



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

Office of the National Judge Advocate
Bruce R. Rakfeldt

08 March 2026

To: Chief Operating Officer, Marine Corps League

Subject: Proposed National Bylaw Change

In accordance with the National Administrative Procedures, Chapter Ten, Section 10020, the following is submitted for consideration by the body assembled at the 2026 National Convention.

IRT: Chapter Nine;

- Section 9015 e. (1)
- Section 9025 a. (3)
- Section 9025 b. (2)
- Section 9025 j. (3)
- Section 9040 j. (6)
- Section 9045 a. (1)
- Section 9045 e. (3)

CURRENT:

Section 9015. Filing, Service of Copies, Correspondence

e. Filing Grievance or Disciplinary Charge . The petitioner shall file the grievance or Disciplinary Charge in writing with the jurisdictional JA by mail with a tracking number or email, supported by digital signature, with a request delivery/read receipt. The day after receipt by the jurisdictional JA is Day One on the 75-day clock.

(1) The petitioner shall serve copies of the disciplinary charge or grievance upon the respondent, the department commandant, the National Commandant, and the National JA by mail with a tracking number or email, supported by digital signature, with a request delivery/read receipt.

PROPOSED (Added changes in RED):

Section 9015. Filing, Service of Copies, Correspondence

e. Filing Grievance or Disciplinary Charge . The petitioner shall file the grievance or Disciplinary Charge in writing with the jurisdictional JA by mail with a tracking number or email, supported by digital signature, with a request delivery/read receipt. The day after receipt by the jurisdictional JA is Day One on the 75-day clock.

(1) The petitioner shall serve copies of the disciplinary charge or grievance upon the respondent, the department commandant, **the Division NVC**, the National Commandant, and the National JA by mail with a tracking number or email, supported by digital signature, with a request delivery/read receipt.

CURRENT:

Section 9025. Grievances

a. Written Grievance . If a member, detachment, or department has a grievance against another member, detachment, or department, the following procedure shall be followed:

(3) The petitioner shall serve a copy of the grievance upon the respondent, the department commandant and the National JA by mail with a tracking number or email, supported by digital signature, with a request delivery/read receipt.

PROPOSED (Added changes in RED):

Section 9025. Grievances

a. Written Grievance . If a member, detachment, or department has a grievance against another member, detachment, or department, the following procedure shall be followed:

(3) The petitioner shall serve a copy of the grievance upon the respondent, the department commandant, **the Division NVC** and the National JA by mail with a tracking number or email, supported by digital signature, with a request delivery/read receipt.

CURRENT:

Section 9025. Grievances

b. Jurisdictional Judge Advocate Action

(2) If the department JA is successful in resolving the grievance, he shall in writing, or by email, report the settlement to the department commandant and serve a copy of the report on the parties and the National JA.

PROPOSED (Added changes in RED):

Section 9025. Grievances

b. Jurisdictional Judge Advocate Action

(2) If the department JA is successful in resolving the grievance, he shall in writing, or by email, report the settlement to the department commandant and serve a copy of the report on the parties, **the Division NVC** and the National JA.

CURRENT:

Section 9025. Grievances

j. Written Summary of the Hearing . The jurisdictional JA shall write a summary of the hearing as required in Section 9075 of this chapter.

(3) The Jurisdictional JA shall serve the written summary within fifteen (15) days of the hearing on the petitioner and respondent with copies to the National Commandant, the National JA, the department JA, and the department commandant.

PROPOSED (Added changes in RED):

Section 9025. Grievances

j. Written Summary of the Hearing . The jurisdictional JA shall write a summary of the hearing as required in Section 9075 of this chapter.

(3) The Jurisdictional JA shall serve the written summary within fifteen (15) days of the hearing on the petitioner and respondent with copies to the National Commandant, the National JA, **the Division NVC**, the department JA, and the department commandant.

CURRENT:

Section 9040. Discipline of a Member, Detachment, Department Officers and Board of Trustees

j. Findings of the Hearing Board . The findings of the Hearing Board shall be a section of the written summary of the hearing. See Section 9075.

(6) A copy of the written summary of the hearing shall be served on the petitioner, the respondent, the department commandant, the department JA, the National JA, and NED/COO(less exhibits).

PROPOSED (Added changes in RED):

Section 9040. Discipline of a Member, Detachment, Department Officers and Board of Trustees

j. Findings of the Hearing Board . The findings of the Hearing Board shall be a section of the written summary of the hearing. See Section 9075.

(6) A copy of the written summary of the hearing shall be served on the petitioner, the respondent, the department commandant, the department JA, **the Division NVC**, the National JA, and NED/COO(less exhibits).

CURRENT:

Section 9045. Department Commandant or Department

a. In the event the respondent is a department commandant or department, the following procedure shall be followed:

(1) Disciplinary charges shall be submitted in writing, using the Disciplinary Charge Form, located in the Member Library, to the National JA and to the respondent, with a copy to the National Commandant.

PROPOSED (Added changes in RED):

Section 9045. Department Commandant or Department

a. In the event the respondent is a department commandant or department, the following procedure shall be followed:

(1) Disciplinary charges shall be submitted in writing, using the Disciplinary Charge Form, located in the Member Library, to the National JA and to the respondent, with a copy to the **Division NVC and the** National Commandant.

CURRENT:

Section 9045. Department Commandant or Department

e. The decision of the Hearing Board shall be made in writing and must be affirmed by a majority of the Hearing Board.

(3) The written decision shall be forwarded within fifteen (15) days to the National Commandant with a copy to the National JA. The National JA will affect proper service upon the petitioner and the respondent, with copies to all of the participating parties and the NED/COO.

PROPOSED (Added changes in RED):

Section 9045. Department Commandant or Department

e. The decision of the Hearing Board shall be made in writing and must be affirmed by a majority of the Hearing Board.

(3) The written decision shall be forwarded within fifteen (15) days to the National Commandant with a copy to the National JA **and Division NVC**. The National JA will affect proper service upon the petitioner and the respondent, with copies to all of the participating parties and the NED/COO.

RATIONALE:

These amendments add the Division National Vice Commandant (NVC) as a required recipient in grievance and disciplinary notifications to ensure consistent communication and eliminate gaps in case awareness. Including NVC's aligns the Administrative Procedures with actual organizational practice, improves oversight within each division, ensures transparency, and supports the NVC's statutory role as the liaison between departments and national leadership. These changes do not alter procedure; they simply ensure that all necessary parties receive the same information at the same time.

Respectfully submitted,



Bruce R. Rakfeldt,
National Judge Advocate
Marine Corps League