

Y'S MEN INTERNATIONAL
AREA LAM -CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS -Approved May 2025

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section I

This organization shall be known as Area Latin America (Area LAM for short) of the International Association of Y's Men's Clubs (YMI for short), henceforth "the Area".

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE, MOTTO and OBJECTIVES

Section I - PURPOSE

Area LAM is part of YMI, and shares its purpose: to be 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 all.

Section II - MOTTO – Its motto shall be: "To Acknowledge the Duty that Accompanies every Right".

Section III - OBJECTIVES -

1. The objectives of Area LAM are:
 - A. To encourage, promote and foster organisation and maintenance of affiliated clubs in the Area.
 - B. To coordinate activities of all affiliated clubs and provide training materials and personal leadership development.
 - C. To coordinate the activities of all Regions within the Area and provide information and training.
2. The objectives of all the affiliated Clubs in the Area are:
 - A. To function primarily as service clubs for the YMCA.
 - B. To support other worthy organisations.
 - C. To encourage justice in civic and international affairs, abstaining always from party politics.
 - D. To keep members informed on and actively involved in religious, civic, economic, social and international matters.
 - E. To cultivate good fellowship.
 - F. To support International, Area and Regional projects of the Association.

Section IV – HEADQUARTERS – The Headquarters of Area LAM shall be the residence of the Area President in office.

BY-LAWS:

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

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

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

Area LAM shall encompass all countries in South America, Central America and Mexico, excluding countries in the Caribbean Islands which are part of Area Canada/Caribbean.

Section II

Area LAM shall be divided into two Regions: Brazil and Latin America:

- A. Region Brazil shall include all the territory of Brazil.
- B. Region Latin America shall include the rest of countries in the Area.

BY-LAWS:

301 *When circumstances so justify, for administrative purposes only, certain clubs within the defined boundaries may (with consent of the Area Council and the Regions concerned) affiliate with another Region of Area LAM. This consent to affiliation shall be considered by members of Area LAM.*

ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**Section I**

The membership of this Area shall consist of affiliated Y's Men's Clubs, Y's Women's Clubs, Y's Men and Women's Clubs and Y Service Clubs within its boundaries.

Section II

The membership of each local club shall consist of men or women or both. No one will be denied membership status because of race, creed, color or national origin. Members of local affiliated clubs shall be called Y's Men or Y's Women-

ARTICLE V - LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**Section I**

The legislative authority of Area Latin America shall be vested in the Area Council.

Section II

The members of the Area Council shall be:

- (1) the Area President (AP),
- (2) the Immediate Past Area President (IPAP)
- (3) the Area President Elect (APE)

These three acting together, to share the experience of the IPAP (2) and gain experience in the case of APE (3) shall be referred to as Area LAM Troika.

Additional members of the Council shall be:
(4 y 5) the two (2) Regional Directors (RDs),
(6) the Area Secretary (AS),
(7) the Area Treasurer (AT),
(8) the Area Youth Representative (AYR)

Section III

Each club with voting Privileges on International issues according to the International Constitution, may submit one (1) nominee for each **Representative in the Legislative Assembly** to be elected from the Area, to the International office and the current **Area Representative**, at least ninety (90) days prior to the election date. Rotation between Regions in the Area is recommended. Each club **with voting Privileges on international issues** shall have one (1) vote for each **Representative** to be elected from the Area **through an online platform** and the person receiving the highest number of votes for each office **in elections conducted by the International Headquarters** shall be elected.

While Area LAM be entitled to only one seat on the Legislative Assembly, the **Representative** for Area LAM will also be the Area President and shall be elected at an appropriate time to enable him/her to serve a year as Area President-Elect.

Should Area LAM be entitled to more than one seat, the Area Council shall select the Area President, also at the appropriate time to allow him to serve one year as Area President Elect.

Section IV

The Area Council shall have at least one duly constituted meeting per year, preferably within 60 days of the beginning of every term. 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.

The Area Council may also transact business by mail about matters presented to it by or with the approval of the Area President even if such matters are not on the pre-circulated agenda.

Section V

Five (5) Area Council Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

Section VI

The Area President shall preside at all meetings of the Area Council and in the event of a tie vote, his/her vote will have double value and be tie-breaking.

BY-LAWS:

501. *Whenever possible, the position of **Representative at the Legislative Assembly** Elect shall rotate among the two Regions.*

502 *The Area Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Area President, and these appointments shall be ratified by the Area Council.*

503. The Area Youth Representative shall be elected by the youths in the Area, normally during the Area Youth Convocation, every two years, and this shall be the duration of his/her term.

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

505 Legislative terms shall begin on July 1st and end on June 30th.

506 The Minutes of the meetings of the Area Council shall be electronically transmitted to each member of the Council within thirty (30) days of the meeting.

507 Regional Constitutions and/or its **By-laws** shall not be in conflict with the Area and International Constitutions. These Constitutions and/or **By-Laws** or any revisions of them must be submitted to the Area Council and the **Legislative Assembly** for approval.

508 A YMCA Liaison officer, appointed by the Latin America & Caribbean Association of YMCAs (ALCACJ/LACA), shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Area Council as an official observer in a non-voting capacity, upon due notification to the Area President.

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

510 The Area Treasurer shall have a financial statement prepared for each Council Meeting and shall present it.

511 If a Regional Director is unable to attend an Area Council Meeting, the Regional Director Elect may substitute him. In case both of them are unable to attend, 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 of similar standing may be appointed at the discretion of the Area President.

512 In-person meetings shall take place at least bi-yearly, prior to the Area Convention.

513 When feasible, annual RDE Training shall take place in conjunction with the biennial in-person Area Council meeting. In-person or on-line RDE training shall be provided as needed in alternate years.

514 Electronic votes may be taken during a video conference meeting or by email or anonymously through an on-line survey tool.

515 All members of the Area Council must be members of Clubs in good standing, as defined in the International Constitution.

ARTICLE VI - ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Section I

A. Executive officers of the Area shall be the Area President, the Immediate Past Area President, the Area President Elect, the Area Secretary and the Area Treasurer.

B. The Area President shall serve a two (2) year term of office coincident with a term as a **Representative in the Legislative Assembly**.

C. The Area President-Elect, following one (1) year in office, will automatically assume the office of Area President at the beginning of the following term **or should the position become vacant**.

D. To achieve LAM Area Objectives as stated by ARTICLE II, Section III above, the Area President shall keep fluid communication with the Regional Directors, the District

Governors and the Clubs, either directly or through the chain Regional Director/District Governor/Club.

SECTION II

In the event of the absence or inability of the **Representative in the Legislative Assembly**/Area President to perform his/her duties, the duties shall be performed by a **Representative in the Legislative Assembly Elect** or in case no **Representative Elect** has been elected by an immediate Past **Representative in the Legislative Assembly**. In the event of the death, incapacity or resignation of the **Representative in the Legislative Assembly**, a **Representative Elect**/APE shall automatically become **Representative** /AP. If no **Representative Elect** has been elected, the duties shall, at the decision of the Area **Council**, be performed by an IP **Representative**/IPAP until a **Representative in the Legislative Assembly** has been elected following Article V.

BY-LAWS:

601 Clubs shall have voting privileges on International issues as defined in the International Constitution, By-Laws 410 and 411, or their amendments.

602 Upon request of the Regional Directors to Y's Men International, Clubs without voting privileges on International issues may receive exemptions to International **By-Law 411** as per **By-Law 412**.

603 In the event of a tied vote for election of an International **Representative in the Legislative Assembly Elect**, a committee appointed by the Area President shall cast the tie breaking vote.

ARTICLE VII - FINANCE

Section I

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

Section II

Each Region shall collect from the Clubs all International, Area and Regional dues on a semi-annual basis and remit International and Area dues to IHQ (International Headquarters) and to the Area Treasurer, respectively. Alternatively, Clubs in Region Latin America may pay International dues directly to IHQ; Area dues to AT or to AP and Regional dues to RT or to RD, in all cases with detailed notice to these three levels.

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.

BY-LAWS:

701 The end of the fiscal year financial statement shall be distributed to Area Council members by the following August 1.

702 *The Area Council shall develop a provisional operating budget at least thirty (30) days before and no later than forty five (45) days after the beginning of each fiscal year to be approved at the Area Council meeting called by Section IV of ARTICLE V.*

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.

Section II

The report of the Area President, the report of the Area Treasurer, the value of Area dues and next term budget shall necessarily be part of the Area Convention agenda.

Minutes of the Area Convention shall be transmitted to each Regional Director, District Governor and Club President within 30 days of the meeting. Club Presidents shall share the information with Club Members.

BY-LAWS:

801 *Insofar as possible, **in person** Area Conventions should be hosted alternately by each Region on a regular rotation, **or be held online, in consideration to circumstances such as cost, attendance, etc.***

802 *The Area Council shall approve a convention site and the preliminary budget at least **six months** previous to the dates of the convention.*

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

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section I

This constitution may be amended upon two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the Area Council plus a simple majority affirmative vote of the clubs in good standing and with privilege of vote in international issues, responding in a mail ballot, providing thirty (30) days' notice of amendment/s is given in writing to each Area Council member and to each Club President in the Area.

BY-LAWS:

901 ***By-laws** may be amended at any duly constituted meeting of the Area Council, be it virtual or in person, by a simple majority affirmative vote of the Council members present and voting.*

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

Duly amended May 2025, by vote of Area Council & Clubs with privilege of vote.