

***By-Laws of Tuscaloosa Home Educators***  
***Revised, 2019***

**Purpose Statement**

Tuscaloosa Home Educators (THE) is a support and resource group for home educators in Tuscaloosa and surrounding areas.

**Core Beliefs**

The leadership of Tuscaloosa Home Educators believes that God is the center of all that we do which includes the rearing of our children. We believe in the authority and inerrancy of the Bible. We also believe that it is the parents' God-given role and responsibility to train and educate their children. As taught in Ephesians 6:4: "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

**Section I: Leadership**

(1-1) THE shall be led by an Advisory Board comprised of a minimum of nine to a maximum of fifteen members.

(1-2) Members will have areas of responsibility in which they organize or assist that will include but are not limited to:  
Event planning-organization of activities for the membership such as an annual pool party, used book sale, theatre experience, field trips, workshops, conferences, high school graduation  
Communication-website design and maintenance, emails to members, social media

(1-3) One Advisory Board member will be selected as Treasurer with responsibility for maintaining a checking account, providing checks or other payment for THE expenses, overseeing enrollment fee collection, and producing an annual financial report.

(1-4) One Advisory Board member will serve as Athletic Director for THE's sports programs and serves as chair for THE's Athletic Committee and on the Governing Board of the Alabama Christian Sports Conference. {For selection process refer to Section IV}

(1-5) The Advisory Board shall be responsible for approval of THE sanctioned events and activities, as well as producing or approving the guidelines and policies regarding such events and activities. The Advisory Board shall be responsible for approving expenditures. The Advisory Board will review all committee decisions for approval {refer to 1-6}. The Advisory Board will be the final avenue of appeals made by THE members concerning actions taken by THE leadership or committees. All actions of the Advisory Board will be with the intent to honor God and to protect the name of THE and its members.

(1-6) The Advisory Board members shall form committees as needed to assist them in their areas of responsibility. The Board member who formed the committee will serve as chair. The committee may be comprised of Advisory Board members or THE members. Majority rules in all votes of the committee with the chairman voting in the event of ties. Committee actions will be subject to approval by the Advisory Board.

(1-7) The Advisory Board members shall be asked to sign a copy of these by-laws when they are elected to office, thus affirming their convictions to abide by and honor the principles set forth herein.

**Section II: Membership**

(2-1) THE is open to all who home educate or support home education.

(2-2) Membership is not complete until all enrollment fees are paid.

(2-3) All members shall be in accord with the laws of Alabama concerning home education. No one can be admitted into membership who is not abiding by the laws of Alabama.

(2-4) Members are not required to adhere to a particular statement of faith. However, members are to refrain from actively opposing the core beliefs of THE at THE sanctioned events.

(2-5) Membership in THE entitles the member families opportunities to participate in THE sanctioned activities; to participate in THE sports teams; to apply for membership in any club or society sponsored by THE; a discount for HSLDA membership; a yearly directory of members; inclusion on an email distribution list, and access to the "members only" section of THE's website.

### **Section III: Election of Advisory Board Members**

(3-1) The term of service for Advisory Board members will be three years beginning with the year in which the member was added to the Board. Elections shall be held annually in the spring to replace members who have completed their term of service. This process allows for continuity and experience on the Board.

(3-2) Recommendations for nomination to the Board will come from the current Advisory Board and THE's membership. Each person recommended must have been a member of THE for at least one full school year. Current Advisory Board members may have their name placed in nomination. These recommendations will be taken in the spring after an announcement is made through email, website, and/or social media that nominations are being taken. Recommendations will be taken "first come, first served" until there are enough candidates for the open positions. All recommendations will be taken and considered.

(3-3) Candidates for nomination will be reviewed by the Advisory Board before their name is placed in nomination. This process should take no longer than two weeks. If a candidate is not placed in nomination, the person who recommended them will be informed. The nominees will be voted on by the Advisory Board. A two-thirds majority is required for election. After election each candidate will be asked to serve and will have a week to decide.

(3-4) If no nominations are received, elections for that year will not take place. If a vacancy appears in the Advisory Board due to the resignation of a member before their term expires, the Board has discretionary authority to fill the vacancy immediately.

### **Section IV: THE Athletics**

(4-1) THE encourages participation in athletics for multiple age and grade levels.

(4-2) All sports programs using the name Tuscaloosa Home Educators and recruiting participants from within THE membership, will be subject to the Policies and Procedures of the THE Athletic Committee where applicable

(4-3) Varsity and Junior Varsity sports programs which are included in the sports sanctioned by the Alabama Christian Sports Conference will follow the ACSC bylaws and the rule books of the National Federation of High School Athletic Associations.

(4-4) THE will pay the ACSC fees associated with sanctioned sports.

(4-5) THE encourages the development of sports programs below the Junior Varsity grade level and Varsity and Junior Varsity programs not currently sanctioned by the ACSC. Such programs will be subject to the Policies and Procedures of the THE Athletic Committee where applicable.

(4-6) The Athletic Director for THE athletics must meet the qualifications listed in the Tuscaloosa Home Educators Athletic Committee Policies and Procedures. After selection the AD serves until he/she resigns or until the Advisory

Board finds due cause to replace him/her. In normal circumstances, during an AD's tenure he/she will select an Assistant AD who will be trained to become AD upon the resignation or retirement of the current AD. The new AD will be reviewed by the Advisory Board with input from the Athletic Committee at the end of their first year. If there is no cause to remove him/her, he/she will continue as AD.

#### **Section V: To Amend**

(5-1) To add to or amend these by-laws, the amendment or change must be submitted in writing and read before the membership (or communicated to them through email or mail). At a stated meeting, the amendment is to be put onto the meeting agenda and voted on. In the event that a general meeting of the Board is not scheduled, the proposed amendment will be distributed via email to the members who may then vote by return email. A two-thirds vote (of the number of votes returned) is required for passage.