**CONSTITUTION AND GUIDELINES**

**AREA CANADA and CARIBBEAN**

**ARTICLE I - NAME AND AFFILIATION**

**SECTION I**

This organization shall be known as Area Canada and Caribbean of the International Association of Y’s Men’s Clubs. Its Motto, general Purpose and Objectives are defined by the International Constitution of the International Association of Y’s Men’s Clubs.

**SECTION II**

This organization recognizes a formal affiliation with the National Association of

YMCAs of Canada (YMCA Canada) and the Caribbean.

**SECTION III**

This organization recognizes the Y’s Menettes Clubs of Area Canada and Caribbean as established as per Article III, Section 3 of the International Constitution.

**GUIDELINES**

**101** This Constitution may not stand in conflict with the International Constitution.

**102** Legally adopted changes in the International Constitution shall be binding on this constitution immediately upon proclamation, pending formal action to amend this document.

**103** Y´s Men’s Clubs include: Y’s Men’s Clubs, Y’s Women’s Clubs, Y’s Men’s and Women’s Clubs or Y Service Clubs.

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES**

**SECTION I Purposes**

The International Association of Y’s Men’s Clubs is a worldwide fellowship of persons of all faiths working together in mutual respect and affection, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, and with a common loyalty to the Young Men’s

Christian Association, striving through active service to develop, encourage and provide leadership to build a better world for mankind.

**SECTION II Objectives SECTION**

In addition to the International Objectives, the specific objectives of Area Canada and Caribbean are:

A. To encourage, promote and foster organization and maintenance of Y’s Men’s Clubs throughout Area Canada and Caribbean.

B. To co-ordinate the activities of all Regions and provide supplementary training materials and personal leadership development.

**ARTICLE III - DEFINITION OF AREA AND REGIONAL BOUNDARIES**

**SECTION I**

Area Canada and Caribbean shall encompass all the Provinces and Territories of Canada and the Caribbean islands.

**SECTION II**

Area Canada and Caribbean shall be divided into three Regions, the **Central-Western Canada Region**, the **Maritimes Region**, and the **Caribbean Region** with the following boundaries:

1. **The Central-Western Canada Region** shall include the Provinces of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columba, and the Nunavut, Northwest, Yukon Territories.

B. The **Maritimes Region** shall include the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador.

C. The **Caribbean Region** shall include the Island countries that surround the Caribbean Sea.

**GUIDELINES**

**301** Where circumstances warrant, certain clubs within the defined boundaries may (with consent of the Area Council and the Regions concerned) for administrative purposes affiliate with another Region of Canada or the United States Area. This consent to affiliation shall be considered by members of Area Canada and Caribbean and shall be subject to Article XI, Section 3 of the International Constitution.

**ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION I**

The membership of this Area shall consist of affiliated local Y’s Men’s Clubs, Y’s Women’s Clubs, Y’s Men and Women’s Clubs and Y Service Clubs.

**SECTION II**

The membership of each local club shall be as defined by the International Constitution.

**ARTICLE V - LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

**SECTION I**

The legislative authority of Area Canada and Caribbean shall be vested in the Area Council.

**SECTION II**

The members of the Area Council shall be:

(1) Area President,

(2) Immediate Past President or Area President Elect

Additional members of the Council shall be:

(1) the three (3) Regional Directors,

(2) the Area Director of Y’s Menettes,

(3) the Area Secretary,

(4) the Area Treasurer, and

(5) the Area Youth Representative.

**SECTION III**

The Area Council shall have at least one duly constituted meeting per year, preferably in the fall. A meeting may take place in-person or electronically. Other meetings of the Area Council may be called by the Area President or may be requested by any Council member and convened upon approval of at least fifty percent (50%) of the Council membership. Duly constituted meetings and votes may take place in-person or electronically.

**SECTION IV**

Fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the Area Council shall constitute a quorum.

**SECTION V** The Area President shall preside at all meetings of the Area Council, but shall not have a vote, except in the event of a tie vote. The Area President shall then cast the tie-breaking vote.

**SECTION VI** In the event of the incapacity of the Area President to preside, the Area President Elect or the Immediate Past Area President shall assume such functions.

**GUIDELINES:**

**501** The Area Director of Y’s Menettes shall be elected by a process to be determined by the Area Y’s Menettes.

**502** The Area President may appoint support staff to the Area Council, who may attend Area Council meetings without vote.

**503** Legislative terms shall begin on July 1st and end on June 30th. **504** Minutes of meetings of the Area Council shall be transmitted electronically to each member of the Council within thirty (30) days of the meeting.

**505** Regional Constitutions and/or Guidelines shall not be in conflict with the Area and International Constitutions. These Constitutions and/or Guidelines or any revisions of them must be submitted to the Area and International Councils for approval.

**506** A YMCA Liaison officer, appointed by the National Council of YMCA’s of Canada, shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Area Council as an official observer in a non-voting capacity.

**507** Any member of a local club, under Article 1V, shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the Area Council and may be recognized by the chair to speak on the business during the meeting.

**508** The Treasurer shall have a financial statement prepared for each Council Meeting. **509** If a Regional Director and Regional Director Elect are both unable to attend an Area Council Meeting, the Area President, in consultation with the Regional Director and Regional Director Elect can appoint a member to represent that Region. In the absence of other council members alternates may be appointed at the discretion of the Area President.

**510** In-person meetings shall take place at least bi-yearly.

**511** RDE Training shall take place in conjunction with the biennial in-person Area Council meeting. On-line RDE training shall be provided as needed in alternate years.

**512** Electronic votes may be taken during a video conference meeting, by email or anonymously through an on-line survey tool. **513** All members of Area Council shall be members in good standing.

**ARTICLE VI - ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS**

**SECTION I**

A. Executive officers of this organization shall be an Area President, Immediate Past Area President or Area President Elect, Area Secretary and Area Treasurer.

B. The Area President shall serve a two (2) year term of office coincident with a term as a member of the International Council.

C. The Area President-Elect, following one (1) year in office, will automatically assume the office of Area President.

**SECTION II**

Each club, with voting Privileges on International issues, may submit one (1) nominee for each International Council Member to be elected from its Area, to the International office and the current member of the International Council representing its Area, at least ninety (90) days prior to the election date. This nominee shall meet the qualification requirements established by the International Council. Area may establish their own qualification requirements subject to the approval of the International Council. The qualifications for Young Council Members shall be established only by the International Council. Forty five (45) days prior to the election date the International office shall present to the clubs a maximum of three (3) nominees for each office as decided by the nominating committee in conjunction with each Area President concerned, at least one (1) of which must be the nominee receiving the greatest number of nominations from the clubs. Each club shall have one (1) vote for each International Council member to be elected from its Area and the person receiving the highest number of votes for each office in a mailed ballot returned to the International office prior to the election date, will be elected.

**SECTION III**

In the event of the death or inability of the Area President to serve, the Area President Elect shall, with the approval of the International President, assume the office of the Area President. In the event the Area President Elect has not been selected, the Immediate Past Area President or a Past Area President shall, with the approval of the International President, re-assume the office of Area President until an election can be conducted or an appointment made in accordance with Article IV Section 6 of the International Constitution.

**GUIDELINES**

**601** A club without voting privileges on International issues is defined in International Guidelines 409 and 410.

**602** Upon request of the Regional Directors to Y's Men's International, Clubs without voting privileges on International issues may receive exemptions to International Guideline 409.

**603** A member of a club without voting privileges on International issues may not be nominated to stand for election of International Council.

**ARTICLE VII - FINANCE**

**SECTION I**

The Area Council shall determine a uniform financial share on a per capita basis that each member club shall pay in support of the Area operating expenses.

**SECTION II**

Each Region shall collect all International, Area and Regional dues on a semi-annual basis and remit International and Area dues to the Area Treasurer respectively.

**SECTION III**

The fiscal year shall coincide with the legislative year, July 1 through June 30.

**SECTION IV**

The Area President shall be responsible for implementing the operating budget.

**GUIDELINES**

**701** The year end financial statement shall be distributed to Area Council members by August 1.

**702** The Area Council shall develop a provisional operating budget at least thirty (30) days before and no later than sixty (60) days after the beginning of each fiscal year to be approved at the fall Area Council meeting.

**703** The provisional budget shall be distributed electronically to Area Council members no later than fifteen (15) days before the Area Council meeting.

**ARTICLE VIII – CONVENTIONS**

**SECTION I**

Area Conventions shall be held biennially in odd-numbered years and shall be developed, planned and executed under the leadership and supervision of the Area Council, which may delegate all or part of this responsibility.

**GUIDELINES:**

**801** Area Conventions, in so far as possible, should be hosted on a regularly rotating basis by each Region.

**802** The Area Council shall approve a convention site and preliminary budget at least one (1) year previous to the dates of the convention.

**803** An Area Convention representative will be appointed by the Area President to meet regularly with the Convention Host Committee, to insure and report to the Area President that general standards and guidelines and program objectives for the Area conventions are followed.

**804** The Host Convention Committee shall adhere to the Convention Guidelines as specified in the Area Canada and Caribbean Convention Guidelines.

**ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION I**

Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be voted on at an Area Council providing thirty (30) days notice of motion being given in writing to each Council member and Area Club President.

**SECTION II**

This constitution may be amended upon two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Area Council at a duly constituted meeting.

**GUIDELINES**

**901** Guidelines may be amended at any duly constituted meeting of the Area Council, by a simple majority affirmative vote of the Council members present and voting.

**902** The Area Club Presidents will not vote on any Area constitutional changes, but they will be informed about any changes.

**903** It is the responsibility of each Regional Director to inform the Club Presidents of any changes to the Area Constitution.

Amended- April, 1986; Amended - January, 1989; Amended - January, 1990

Amended - January, 2004; Amended - July, 2006; Amended - July 2008;

Amended - July, 2009; Amended – Feb. 2012; Amended – March, 2014

Amended – September, 2019.