

Requirements for Formatting Delegate Proposals

Timeline for Delegate Proposals:

April 15 (or next business day): Deadline for submission by clubs of amendments to the CFA Constitution and resolutions to be considered by the delegates to the Annual Meeting in June; submission via mail, fax or email. Your proposal should be submitted by your club secretary well in advance of the deadline, in the event that changes or clarifications are needed. No ruling as to whether or not the proposal is “out of order” will be made in advance of the meeting.

At least 45 days prior to Annual: Proposed constitutional amendments and proposed show rule changes mailed to all member clubs in good standing.

Formatting Requirements (from October 1998 minutes):

To require clubs to submit to the Central Office proposals for resolutions and to amend the constitution and show rules in the form of “underline/strike out” so that the section amended appears in its entirety with the parts to be deleted in strike out (line through print) and the parts to be added underlined.

Central Office cannot write your proposal for you. The guidelines below should be followed to ensure that changes are clear.

Guidelines:

To get the best concept of the formatting convention, you should refer to the previous year’s proposals in the June minutes. Every proposal should include the following:

- (a) **Who you are** – Name of club or clubs sponsoring the proposal.
- (b) **What you want to change** – a RESOLVED section quoting the specific constitutional provision article and section, show rule number, registration rule, etc., using the same format as the original, and, if desired, a **brief** general description of the purpose (see third example) and/or an effective date. Examples:
 - (i) **RESOLVED:** Amend the CFA Constitution, Article IV – ANNUAL AND SPECIAL MEETINGS, Section 4 – Delegates, second paragraph, as follows:
 - (ii) **RESOLVED:** Amend Show Rules, Article IX, by addition of a new paragraph 9.07 as follows:
 - (iii) **RESOLVED:** Amend Show Rules 1.19.d, 6.05.c, 9.05, 11.18.c, 16.09, 16.10 and 18.04 as follows, to allow cats to transfer to grand at any time during a show:
 - (iv) **RESOLVED:** Amend Show Rule 12.03.d as follows, effective 90 days after passing:
- (c) **How you want the new language to read** – First, the entire currently-existing provision in your RESOLVED section must be typed word for word, in the same format as the original. If the section is long, you should provide enough of the language so the reader can follow along, then use an ellipsis (...) to indicate that further language exists. Next, any language you wish to delete should be indicated using ~~strikethroughs~~. Then, any language you wish to add should be indicated using underlining. No **colored text** or **highlighting** should be used. The only text that will be changed via your proposal is that which is deleted by ~~strikethroughs~~ or added by underline. The surrounding text is for context only. Examples:
 - (i) No person ~~shall cast~~ acting as a delegate and/or proxy shall cast more than two (2) votes. Regardless of the number of votes carried, each delegate or proxy to the Annual

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Meeting shall pay a registration fee of ~~twenty dollars (\$20.00)~~ thirty dollars (\$30.00) for each vote carried to help member clubs defray the costs of the Annual Meetings.

- (ii) **9.07** Any cat that achieves 30 or more Top 10/Top 15 finals per season in three separate seasons shall be eligible to claim the “Grand of Distinction” title (abbreviated GCD or GPD). At least 20 of these finals in each season must be in Allbreed rings. These finals may be achieved in either championship or premiership class, or a combination, in each season. The “of distinction” suffix will be added to the title corresponding to the class in which the cat competed in the third season with 30 finals. Cats who have achieved this title will still compete in the regular Grand Champion/Grand Premier classes.

This award may be claimed by filing the appropriate form with Central Office, and paying a fee as set by the Board of Directors. Show seasons prior to 2011-2012 may not be considered in claims for this title.

- (iii) **1.19 d.** The GRAND CHAMPION CLASS is for cats that have completed Grand Championships in CFA. These cats have been confirmed automatically by the Central Office, or the owner/agent has transferred the cat with the master clerk ~~at the end of the first day of a two day show~~ during a show, believing that the cat has met the requirements to be a Grand.
- (iv) **12.03 d.** Clubs that hold a show for two (2) consecutive years on the same weekend (also referred to as date) are considered traditional dates and do not need to seek permission from their Regional Director to license their show each year thereafter. Clubs that do not hold a show for two (2) consecutive years will lose the distinction of having a traditional weekend.

For clubs that hold a show on a biennial basis, i.e. every other year, their traditional show date will be month, weekend and either odd or even to indicate the year of the show. These clubs will lose the distinction ~~of~~ of having a traditional date after a show is not held for two (2) consecutive show dates.

CFA’s Central Office shall maintain a page on the CFA website listing all traditional dates, including at a minimum the name of the club holding the traditional date and the traditional city and state.

- (d) **Why you want the change – a RATIONALE** section should tell the delegates why you believe the change should be made and how the experience of participating in CFA can be enhanced because of your proposal.

Presentation of Your Proposal:

The delegate proposals are numbered and appear in the following order. Within each section, the proposals appear in the sequence found in the document:

- (a) **Proposed Constitutional Amendments.** Constitutional amendments must be passed by at least 2/3 of the votes entitled to be cast by the delegates present at the meeting. An abstention counts as no vote. Constitutional amendments are effective immediately unless stated otherwise in the amendment. They must be voted on as pre-noticed. They cannot be amended or brought from the floor, and can’t be changed by the board. These take effect immediately unless otherwise specified in the amendment.
- (b) **Proposed Show Rule Amendments.** Pre-noticed show rule resolutions which pass by a 2/3 vote are sent to the board for ratification in October. Pre-noticed show rule resolutions which

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pass with more than 50% of the vote but less than 2/3 are sent to the board with a favorable recommendation. Show rule resolutions which are amended before being voted on must pass by more than 50% and are advisory only.

- (c) **Proposed Non-Show Rule Resolutions.** Non-Show Rule Resolutions must pass by more than 50% and are advisory only.
- (d) **Resolutions From the Floor.** Resolutions from the floor may address anything but a Constitutional amendment. A paper copy of the floor resolution must be provided to the CFA Secretary in the format described in the **Guidelines** above, followed by an electronic version in an email or on a thumb drive. You must walk the paper copy to the CFA Secretary or preferably provide it to the Secretary in advance.

Your club should review all of the proposals and locate your proposal, so that your club's delegate will know when it is his or her turn to present the proposal. By reading the previous year's minutes, you will get an idea of how the proposals are presented. This is up to each presenter. Some proposals are read word for word, while others are described briefly (this is preferred, as we all know how to read). During your presentation, you may read the rationale submitted with the proposal, or present something completely different. The presenter may read a pre-written statement and does not have to speak extemporaneously. In the event your club's delegate is unable to present the proposal, any delegate may present the proposal. Discussion ensues, with the presenter being given an opportunity for closing comments.

Whatever way your club's proposal turns out, your concern for CFA, and time and effort that you and your club have devoted to your proposal are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your willingness to participate in the process!

*Rachel Anger, Secretary
The Cat Fanciers' Association, Inc.*

CFA's Constitution and Show Rules – How They are Changed

By Monte Phillips

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Have you ever wondered how the CFA Constitution gets revised or the show rules get changed? The process for each is very similar, but different. For example, no changes can be made to the Constitution unless they are pre-noticed to the delegates and approved by a 2/3rds vote at an annual meeting. On the other hand, show rules can be changed in exactly the same manner, or without any vote of the delegates.

First, let's do a change to the CFA Constitution, like realigning the regions. Three things all have to happen, and if any of them don't, the change doesn't happen. First, a club must submit a proposal for the change far enough in advance of the annual meeting so that it can be pre-noticed to the club secretaries in CFA at least 45 days before the annual meeting. Second, the proposal needs to pass muster with the attorney so that it isn't ruled out of order. What can cause a proposal to be ruled out of order? Several things. For example, if the proposal only addresses part of what needs to be changed in the Constitution to actually implement the proposed change, it will be ruled out of order. If the proposal violates any of the laws of the State of New York for public corporations, it will be ruled out of order. Finally, the proposal needs to pass the vote of the delegates by a 2/3rds favorable vote of the delegates present at the meeting. If all three of those things happen, you get a change. If any one doesn't, there will be no change.

Show rule changes can occur via two different routes. Similar to a constitutional change, a proposal can be made, pre-noticed to the club secretaries 45 days in advance of the meeting, and approved by 2/3rds of the delegates present during the meeting. If that occurs, the rule change is then forwarded to the CFA Board of Directors for inclusion (not approval – it's already been approved) in the show rule changes discussed at the October Board meeting. However, unlike a constitutional change, there are four additional ways for a proposal to become a rules change, but all of these involve obtaining approval from the Board. First, the pre-noticed resolution can pass at the annual with a less than 2/3 majority. Second, the proposal can be made from the floor at the annual meeting (not pre-noticed) and passed by a majority of the delegates (doesn't matter how big that majority is, it could be unanimous). Third, it can be proposed via the Show Rules Committee report to the Board before a Board meeting (usually the October meeting). Finally, any Board member can propose a change at any Board meeting. For each of these last four options to become a show rule, the full Board must vote in favor of the rule change.

While changes to the CFA Constitution take effect immediately upon passage at the annual unless the proposal itself contains a different effective date, show rule changes don't normally take effect until the next show season (unless a different effective date was approved). That is, if the show rule proposal passes at the 2011 annual meeting, it doesn't go into effect until the 2012-2013 show season. That being said, the Board does have the power to modify either the effective date, or waive specific show rules for any particular show. The best example of this was the International Show, where entry fees were required to be paid at the time of entry or the entry wasn't taken. In addition, awards were made in the breed rings to breed placements beyond second best of breed – one year all the way to ninth. That same year, the show experimented with title-less judging in the judges' books – that is, no cat's title was listed and the clerk was responsible for telling the judge which cat got the purple ribbon for best champion/premier as each breed was judged.