions before this national convention.

1. These rules may be adopted by a simple majority vote of delegates or alternates present and voting.
2. Subject to the Charter, Bylaws, and Robert's Rules of Order these rules shall govern the conduct of this national convention upon approval and adoption by the assembled appointed delegates or alternates.
3. Any rule may be suspended by a vote of three-quarters of the votes cast, a quorum being present, to preserve the integrity of the national convention proceedings.
4. The national president of BVA shall be the presiding officer of the national convention.
5. The presiding officer shall not permit debate during the reading of each committee report. The national convention rules will only be read aloud at the Rules and Credentials Committee Meeting held virtually on June 27, 2024.
6. Members wishing to address the national convention may do so by signaling the chairperson and, upon recognition, stating their name and regional group (if applicable) before speaking. Individuals wishing to address the national convention should wave their hand to alert microphone handlers. All members will surrender the microphone when directed to do so by the president or chairperson.
7. Members, delegates, and alternates must check in with registration or BVA staff prior to business meetings in order to be recognized during business meetings. Members do not need to register for the convention to participate in business meetings, but do need to identify themselves before the start of any business meeting to ensure accuracy of voting. Any member who does not check in will have their vote included in their delegate count.
8. The registration desk will **only** be open on Sunday, July 7th as scheduled in the convention agenda, with additional provisions for early or electronic registration to accommodate all members.
9. In accordance with BVA National Bylaws, every member of the Blinded Veterans Association shall be eligible to attend and participate in all meetings of the national convention and shall be

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entitled to one (1) vote when present at meetings or by proxy when absent. Except as further provided in these rules, only those members, delegates, and alternates who have checked in with registration and have been recognized by the Credentials Committee shall be eligible to vote or be provided with an opportunity to speak during business sessions.

10. With respect to proxy votes, during the initial roll call vote, all pertinent information concerning proxy votes will be read aloud. During subsequent roll call votes, only the number of proxy votes plus the name and regional group of the individual assigned to vote the proxies will be read aloud.
11. Single votes may not be expressed as fractions.
12. Members, delegates, or alternates must vote in the order called when a roll-call vote is taken or lose their right to vote on that question. Delays in casting a vote may result in forfeiture of that vote.
13. When a roll-call vote is taken, names of states or regional groups with no members or delegates registered at the national convention will not be called.
14. The delegate shall have the right to vote for all members of their regional group except for those present and voting or those voting by proxy. In the absence or abstention of the delegate, the alternate delegates, in the order designated in the credentials, shall assume the delegate's duties. Delegates may be appointed in emergency situations by a vote of approval by the National BOD.
15. Any member recognized by the national convention shall have the right to demand a roll-call vote on any question provided their motion is seconded by four other duly recognized members and not clearly having a majority.
16. With respect to the Rules Committee, in addition to the designated chairman and the representative of the BVA National Board of Directors, only those individuals who were designated in writing by their respective regional groups on the official BVA Credentials Form will be recognized as members of the Rules Committee. Other BVA members are welcome to attend the Rules Committee meeting. Such members will have their microphones muted. Any member wishing to address the committee must arrange with either their delegate, or alternate prior to the scheduled meeting. In the event a member is at large, they must contact the district director for the area in which they reside. Acceptance of such communications will be at the discretion of the chair.
17. With respect to the Credentials Committee, in addition to the designated chairman and the representative of the BVA National Board of Directors, only those individuals who were designated in writing by their respective regional groups on the official BVA Credentials Form will be recognized as members of the Credentials Committee. Other BVA members are welcome to attend the Credentials Committee meeting. Such members will have their microphones muted. Any member wishing to address the committee must arrange with either their delegate, or alternate prior to the scheduled meeting. In the event a member is at large, they must contact the district director for the area in which they reside. Acceptance of such communications will be at the discretion of the chair.

18. With respect to the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, in addition to the designated chairman and the representative of the BVA National Board of Directors, only those individuals who were designated in writing by their respective regional groups on the official BVA Credentials Form as their representatives will be recognized as members of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee and allowed to vote on issues lawfully brought before the committee.
19. A member of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee may not speak more than once nor for more than three minutes on any single issue before the committee. A member of the committee making a motion may speak an additional four minutes in rebuttal at the close of debate on their motion. The sponsor of a bylaw amendment or resolution may speak an additional four minutes in rebuttal following close of debate on their bylaw amendment or resolution. Members may speak for up to three minutes on any issue, with provision for extended time based on the complexity of the topic as determined by the chair.
20. With the consent of the sponsor of a proposed bylaw amendment or resolution, the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee may make germane changes to the language of a proposed bylaw amendment or resolution consistent with the application of Robert's Rules of Order.
21. A member may not speak more than once nor for more than three minutes on any single issue before the assembly. The maker of a motion may speak an additional four minutes in rebuttal at the close of debate on their motion. The sponsor of a bylaw amendment or resolution may speak an additional four minutes in rebuttal following the close of debate on their bylaw amendment or resolution. Members may speak for up to three minutes on any issue, with provision for extended time based on the complexity of the topic as determined by the chair.
22. A member may be afforded an additional three minutes for debate by a two-thirds vote of the members, delegates, or alternates present and voting.
23. Proposed resolutions to be considered must be submitted in accordance with BVA Bylaws to be considered by the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee on July 8, at the scheduled Bylaws and Resolutions Meeting. However, proposed resolutions can be submitted in writing and signed by a member recognized as eligible to vote by the national convention and may be delivered to any member of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee by noon Monday, July 8, 2024.
24. The Judge Advocate or their designee shall read the proposed bylaw or resolution, which shall be deemed to have been moved by its sponsor. The chairman of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee shall then state the recommendation of the committee. Discussion shall then ensue with the proposed bylaw amendment as a main motion subject to debate by a two-thirds vote of the members, delegates, or alternates present and voting on the amendment.
25. The Credentials Committee will be dismissed at the end of the final business meeting.

These rules are adopted solely for use by the 79th National Convention.

Respectfully Submitted

Wade Davis, Chair

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