

**BY-LAWS OF THE GAME STUDIES DIVISION
NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION**

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

Section 1. The name of this interest group shall be: The Game Studies Division of the National Communication Association.

Section 2. Official use of the Division's name shall be made only through the authority of the Legislative Assembly of the National Communication Association and the Executive Committee of the Game Studies Division.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

Section 1. It shall be the dual purpose of the Game Studies Division to (1) advance the study of digital games and gaming in relation to contemporary communication and culture; (2) to support the synthesis - through communication lenses - of social, psychological, cultural, aesthetic, ludic, narrative, philosophical, practical, logical, technological, and industrial dimensions of that study, and (3), to catalyze collaboration among games scholars within NCA and beyond.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership in the Game Studies Division is open to all those who are members in good standing of the National Communication Association and who are interested in promoting the purpose of the Division.

**ARTICLE IV
OFFICERS**

Section 1. The Officers of the Division shall be: Immediate Past-Chair, Chair, Vice-Chair, Vice-Chair Elect, Secretary, Publications/Web Editor, and Graduate Student Representative. All shall serve one-year terms, with the exception of the Secretary and Publications/Web Editor, who shall serve two-year terms. All officers must, at the time of election and for the entirety of their terms, be members in good standing of NCA and of the Game Studies Division; the Graduate Student Representative must also, at the time of election and for the entirety of his or her term, be a registered student.

Section 2. The Chair shall succeed to the office of Immediate Past-Chair, the Vice-Chair shall succeed to the office of Chair, and the Vice-Chair Elect shall succeed to the office of Vice-Chair.

Section 3. The Immediate Past-Chair shall serve as the Division's representative to the National Communication Association's Nominating Committee. The Immediate Past-Chair shall also serve in an advisory capacity to the Chair, and will manage officer nomination and election activities.

Section 4. The Chair shall serve as presiding officer of all Division business meetings and at all Executive Committee meetings. This officer shall discharge the usual responsibilities adhering to such an office, shall oversee the Division's operating budget, shall appoint an alternative representative to NCA committees in the event of a representative's incapacity or absence, and shall be responsible for seeing that the provisions of the By-Laws of the Division and the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Communication Association are enforced.

Section 5. The Vice-Chair shall, in conjunction with the First Vice-President of the Association, coordinate the evaluation of the thematic paper proposals as part of the task of planning that portion of the program of the annual meeting for which the Division is responsible. This officer shall perform the duties of the Chair in the event of that officer's absence or incapacity.

Section 6. The Vice-Chair Elect shall serve on the Executive Committee of the Division, shall perform the duties of the Vice-Chair in the event of that officer's absence or incapacity, and shall assist with the duties of Vice-Chair as necessary and requested. This officer is also responsible for the organization of the division's sponsored pre-conference provided that the National Office provides a slot for such an event.

Section 7. The Secretary shall perform the functions usually adhering to such an office, including presenting minutes recorded from the previous year's Division business meeting. The Secretary shall also serve on the Division's Executive Committee, and will manage all archiving activities in conjunction with the NCA National Office.

Section 8. The Publications/Web Editor shall actively manage the Division's social media activities and web presences. The Editor shall also assemble and distribute the Division's electronic newsletter and other communication from the Executive Committee, maintain the Division's e-mail membership list, manage the Division's listserv, and transmit news of the Division's activities to NCA members.

Section 9. The Graduate Student Representative shall represent the interests of the Division's student membership at relevant official Division meetings and shall also coordinate any special initiatives, communications, or events relevant to those interests. The Representative shall also, in conjunction with the Publications/Web Editor, assist with the management of the Division's social media and web presences and in developing content of interest to the graduate student membership.

Section 10. The Officers of the Division shall elect (by a simple majority of the Officers) divisional representatives to Legislative Assembly during the previous year's business meeting. The number of representatives shall be determined by the National Office. It is the responsibility

of the Chair to report to the National Office who will be acting as the divisional representatives to Legislative Assembly no later than the date required by the National Office. The default Legislative Assembly representatives for the division shall be the Chair and the Immediate Past-Chair if the Officers decide not to have an election.

ARTICLE V EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee of the Game Studies Division shall be responsible for administering the policy decisions of the organization. It shall be charged with the responsibility of handling all resources. The committee shall also ensure that the decisions made and actions taken are in accordance with the By-Laws of the Game Studies Division and the Constitution and By-Laws of the National Communication Association.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Immediate Past-Chair, the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Vice-Chair Elect, & the Secretary.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall act for the Division in the interim between annual meetings with the understanding that all actions taken shall be summarized and announced at the Division's annual meeting.

Section 4. The Division Chair Officer shall communicate with the Executive Committee at his or her discretion or upon receipt of a written request for action signed by at least two Executive Committee members.

Section 5. Action by the Executive Committee shall require the assent of a majority of members.

Section 6. In the event of the incapacity of any officer, the Executive Committee shall, at its discretion, elect a replacement or establish a nominating and election procedure for doing so.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1. The Game Studies Division shall hold its annual meeting in conjunction with and at the site of the annual convention of the National Communication Association. The number of members of the Division present at each meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. Time and place for the Divisional meetings shall be announced in the National Communication Association convention program.

Section 3. All meetings of the Division and its Committees shall be open to all NCA members, with voting limited to Division members. The Officers of the Division may establish and control the privileges of the floor in these meetings.

Section 4. The Division shall assume no responsibility for statements of opinion expressed by participants in meetings of the Division or its constituent bodies or in programs sponsored under the Division's name.

ARTICLE VII DUES AND FEES

Section 1. There shall be no dues or fees assessed or collected by any representative of the Game Studies Division.

Section 2. Annual dues of the National Communication Association must be paid by all members of the Game Studies Division.

ARTICLE VIII ELECTIONS

Section 1. The Immediate Past Chair shall annually prepare a slate of nominees for the Division offices of Vice-Chair Elect and Graduate Student Representative, and biennially prepare a slate of nominees for the offices of Secretary and Web/Publications Editor.

Section 2. The slate of nominees shall be announced at least one month prior to the annual Division business meeting, and the Immediate Past Chair shall be responsible for this report. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the annual Division business meeting. All officers, committee members, and representatives must be elected by a majority vote of those attending the annual Division business meeting.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall establish procedures for conducting the election of officers.

ARTICLE IX APPOINTMENTS

Section 1. Special ad hoc committees, as determined by the membership of the Division or by the Executive Committee, shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Division in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Division may adopt.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to these By-Laws may be initiated by the Executive Committee of the Division or by a petition of at least thirty (30) members of the Division presented to the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Amendments to these By-Laws must be announced by mail or e-mail to Division members at least two weeks before they may be voted upon. A two-thirds majority of those present at a meeting of the Division shall be required for adoption of an amendment.

Section 3. Any change in the National Communication Association's Constitution or By-Laws, which has direct bearing upon the By-Laws of the Game Studies Division, shall be incorporated into the By-Laws of the Division.

Approved in Philadelphia on November 12, 2016.

Revised in Morgantown, WV, on February 12, 2019