

Standing Rules
AGPT Balance and Falls Special Interest Group
Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy

Article I: Name and Purpose

- A. The name of the special interest group shall be the Balance and Falls Special Interest Group of the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy. In these Standing Rules it will be referred to as the BFSIG.
- B. The purpose of the BFSIF shall be to provide a forum through which individuals having a common interest in physical therapy for people with balance problems and a risk of falling may meet and promote care/intervention through education, clinical practice and research.

Article II: Objectives

- A. Foster physical therapy management of balance problems and risk of falling based upon a scientific foundation.
- B. Provide standards for entry-level physical therapy education programs regarding the management of balance problems and risk of falling.
- C. Encourage and foster research.
- D. Provide a forum for discussion of the management of balance problems and the risk of falling among physical therapists and physical therapist assistants.
- E. Provide a network for enhancing communication between clinicians, academicians, and researchers in the physical therapy community interested in balance problems and the risk of falling.
- F. Provide an avenue for interaction with other health care professionals who provide intervention to people with balance problems and the risk of falling.

Article III: Membership

- A. Only members in good standing of the Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy are eligible to be BFSIG members. Any American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) member may attend meetings.

Article IV: Organization

- A. Officers: The BFSIG will elect the following officers, each serving a 3 year term, effective the Monday after the Combined Sections Meeting (CSM) of the APTA.
- B. Duties
 - 1. Chair
 - a. Facilitates all meetings of the SIG.
 - b. Attends AGPT membership meetings at CSM and APTA Annual Conference (if scheduled) or sends designee.
 - c. Represents SIG at AGPT Board meetings regarding SIG activities as required by the AGPT Board or Executive Committee.
 - d. Provides written reports to the AGPT Board liaison to the SIG prior to CSM and APTA Annual Conference for inclusion in the report to the AGPT Board.
 - e. Submits information relative to SIG functions to the SIG newsletter or GeriNotes.
 - f. Appoints SIG task forces and committees, except the Nominating Committee.

g. Serves as a liaison to other sections and organizations with approval of the AGPT Board or Executive Committee.

2. Vice-Chair

- a. Serves as SIG Chair in the absence of the Chair.
- b. Serves as liaison to the AGPT Program Chair to coordinate SIG programming at CSM and Annual Conference.
- c. Reviews the SIG Standing Rules biannually for consistency with the AGPT and the APTA, and recommends appropriate revisions.
- d. With the SIG Chair, or designee, prepares the SIG newsletter.
- e. Other duties as assigned by the Chair.

3. Secretary

- a. Records and distributes minutes of all SIG officer and membership meetings. Minutes will be distributed to members, officers, the AGPT Board and Executive Director as appropriate. Minutes are submitted within 45 days of the meeting.
- b. Maintains all written records of the SIG.
- c. Maintains the SIG membership record.
- d. Completes routine official correspondence of the SIG including notification of meetings, elections results, etc.
- e. Other duties as assigned by the Chair.

4. Nominating Committee members (2 to be elected)

- a. The senior member of the committee will serve as Chair.
- b. Identify and slate candidates for the SIG officers.
- c. Distribute candidate information.
- d. convey election results to the Secretary for distribution.

C. Election

- 1. Elections will be held once a year (electronically) and results announced during the SIG business meeting at CSM. Election of officers will be staggered as follows:
- 2. Ballot and candidate information will be distributed by email, mail or in the SIG newsletter.
- 3. Newly elected officers shall assume office effective the Monday after the CSM in which their election to office is announced.

Article V: Committees/Task Forces

A. All committees and task forces of the SIG, other than the Nominating Committee, shall be approved by the Chair with approval of the AGPT Board or Executive Committee.

B. Committee members will be selected by the Committee Chair with approval of the SIG Chair.

Article VI: Meetings

A. The SIG will conduct or assure representation at the following meetings:

- 1. The SIG Chair meeting at CSM
- 2. The SIG meeting at CSM
- 3. The SIG meeting at APTA Annual Conference (if scheduled)

4. The AGPT Board meeting at CSM or APTA Annual Conference as requested. The SIG Chair (or designee) must attend one (1) AGPT Board meeting at CSM annually
5. The AGPT member meeting at CSM and APTA Annual Conference (if scheduled)

B. The SIG will hold at least one member meeting per year at which business is conducted.

Article VII: Authority

A. The SIG Standing Rules must be consistent with the AGPT and APTA Bylaws

B. These SIG Standing Rules may be changed, subject to the approval of the Board or Executive Committee of the AGPT, by a two-third's vote of the SIG members at a regularly scheduled member meeting provided that the members have been notified of the proposed changes in writing 60 days before the vote.

C. Where these Standing Rules are silent, the AGPT and APTA bylaws prevail.