

Constitution of “Ballroom Dance Society”

1. Article One – Name and Purpose

- 1.1. The official name of the recognized student group is “Ballroom Dance Society”
- 1.2. The official acronym or abbreviation of the group is “BDS”
- 1.3. The purpose, objectives, mission and/or mandate of the organization **Purpose:** The Ballroom Dance Club aims to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where students can learn and enjoy the art of ballroom dancing. **Objectives:** To provide lessons in various ballroom dance styles, including cha-chacha, waltz, slow waltz, rumba, foxtrot, disco fox, and samba. To promote physical fitness, coordination, and self-confidence through dance. To foster a sense of community and friendship among members through social dancing and collaborative learning. To prepare members for performances, enhancing their skills and showcasing their progress. **Mission:** Our mission is to cultivate a love for ballroom dancing while encouraging personal growth and social connections. We strive to make dance accessible to all students, regardless of experience, and to create a fun and supportive atmosphere. **Mandate:** The Ballroom Dance Club is committed to offering high-quality instruction, encouraging participation from all genders, and promoting a positive and respectful environment. We will organize regular practices, workshops, and events to engage our members and showcase their talent.

2. Article Two – Membership and Membership Fee

- 2.1. The group shall maintain a list of group members.
- 2.2. Voting membership is open to all registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 2.3. Non-voting membership is open to University of Toronto staff, faculty, alumni, and to persons from outside the University. Unless otherwise stated, non-voting members do not hold any rights awarded to voting members.
- 2.4. The membership will be free of charge.

3. Article Three – Rights of Members

- 3.1. All voting members have a right to attend all general meetings of members.
- 3.2. All voting members have a right to cast votes at all general meetings of members.
- 3.3. All voting members have a right to stand for election unless otherwise stated in this document.
- 3.4. All voting members have a right to cast votes in all group elections and referenda.
- 3.5. All voting members have a right to propose and vote on amendments to this constitution.
- 3.6. The rights prescribed in Article Three are not awarded to non-voting members as described in Article Two.

4. Article Four - Executive Committee

- 4.1. The term for all positions on the Executive Committee shall be from January 6th to April 30th (winter semester of 2025).
- 4.2. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of 4 voting members.
- 4.3. All voting members of the Executive Committee must be currently registered students of the University of Toronto.
- 4.4. Non-voting members may hold only non-voting positions on the Executive Committee.
- 4.5. Persons holding non-voting positions on the Executive Committee cannot serve as an officer, financial authority, signing authority, primary contact, or secondary contact.
- 4.6. No person may serve as a financial authority or signing authority for the group if they are currently serving as a financial authority or signing authority for another recognized student group at the University of Toronto.
- 4.7. The Executive may appoint Directors or Coordinators for various committees who do not hold executive decision-making authority and are not eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 4.8. All voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled through an annual election and each voting position must be open to all student members.
- 4.9. The elections must be held in a nonbiased manner. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.

5. Article Five - Executive Committee Composition and Duties

5.1. The President shall:

- 5.1.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 5.1.2. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and members.
- 5.1.3. Hold signing and financial authority along with the Treasurer.
- 5.1.4. Oversee the club's operations, including marketing, promotions, and event organization.
- 5.1.5. Ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities from one year to the next.
- 5.1.6. Serve as the primary spokesperson for the club.

5.2. The Vice-President shall:

- 5.2.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 5.2.2. Assist the President with club operations and event coordination.
- 5.2.3. Support marketing, promotions, and member recruitment efforts.
- 5.2.4. Ensure that the club's activities align with University of Toronto policies.
- 5.2.5. Share signing and financial authority with the Treasurer when required.

5.3. The Marketing Director shall:

- 5.3.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 5.3.2. Develop and execute marketing strategies to promote the club and its activities.
- 5.3.3. Manage the club's social media platforms and online presence.
- 5.3.4. Create promotional materials, such as posters, flyers, and digital content.

5.4. The Treasurer shall:

- 5.4.1. Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee.
- 5.4.2. Manage the club's budget, including tracking expenses and revenue.
- 5.4.3. Ensure timely payments for club activities.
- 5.4.4. Hold signing and financial authority along with the President.
- 5.4.5. Prepare financial reports for the Executive Committee and club members.

5.5. Non-Executive Trainer Role

- 5.5.1. The Trainer shall focus solely on structuring and leading ballroom dance classes.
- 5.5.2. Provide and prepare music for practice sessions.
- 5.5.3. Serve as the primary dance instructor for the club.
- 5.5.4. Act in a non-executive capacity, without voting rights in the Executive Committee.
- 5.5.5. Collaborate with the Executive Committee to ensure the success of the club's dance activities.

6. Article Six – Elections

- 6.1. All voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination and cast a ballot for each voting position.
- 6.2. Non-voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination only for non-voting positions on the Executive Committee and shall not be eligible to cast a ballot.
- 6.3. The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast for each position shall be deemed the winner.
- 6.4. For multiple candidates being elected to a single position, the nominees with the highest number of votes shall fill the positions until all are filled.
- 6.5. Elections must be held in an unbiased manner, and no candidate seeking election may participate in the planning or administration of the election.
- 6.6. For unfilled positions, the remaining officers will share responsibilities until a byelection can be held, with a vote of simple majority (50% + 1) to elect someone to the position.

7. Article Seven – Finances

- 7.1. The President, with assistance from the Vice-President, shall keep an active record of income and expenses.
- 7.2. The President shall present updates on the group's financial position at annual general meetings.
- 7.3. The Executive Committee must approve all expenditures over \$100.00 through a majority vote at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 7.4. The group may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature.
- 7.5. The group will not have as a major activity any function that makes it an on-campus chapter of a commercial organization.
- 7.6. The group will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the group.

7.7. The group will not pay salaries to any of its officers.

8. Article Eight – Meetings

8.1. The Executive Committee shall meet monthly. A quorum for these meetings shall consist of 50% + 1 of the voting members of the Executive Committee.

8.2. The group shall hold general meetings at least twice per year, giving all members the opportunity to review the group's activity plans, financial status, and propose or vote on constitutional amendments.

8.3. The Executive Committee must announce the date of a general meeting to the general membership at least two (2) weeks in advance.

9. Article Nine - Termination of Membership

9.1. The Executive Committee may revoke the membership of any member who acts in a way that negatively impacts the interests of the club and its members, including failure to disclose a significant or ongoing conflict of interest.

9.2. A vote to revoke membership must take place at a meeting of the Executive Committee.

9.3. A two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee is required to pass any motion to revoke membership.

9.4. Any member facing removal shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the general membership.

9.5. In the event of an appeal, a simple majority vote at a meeting of the general membership shall be required to confirm the revocation of membership.

9.6. Once membership is revoked, the individual will be removed from the club's membership list and lose all privileges associated with club membership.

10. Article Ten – Amendments

10.1. All constitutional amendments shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote to pass at a general meeting.

10.2. All voting members may propose and vote on amendments to the constitution.

10.3. The Executive Committee must submit the revised constitution to the Division of Student Life staff at the University of Toronto within two (2) weeks of approval.

10.4. Amendments to the constitution shall take effect only after the revised constitution has been approved by the Division of Student Life staff at the University of Toronto.