



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Chapter Constitution & Bylaws

BARRACUDA CHAPTER · DON SOFFER AVENTURA HIGH SCHOOL

For the 2026–2027 School Year
ADOPTED UNDER THE NHS NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

NHS EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Uriel L.

VICE PRESIDENT

Noa A.

SECRETARY

Ilene A.

HISTORIAN

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JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE

Bella S.

Faculty Sponsor Mr. Joseph Levy





ARTICLE I

Name & Purpose

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the **Barracuda Chapter of the National Honor Society** at Don Soffer Aventura High School (the “Chapter”).

Section 2. The purpose of the Chapter shall be to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of Don Soffer Aventura High School — the four Pillars of the National Honor Society.

Section 3. The Chapter is a duly chartered local chapter of the National Honor Society, a program of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), Reston, Virginia.

OUR VALUES — THE NHS PILLARS

Scholarship

A commitment to academic excellence and a genuine love of learning.

Service

Giving our time and effort to benefit the school and wider community.

Leadership

Taking initiative and inspiring others toward shared goals.

Character

Acting with integrity, respect, and responsibility in all we do.

ARTICLE II

Affiliation & Governing Authority

Section 1. The Chapter operates under, and is subordinate to, the **NHS National Constitution** (approved by the NASSP Board of Directors, June 2023) and the **NHS Handbook**.

Section 2. This document constitutes the Chapter’s bylaws as provided in Article XVI of the National Constitution. It amplifies and clarifies—but never supersedes—the National Constitution and NHS policies.

Section 3. In the event of any conflict between this document and the NHS National Constitution or Handbook, **the National Constitution and Handbook shall govern**.

Section 4. The principal reserves the right to approve all activities and decisions of the Chapter.



ARTICLE III

The Principal

Section 1. The principal of Don Soffer Aventura High School reserves the right to approve all activities and decisions of the Chapter.

Section 2. The principal shall annually appoint a member of the faculty as Chapter Adviser (Faculty Sponsor), who may serve consecutive terms; co-advisers may be appointed where necessary.

Section 3. The principal shall annually appoint a Faculty Council composed of five (5) members of the school's faculty, who may serve consecutive terms.

Section 4. The principal shall receive appeals in cases of nonselection of candidates and the discipline or dismissal of members. No principal or assistant principal may serve on the Faculty Council or be present during its selection, discipline, or dismissal deliberations or any due-process hearing.

School administration for 2026–2027: Dr. McKee and Mrs. McGinnis.

ARTICLE IV

The Chapter Adviser (Faculty Sponsor)

Section 1. The Chapter Adviser shall be a member of the faculty, appointed annually by the principal, and may serve consecutive terms. The Faculty Sponsor for 2026–2027 is **Mr. Joseph Levy**.

Section 2. The Adviser shall provide direct, day-to-day supervision of the Chapter and act as liaison among faculty, administration, students, and community.

Section 3. The Adviser shall maintain files on membership, chapter history, activities, and financial transactions, and shall complete and submit the annual survey to the national office.

Section 4. The Adviser shall regularly review each member for compliance with Honor Society standards and obligations and shall **maintain the Chapter's live point tracker** (Article IX). Responsibility for updating member points rests with the Adviser.

Section 5. The Adviser shall help Chapter officers understand and carry out their duties.

Section 6. The Adviser shall be an ex officio, nonvoting, sixth member of the Faculty Council and shall facilitate all meetings of the council.



ARTICLE V

The Faculty Council

Section 1. The Faculty Council shall consist of **five (5) voting faculty members** appointed annually by the principal, with the Chapter Adviser serving as an ex officio, nonvoting sixth member. No principal or assistant principal may serve on the council.

Section 2. No principal or assistant principal shall be present during council meetings where deliberations or voting for selection or dismissal occur, nor during any due-process hearing.

Section 3. The term of the Faculty Council is one year; members may be appointed to consecutive terms.

Section 4. The council shall meet at least once a year to review chapter procedures, select members, and consider nonselection, dismissal, other disciplinary actions, and warning cases.

Section 5. The council shall develop and revise all chapter procedures for selection, discipline, and dismissal, all of which must remain in compliance with the National Constitution and NHS policies. These matters are the **sole domain of the Faculty Council**.

Section 6. In addition to their governance duties, each Faculty Council member supports **one project per quarter** and assists with applications and induction.

Section 7. The five voting members are appointed by the principal prior to the start of the school year.

ARTICLE VI

Membership

Section 1. Membership is an honor bestowed upon a student. Selection is by the Faculty Council and is based on outstanding **Scholarship, Service, Leadership, and Character**. Once selected, members have the responsibility to continue to demonstrate these qualities.

Section 2. Membership shall be known as active, honorary, and alumni. Active members become alumni at graduation. Honorary and alumni members have no voice or vote in chapter affairs.

Section 3. The Faculty Council may award honorary membership in recognition of achievement or outstanding service, in keeping with Article VIII of the National Constitution.

Section 4. Candidates become members when inducted at a special ceremony.

Section 5. Members who are seniors in good standing are eligible to apply for the National Honor Society Scholarship program.

Section 6. A member who transfers from another school with a letter from the previous principal or adviser shall be accepted automatically and must meet the Chapter's standards within one semester to retain membership.

Section 7. Members who resign or are dismissed are never again eligible for membership or its benefits.



ARTICLE VII

Selection of Members

Section 1. Eligible candidates shall be **juniors and seniors** who have attended Don Soffer Aventura High School the equivalent of at least one semester. Freshmen are not eligible.

Section 2. The minimum scholarship standard is a cumulative GPA of at least **3.0 (4.0 scale) / 85% / B**. Candidates meeting this standard are then evaluated on Service, Leadership, and Character.

Section 3. Selection of each member shall be by a **majority vote of the Faculty Council**. Prior to notifying candidates, the Adviser shall review the council's deliberations with the principal.

Section 4. A description of the selection procedure shall be published in an official school publication available to all students and parents in a timely fashion and shall be consistent with NHS rules and regulations.

Section 5. The Chapter retains its current application; a short additional section is added for **second-time (returning) applicants**. Juniors who fall out of good standing must reapply.

Section 6. NASSP shall not review the judgment of the Faculty Council regarding selection.

ARTICLE VIII

Officers & the Executive Board

Section 1. The officers of the Chapter (the "Executive Board"), their duties, and the method of their election shall be determined by the members of the Chapter, approved by the Faculty Council and the principal. Officers for 2026–2027:

President	Uriel L.	Vice President	Noa A.
Secretary	Ilene A.	Historian	Nicole R.
Treasurer	Claudia D.	Junior Representative	Bella S.

Section 2. New officers shall be installed at a special ceremony.

Section 3. The **Executive Committee** shall consist of the officers and the Chapter Adviser. It shall have general supervision of chapter affairs between business meetings, make recommendations to the chapter, and ensure that chapter activities and procedures follow school policy and regulations. All actions are subject to review by the chapter membership. Selection, discipline, and dismissal remain the sole domain of the Faculty Council.

Section 4. Board members lead the Chapter's projects: each board member partners on a **minimum of one project per quarter** and runs that project's working meetings.



ARTICLE IX

Standing, Points & Member Obligations

Section 1. The Chapter uses a **simplified point system** supported by a **live point tracker** that members may access on demand, so each member always knows their status and progress. The Faculty Sponsor maintains and updates the tracker.

Section 2. Beyond strong attendance at meetings and active participation in initiatives, members shall also be expected to:

- **Maintain good grades.**
- **Maintain good school attendance.**
- **Uphold integrity.** Disciplinary issues and academic-integrity violations—plagiarism, unauthorized AI use, or suspensions—count against a member's standing.

Section 3. Seniors must be in good standing to receive their NHS **stole or bib**. Juniors who are not in good standing must reapply. Members who fall below the standards on which their selection was based are subject to the warning and dismissal procedures of Article XIII.

ARTICLE X

Attendance

Section 1. To keep attendance accurate and tamper-proof, the Chapter tracks attendance **in-house in addition to** the school-wide QR code.

Section 2. A board member checks members in against a roster at the **start** of every meeting and project, and **again at the end**, so members receive credit only if they remain for the full session.



ARTICLE XI

Meetings

Section 1. The Chapter shall hold regular meetings on days designated by the Executive Committee in accordance with school policy and regulations. **Tuesday** is the Chapter's designated meeting day.

Section 2. The full chapter gathers for an **all-member meeting once per quarter** (four per year); the remaining work occurs in smaller, project-specific meetings scheduled as needed. The all-member meetings are the primary opportunity to sign up for projects, for which space is limited.

Section 3. Beginning with the second quarter, each all-member meeting also spotlights the prior quarter's accomplishments and impact and presents awards to members who went above and beyond.

Section 4. The president or other designated student leader may call special meetings approved by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Meetings shall be conducted according to **Robert's Rules of Order** in all points not expressly provided for in the National Constitution or these bylaws.

2026–2027 MEETING SCHEDULE

WHEN	MEETING & SPACE	PURPOSE
Q1 · Wk 2 Tue, Aug 18	All-Member Meeting Cafeteria	Distribute the year's calendar and introduce the project-based structure; board presents Q1 projects. First chance to sign up for projects (limited space per project).
Q2 · Wk 1 Tue, Oct 20	All-Member Meeting Cafeteria	Members receive Q1 point totals; board presents Q2 projects. The board also spotlights the prior quarter's accomplishments and impact, and presents awards to members who went above and beyond. First chance to sign up for projects (limited space per project).
Q2 · Wk 2 Tue, Oct 27	Q1 Dismissal Hearings Classroom	Members below the Q1 point target may present their case for probation rather than dismissal; not appearing means automatic dismissal.
Q3 · Wk 1 Tue, Jan 19	All-Member Meeting Cafeteria	Members receive Q2 point totals; board presents Q3 projects. The board also spotlights the prior quarter's accomplishments and impact, and presents awards to members who went above and beyond. First chance to sign up for projects (limited space per project).
Q3 · Wk 2 Tue, Jan 26	Q2 Dismissal Hearings Classroom	Members below the Q2 point target may present their case for probation rather than dismissal; not appearing means automatic dismissal.
Q4 · Wk 1 Tue, Mar 30	All-Member Meeting Cafeteria	Members receive Q3 point totals; board presents Q4 projects. The board also spotlights the prior quarter's accomplishments and impact, and presents awards to members who went above and beyond. First chance to sign up for projects (limited space per project).
Q4 · Wk 2 Tue, Apr 6	Q3 Dismissal Hearings Classroom	Members below the Q3 point target may present their case for probation rather than dismissal; not appearing means automatic dismissal.
Q4 · Wk 8 Tue, May 18	Q4 Dismissal Hearings Classroom	Members below the Q4 point target may present their case for probation rather than dismissal; not appearing means automatic dismissal.

Dates are projected from the 2025–26 calendar and will be confirmed against the official 2026–27 calendar once released. The cafeteria is required only for the four all-member meetings and can be reserved well in advance.



ARTICLE XII

Activities & Service Projects

Section 1. The Chapter shall determine one or more service projects each year, and all members shall regularly participate in them.

Section 2. Projects shall fulfill a need within the school or community; have the support of the administration and faculty; be appropriate and educationally defensible; and be well-planned, organized, and executed.

Section 3. In addition to chapter projects, each member shall choose and participate in an **individual service project** that reflects their particular talents and interests.

Section 4. Projects operate on a **project-based model**: each project has its own working meetings, run by the assigned board members and supervised by the Faculty Council members assigned to it, scheduled as needed to complete the project.

Section 5. The Chapter shall publicize its projects in a positive manner.

SAMPLE PROJECTS FOR THE START OF THE YEAR

Backpack Drive

Recycle the little-kid backpacks seniors wear on the first day of school—a senior-year tradition—by collecting them, filling them with supplies, and donating them to people in need.

Soffer Garden

Purchase a garden plot at Founders Park (about \$150/year) for NHS members to plant and maintain. All produce is donated.

Collaboration with ACES

An educational, fun initiative connecting our two campuses—reading to lower-school students, helping middle-schoolers with math, or hosting an educational game show that inspires learning.

Sports Tournament Fundraiser

A dodgeball, kickball, or pickleball tournament to raise funds.

ARTICLE XIII

Discipline & Dismissal

Section 1. The Faculty Council determines the procedures for warning, discipline, and dismissal, consistent with Article X of the National Constitution; a written description shall be available to interested parties.

Section 2. Members who fall below the standards that were the basis for their selection shall be promptly **warned in writing** by the Adviser and given a reasonable amount of time to correct the deficiency. In cases of flagrant violation of school rules or the law, a warning is not required.

Section 3. The Faculty Council shall determine when a member has exceeded a reasonable number of warnings.

Section 4. In all cases of pending dismissal, a member has the right to a **hearing before the Faculty Council** (due process). The Chapter holds quarterly dismissal hearings; a member below the quarter's point target may present their case for probation rather than dismissal. Failing to appear results in automatic dismissal.

Section 5. Dismissal requires a **majority vote** of the Faculty Council.

Section 6. A dismissed member may appeal to the principal and thereafter under the school district's disciplinary-appeal rules. NASSP hears no appeals in dismissal cases.



ARTICLE XIV

Official Insignia

Section 1. The Chapter uses the official NHS emblem; its distribution and rules for use are determined by the NASSP Board of Directors.

Section 2. Each active, honorary, or alumni member in good standing may wear the emblem; seniors in good standing receive an NHS **stole or bib**.

Section 3. Any member who resigns or is dismissed shall return the emblem to the Chapter Adviser.

Section 4. All insignia must be procured from the NHS national office and are registered trademarks that may not be copied without written permission.

Section 5. The motto of the National Honor Society is **Noblesse Oblige**; the official colors are **blue and gold**.

ARTICLE XV

Dues

Section 1. The Chapter collects annual individual member dues of **\$20**, paid through **MySchoolBucks**. This amount does not exceed the \$20 inclusive maximum set by the National Constitution.

Section 2. Dues are set by the Executive Committee and are subject to the approval of the chapter membership.

ARTICLE XVI

Amendments

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by the Executive Committee with the approval of the Faculty Council and the principal, provided they remain consistent with the NHS National Constitution and Handbook.

Section 2. The NHS National Constitution may be amended only by the NASSP Board of Directors based on the recommendations of NASSP staff.

ADOPTION

For the 2026–2027 School Year

This constitution and set of bylaws for the Barracuda Chapter of the National Honor Society at Don Soffer Aventura High School is adopted for the 2026–2027 school year, in full compliance with the NHS National Constitution and Handbook.

Faculty Sponsor — Mr. Joseph Levy

Administration — Dr. McKee

Administration — Mrs. McGinnis

Chapter President — Uriel L.