The AAOS Resident Assembly (RA) shall work to review, comment, and recommend advisory opinion submissions from individual residents or resident delegates. An Advisory Opinion is defined as an initiative/opportunity for residents or a stance taken on resident issues. The following contains the components of Advisory Opinions.

**Advisory Opinions**

A request about any topic that encourages the AAOS to take action or a request that addresses process issues involving the RA only. Examples would include requests dealing with socioeconomic, membership, or certification issues. Any resident or delegate may submit an action item for the Membership Council’s (MC) consideration.

**Requirements**

All proposed Advisory Opinions must contain the following information:

1. Title or subject;
2. Minimum of 20 resident signatures if proposed by a resident member (does not pertain to delegates);
3. Classification of the proposed action (such as “Internal” or “AAOS/Membership Council”);
4. Sponsor(s) and their origins (i.e., John Doe – resident; Jane Doe – Delegate);
5. Statement of reasons for adoption (“Whereas” clauses); and
6. Specific statement(s) to be voted upon (“Resolved” clauses).

**Considerations**

The Sponsor should draft the proposed Advisory Opinion so the message is apparent and the actions requested in them are not ambiguous.

The “whereas” clauses must state the need for the proposed Advisory Opinion and should be accompanied by appropriate background material (e.g., published articles, correspondence, position statements). They should be precise and to the point. The clauses should represent either facts which are beyond dispute (“orthopaedics is that branch of medicine which deals with disease and disorders of the musculoskeletal system”) or, at the very least, are generally agreed upon by most members of the AAOS (“orthopaedics is an honorable profession.”)

The “resolved” clauses should follow logically from the “whereas” clauses without explanation and should be able to be understood without the presence of the “whereas” clauses. The proper verb for all “resolved” clauses is “shall.” The initial “resolved” clause should contain the statement of belief or commitment to be taken. However, if it is not compatible with existing policy, it should specifically call for the revocation of that policy. Remaining “resolved” clauses shall state the specific actions the Sponsor(s) want the AAOS to take through the MC.

**Process**

1. The Sponsor(s) shall submit the proposed Advisory Opinion to the Resident Assembly staff in completed form at least 45 days prior to the meeting at which it is to be presented.
2. The Sponsor shall assist AAOS staff in preparing background materials about the Advisory Opinion, which might include issues of cost (financial, volunteer time, and staffing requirements) and the legality of implementing the actions called for in the proposed Advisory Opinion. AAOS staff will include the proposed Advisory Opinion and background material in the agenda materials.
3. The Delegates will be able to review the Advisory Opinion and the background materials at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
4. The Sponsor shall discuss the proposed Advisory Opinion at the RA Open Hearing.
5. The RA Executive Committee will develop a Report and Recommendation based on the Open Hearing discussion and background documents presented.
6. If possible, the RA Executive Committee’s Report and Recommendations on the Action shall be given to the Sponsor(s) before it is presented to the RA.
7. Once the RA Vice-Chair presents the Report and Recommendations on the proposed Advisory Opinion at the RA meeting, the Chair shall call for a motion to vote on whether the Report and Recommendations shall be approved as written.
8. All actions regarding Advisory Opinion shall be approved by a simple majority of the Delegates present.
9. If the RA votes not to accept the RA Executive Committee Report and Recommendations as written, the Chair shall entertain discussion from the floor for alternative actions regarding the proposed Advisory Opinion. The RA delegates must vote on the amended motion.
10. The RA Chair will present any Advisory Opinion that is debated by the RA including those that are approved and those that are defeated to the Membership Council. The CRFC will consider any approved Advisory Opinion.

**Late Proposed RA Advisory Opinions**

The RA may accept “late” proposed Advisory Opinions for consideration at the Meeting upon the approval of two-thirds of delegate members present and voting.

The RA shall consider late proposed Advisory Opinions only if there is a true emergency and only if the RA has sufficient background information to ensure that the RA Executive Committee and ultimately all attendees can make an informed decision on the proposed RA Advisory Opinion.

If the RA does not accept a late proposed Advisory Opinion for consideration at the meeting, it shall be considered at the next RA meeting.

**Report and Recommendations of the RA Executive Committee**

The purpose of the RA Executive Committee Report and Recommendations is to help the RA manage proposed Advisory Opinion. It is intended to facilitate discussion. The RA Executive Committee prepares its Report and Recommendations in executive session.

The Report and Recommendations of the RA Executive Committee shall:

1. Identify the proposed Advisory Opinion by number, title, sponsor and classification.
2. Provide a summary of what action would be taken if the proposed Advisory Opinion were approved by the MC as submitted.
3. Provide information and discuss what the RA Executive Committee believes are important considerations regarding the proposed Advisory Opinion.
4. Recommend one of the following actions:
   1. adopt as written
   2. adopt as amended
   3. reject
   4. table