# The Constitution of the Hagalil Region
# United Synagogue Youth

## Preamble

We, the members of the Hagalil Region of the United Synagogue Youth, having dedicated ourselves to Conservative Judaism in Jewish tradition, culture, and law, establish this constitution as a guide to the operation of our organization. Being that we are a part of International USY, nothing in this constitution may contradict any aspect of the constitution of the International United Synagogue Youth, United Synagogue of America.

## Article I – Domain

The authority of Hagalil Region, as recognized by International United Synagogue Youth, will extend to those United Synagogue Youth chapters in New Jersey as outlined by United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, New Jersey Region.

## Article II – Objectives

The Hagalil Region will promote religious, educational, and social awareness in its members at home, chapter and regional levels.

1. Study

This region dedicates itself to the ideals of Jewish learning by encouraging its chapters to establish programs for group study and encouraging its members to further their interests in Judaism.

2. Observance of Shabbat and Holidays

The observance of Shabbat and all holidays is of basic importance, therefore, this region dedicates itself to strengthen the Shabbat and all Jewish holidays by:

a. Encouraging its members to attend services on the Shabbat and all holidays.
b. Encouraging its members to join with their families in the observance of the Shabbat and holiday rituals.
c. Encouraging its chapters to sponsor programs in the spirit of the Shabbat and holidays.
d. Requiring its chapters to schedule events so as not to conflict with the observance of Shabbat and Holidays, unless these activities are in accordance with Part C.

3. Prayer

The members of the Hagalil Region will have the opportunity to pray at Regional Events because prayer is one of the essential pillars of Jewish life. If services are conducted with a host congregation, services will follow the customs of that congregation in respect to them. If services are conducted without the congregation both non-egalitarian and egalitarian services shall be offered. In the event that both cannot be offered, an egalitarian service shall be offered. Furthermore, the USYers must respect the sanctuary and atmosphere therein.

4. Kashrut

The observance of dietary laws has kept the Jews always aware of Jewish values and has facilitated Jewish survival. Therefore this region:

a. Requires each and every one of its chapters to observe the dietary laws at all USY functions according to the Responsum of the Rabbinical Assembly.
b. Urges each of its members to observe Kashrut in his/her own life.

5. The Synagogue

The synagogue has been and shall remain the center of Jewish life in the American Community. Therefore, Hagalil dedicates itself to strengthen the synagogue by intensifying the participation of its members in the synagogue through:

a. Having the members of its chapters, whenever and wherever feasible, attend services, participate in services, and/or conduct services.
b. Having members of the region regard themselves as members of the adult congregation, an as much, participate in congregational functions and affairs.

6. The Jewish Community

No Jewish youth group is sufficient unto itself, it must share in the responsibility of the modern Jewish world. To achieve this end, Hagalil pledges itself to:

a. Cooperate with other Jewish youth groups for common goals.
b. Participate in the affairs of the Jewish Community
c. Accept its share of the responsibility for Jewish rehabilitation and philanthropy wherever it is needed in the world.
d. Dedicate itself to strengthening the ties between American Jewry and the remainder of K'lal Yisrael.

7. The Unity of Humankind

The welfare of humanity is a deep concern for the Jewish people. Therefore, Hagalil dedicates itself to strive for:

a. Democracy
b. Brotherhood
c. Human welfare

8. Israel Awareness

The land of Israel is the historic birthplace of the religious, cultural, spiritual, and national identity of the Jewish people. As a Zionist organization, USY recognizes the centrality of Israel to Jewish life and therefore dedicates itself to strengthening the link between Israel and Hagalil by:

a. Encouraging its members to visit the State of Israel, especially through United Synagogue programs.
b. Encouraging its members to learn Hebrew, the unifying language of our forefathers and of modern Israel.
c. Creating a strong bond with NOAM, USY's sister organization in Israel.
d. Participating in, and encouraging chapters to establish Israel awareness programs.

## Article III – Membership

### Section A – Chapter Membership

1. Chapter membership may be given to any organization that is sponsored by a congregation affiliated with United Synagogue of America provided that the chapter is located within the domain of Hagalil Region.

2. The region shall place no limit on the number of affiliates from any one member group. Also, there shall be no limit placed upon the members in any chapter.

3. Proceedings for the suspension of a chapter may be initiated by the Regional Director or Regional Executive Board. The grounds for the suspension will be put forth before the Knesset, which will vote whether the suspension is warranted. A two-thirds majority, excluding the representatives of the chapter in question, will be required for suspension. Suspension proceedings will then be followed through by the Regional Youth Commission and the International United Synagogue Youth organization. However, Youth Commission members of the Chapter involved may not vote.

4. A suspended chapter may be reinstated only by a two-thirds majority vote of the Knesset.

### Section B – Individual Membership

1. Individual membership may be given to any Jewish youth in ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade in high school whose age is between thirteen and eighteen inclusive. Any exception to this shall be referred to the Regional Executive Board,

2. Individual chapters shall decide whether members must belong to the sponsoring congregation.

3. The suspension and reinstatement of individual members will be placed at the discretion of the chapter, however, a majority vote of the Regional Youth Commission may override the chapter's decision.

## Article IV – Dues and Fiscal Year

### Section A – Dues

All chapters shall pay to the region and international organization at the specified rate per annum as set forth by the Knesset with the approval of the Regional Youth Commission.

### Section B – Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of Hagalil shall commence on July 1 and end on the following June 30.

## Article V – Qualifications and Duties of Officers

### Section A – Qualifications to run for Office

1. All officers of Hagalil Region shall have been members in good standing of a chapter in the region.

2. No elected officer shall hold the same office for a period of more than two consecutive elected terms.

3. No officer shall serve after the graduation of his/her high school class.

4. Any person shall be eligible to run for a Regional office provided that:

   a. He/She has been an officer in his/her chapter and/or a member of the Regional Board.
   b. He/She must have attended 75% of chapter functions.
   c. He/She must have attended 50% of regional functions.
   d. He/She must attend at least 4 religious services monthly.
   e. He/She must have a reading knowledge of Hebrew.
   f. He/She must have a letter of recommendation from his/her advisor and Rabbi.
   g. He/She must participate regularly in an organized study program of Judaica.
   h. He/She must sign a pledge to adhere to all election and campaign rules.
   i. He/She must submit a written application to the nominations-elections committee.
   j. He/She must be paid members of all three (3) of USY's distinct clubs, Heschel Honor Society, Hechalutzim and 613 Mitvot Corp. by the time applications for office are due.

5. Any person shall be eligible to run for the office of Regional **Presiden**t provided that:
   a. He/She has been a chapter officer and/or regional board member for two full non-concurrent terms and/or may be in his/her second term.
      i. An applicant who does not meet this qualification (and only this one) may appeal to the Regional Executive Board to waive it.
   b. He/She must have attended 75% of chapter functions.
   c. He/She must have attended 50% of regional functions.
   d. He/She must attend at least 4 religious services monthly.
   e. He/She must have a reading knowledge of Hebrew.
   f. He/She must have a letter of recommendation from his/her advisor and Rabbi.
   g. He/She must participate regularly in an organized study program of Judaica.
   h. He/She must sign a pledge to adhere to all election and campaign rules.
   i. He/She must submit a written application to the nominations-elections committee.
   j. He/She must be paid members of all three (3) of USY's distinct clubs, Heschel Honor Society, Hechalutzim and 613 Mitvot Corp. by the time applications for office are due.

<u>Section B – Duties and Powers of Executive Officers</u>

1. <u>President</u>

   a. He/She shall be vested the executive power of the regional organization and shall be its accredited representative.
   b. He/She shall be a representative to the International organization and shall delegate the power thereof.
   c. He/She shall call and preside over all Executive Board Meetings, Regional Board Meetings, and Knesset Meetings.
   d. He/She shall have the right to appoint and remove all committee chairmen when necessary with the approval of a majority of the Executive Board.
   e. He/She shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees.
   f. He/She shall report to the Region at least once a year as to the State of the Region.
   g. He/She shall never have a vote except in the case of a tie in the regional matters or to cause a tie to defeat a motion.
   h. He/She shall be responsible for overseeing the ruach committee.
   i. He/She shall be responsible for overseeing the regalia committee.

2. <u>Executive Committees Vice President</u>

a. He/She shall have the duty, right, and power of the President during the President's absence or in the event of the incapacity of the President.
b. He/She shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees.
c. He/She shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties.
d. He/She shall be responsible for the making sure that General Board obey any standards set by this constitution. He/She shall also assist the President for setting the agendas for any General Board meetings.
e. He/She shall be responsible for the implementation of all aspects of Israel Affairs.

3. Religion Education Vice President

a. He/She shall have the duty, right, and power of the President during the President's absence or in the event of the incapacity of the President, provided that the Executive Committees Vice President is absent or incapacitated.
b. He/She shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees.
c. He/She shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties.
d. He/She shall be in charge of the coordination of all regional religious activities.
e. He/She shall be the chairman of the Religious Study Committee.
f. He/She shall be in charge of coordinating the Regional Study program.

4. Social Action Tikun Olam Vice President

a. He/She shall have the duty, right, and power of the President during the President's absence or in the event of the incapacity of the President, provided that the other Vice Presidents are also absent and incapacitated.
b. He/She shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees.
c. He/She shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties.
d. He/She shall be responsible for the implementation of all aspects of the Social Action and shall serve as the overseeing officer of the Tikun Olam Program.
e. He/She is the overseer of the Social Action/Tikun Olam Heads.
f. He/She shall be responsible for organizing the regional Tikun Olam allocations.

5. Programming Membership Vice President

a. He/She shall have the duty, right, and power of the President during the President's absence or in the event of the incapacity of the President, provided that the other Vice Presidents are also absent and incapacitated.
b. He/She shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees.
c. He/She shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties.
d. He/She shall be responsible for implementing and overseeing a committee in charge of membership, programming, and Kadima, as he/she sees fit..
e. He/She shall coordinate Regional, Zonal, and Area programming.
f. He/She shall be responsible for the implementation of all aspects of membership expansion and retention.
g. He/She shall be responsible for the expansion of the region, when the opportunity arises.
h. He/She shall serve as a liason between all chapters and the region.

6. Communications Vice President

a. He/She shall have the duty, right, and power of the President during the President's absence or in the event of the incapacity of the President, provided that the other Vice Presidents are also absent and incapacitated.
b. He/She shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees.
c. He/She shall assist the President in carrying out his/her duties.
d. He/She shall keep a record of all meetings of the Regional Board and of all other official Regional sessions.
e. He/She shall issue all correspondence deemed necessary by the acting President to keep the region if efficient running action.
f. He/She is responsible for overseeing the regional newsletter, *Kolenu.*
g. He/She is responsible for overseeing the yearbook committee.

Section C – Standards for Regional Officers

1. All officers must attend at least six (6) hours of Judaic study each month, either in formal classes or in approved self-study, which must be overseen by a competent educator approved of beforehand.

2. All officers must, under moral obligation, keep kashrut outside the home and inside if possible.

3. All officers must attend a minimum of six (6) religious services a month, four (4) of which must be on Shabbat, not including those services attended at USY Conventions.

4. All officers must refrain from participation in public school and its activities, as well as other secular activities on Shabbat and all Jewish Holidays.

5. All officers must attend 75% of their local chapter's functions.

6. All officers must be a member of all three (3) of USY's clubs, the Heschel Honor Society, Hechalutzim and the 613 mitzvot club, during the fiscal year.

7. All officers are required to take standardized tests on non-Shabbat or non-holiday dates.

8. All officers must attend 100% of all events posted on the Regional calendar, unless otherwise excused by the Regional President and Regional Youth Director.

9. All officers must attend one regional event per a club unless otherwise excused by the Regional President and Regional Youth Director.

The above standards insure that the officers will uphold a level of Judaica that can be used as a model for living by the membership. If the officers do not choose to uphold these standards, the procedures for impeachment should be initiated.

## Article VI – Vacancies

Section A

1. In the event that there shall be a vacancy in the office of President, the Executive Committees Vice President shall automatically assume the duties of the President and shall serve the current term of the President. In the event that there is no Executive Committees Vice President, the succession of

the other Vice Presidents to the Presidency will be in the order of their inception. Religious Study, Social Action Tikun Olam, Programming Membership, Communications.

2. In the event that all officers decline to accept the position of President, a new president must be elected within six weeks by the Knesset. The candidates shall submit an application to the Nominations-Election committee, which shall consist of the Regional Executive Board.

Section B

Any other vacant offices shall be appointed by the Regional President from the Regional General Board with a 2/3 vote of the Regional Board (consisting of the Regional Executive Board and the Regional General Board.)

## Article VII – Impeachment of Regional Officers

Section A – Grounds for Impeachment

1. Failure to execute satisfactorily the duties of office.

2. Behavior unbecoming an officer of the Region.

Section B – Procedures

1. Impeachment proceedings against any regional officer may be started by, and only by, a member of the Regional Executive Board. The members of the Regional General Board hold the right to petition the Executive Board to have such actions taken.

2. The beginning of the impeachment process must be approved by a majority vote of the other 5 members of the Executive Board. Those charges shall be submitted to the Regional President. The president shall then forward these charges to the person under consideration, who shall have a period of fifteen (15) days to reply.

3. Impeachment proceedings shall occur at formal meetings of the Regional Board (consisting of the Regional Executive Board and Regional General Board.)

4. A 2/3 vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required to remove the officer under question from his duties.

## Article VIII – Qualification, Duties, and Selection of Regional Committee Chairmen

Section A

1. ALL General Board members must attend a minimum of 75% of Regional events. Also, ALL General Board members must attend two (2) of the three (3) main conventions (Encampment, Fall Convention, and Mid-winter Convention.) On top of this, attendance at the Leadership Training Institute is mandatory.

2. ALL General Board members are required to take Standardized tests on non-Shabbat or non-holiday dates.

Section B

1. If any member of the Regional Executive Board feels that any chairman is not fulfilling standards, then the Executive Board may vote for dismissal of this person from the committee. The President only votes in a tie.

## Article IX – The Regional Board

Section A

The Regional Board shall consist of five (5) regional officers and the President. All meetings shall be called monthly by the acting President.

## Article X – The Knesset

Section A

This body shall consist of ALL the Regional executive officers, each member of the Regional General Board and the voting delegations of each chapter as defined below in Section B. The highest ranking officer of that chapter shall represent that chapter. If there is no other officer present, an appointed representative of the President shall represent that chapter.

Section B

The Regional President shall preside over this body while it is in session.

Section C

Voting rights per chapter in the Knesset are as follow:

The delegates(s) shall consist of the highest-ranking officer(s) of each chapter

1-25 members = 3 delegates
26-50 members = 4 delegates
51-75 members = 5 delegates
76-100 members = 6 delegates
101 or more members = 7 delegates
one additional delegate for every 25 members

Section D

The Knesset shall elect the Executive Board and are the only members who shall cast votes for the Executive Board. All others present may act as observers at elections.

## Article XI – The Regional Convention

Section A

A regional Convention shall be held at least once every year.

Section B

Convention representation shall be determined by the Convention co-chairmen and the Executive Board.

Section C

The Convention Co-chairmen shall preside over this body when it is in session.

## Article XII – Voting

Section A

Where not herein mentioned, all votes shall be majority votes.

Section B

Unless otherwise specified, at no time shall any person have more than one vote.

Section C

When abstentions are cast, they shall not be included in the total.

## Article XIII – Nomination and Election of Officers

Section A – Nominations-Elections Committee

1. The Nominations-Elections Committee shall consist of nine seniors including all senior Regional Officers. The remaining committee members shall by chosen by a 2/3 voting of Senior Regional Officers.
2. All election procedures not here mentioned shall be decided by the Nominations-Election Committee.

    a. Campaigning is hereby limited to one identical item – an advertisement to be turned in at the Nominations-Election Committee interview. All other material forms of campaigning are not constitutionally acceptable.

3. The Nominations-Elections Committee shall screen all applicants for office at least thirty days preceding the start of regional elections. The screening will involve the verification of the information provided by the candidate on his/her application for office to make certain that the candidate is constitutionally qualified to run for and to hold regional office. If the candidate passes the screening, he/she will be permitted to run for office. If the candidate does not pass the screening, he/she will be barred from running for any regional office that year. The slating of any candidate(s) by the members of the Nominations-Elections Committee is prohibited.

    a. The Nominations-Elections Committee may inform a candidate that he/she is better suited for another position, and if the candidate agrees to “switch,” the Nominations-Elections Committee can effect the change.
    b. A list of candidates shall be announced and sent to every Chapter President, advisor, and Applicant at least twenty days prior to the Regional Election. Also included in this mailing will be a copy of Elections procedures.
    c. To be considered by the Nominations-Elections Committee for candidacy for office, the potential candidate is to submit a petition and application to the Committee by the date specified by the Committee. The petition must contain at least one hundred signatures representing at least five chapters in Hagalil Region.

d. There shall be no nominations from the floor unless it is for a candidate that drops down, or if it is for an honorary office.
e. The members of the Nominations-Elections Committee will also be the USY representatives in the ballot counting room to observe the counting of ballots during elections to make sure that everything is done properly. All members of the Nominations-Elections Committee who will be in the Ballot Counting room has an unbiased opinion on the counters, the candidates, or the votes. The members of the Nominations-Elections Committee are the ONLY USYers allowed in the Ballot Counting room to observe the counting of votes.

Section B – Elections

1. The election of Regional Officers shall be held only at a Regional Convention.

2. The order to be followed for the election of officers shall be as follows:

    a. President
    b. Executive Committees Vice President
    c. Religion Education Vice President
    d. Social Action Tikun Olam Vice President
    e. Programming Membership Vice President
    f. Communications Vice President

## Article XIV – Amendments and Ratification

Section A - Amendments

This constitution may be amended by the Knesset, provided that notification of the proposed amendment be sent to all chapters at least twenty days prior to the voting. This Constitution shall not be suspended or amended under any circumstances except under this procedure.

Section B – Ratification

1. Any amendments to the constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the Knesset and will become effective immediately upon approval.

2. This Constitution, ratified at the Regional Plenary Session of the 1983 Regional Convention on the sixth day of May, in the year 1983 (5743), on the ninth day of May, 1986 (5746), on the seventh day of April, 1991 (5761), on Friday April 23, 1993, on the 10th day of April, 1994 (5754), on the twenty-second day of January, 2002 (5762), on the 27th of April, 2007(5767) and the 24 of April 2009 (5769) contains all revisions and amendments made since the ratification date.

## Article XV – Procedures

Notice for all proposals to be discussed shall be sent to all chapters at least twenty days in advance of a meeting. If this proves to be impossible, the Knesset MAY VOTE to permit discussion and voting upon a proposal by a 2/3 vote at a meeting.

## Article XVI – Interpretation

Section A

The power to interpret this Constitution, the contents thereof, and all by-laws, standards rules, regulations, and orders of this organization shall rest with the Executive Board. Where this is impossible, the right of this Constitution shall be given to the highest ranking Regional Officer present.

Section B

1. The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern this society in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution, by-laws, or special rules of the society.

2. A copy of this constitution, Robert's Rules of Order, and any other needed reference materials must be present for all Knesset and Regional General Board meetings.