

# CONSTITUTION OF SURFRIDER FOUNDATION CANADA UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, STUDENT CHAPTER

Article I            Name of Organization: The name of this organization shall be Surfrider Foundation Canada University of Toronto Student Chapter, which can be abbreviated to “Surfrider UofT”.

Article II            Statement of Purpose:

**Section 1**        Surfrider Foundation Canada is a not-for-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world’s ocean, waves, and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network. The purpose of this club is to meet the goals of this mission through conservation, activism, research, and education both on campus and in the community. This club recognizes that UofT students are some of the most intelligent and passionate young individuals in the community and are a valuable resource in reaching the goals of the Surfrider Foundation Canada.

Article III           Membership:

**Section 1**        The organization is free to accept new members regardless of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, color, age, gender, gender identity, marital status, citizenship, veteran status, sexual orientation, or disability.

**Section 2**        Regular membership is limited to UofT students.

**Section 3**        Each member has equal rights and privileges. An active member is in good standing with the university, this extends to limiting access to students on academic probation, etc. Active members may vote, hold office, and participate in all activities.

**Section 4**        Faculty, staff, and alumni of UofT are eligible to be non-voting members and may not hold office.

**Section 5**        For the organization to be recognized by UofT a minimum of ten (10) matriculated UofT students (who are currently enrolled as either full time or part-time students) need to be active members.

Article IV           Officers and Executive Committee:

**Section 1**        The elected officers shall be the Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. All elected officers shall serve on the Executive Committee.

- Section 2** Additional officer positions of the Executive Committee (EC) may be created at the discretion of the EC by a simple majority vote. In the event of a tie, the chairman's vote will serve as the tiebreaker.
- Section 3** The Executive Committee shall meet no less than once a month during the academic year. Meetings of the board shall be open to any member.
- Section 4** The Executive Committee will serve as a planning committee.
- Section 5** Removal of officers shall occur for failure to carry out their duties. Removal procedures include a vote by the Executive Board and a quorum of group members. The officer who is up for removal must be notified in writing of the group's intent, must be given at least 10 business days of notice before the vote for dismissal, and must be given the right to address grievances on her/his behalf before the Executive Board and quorum of group members.

Article V Meetings:

- Section 1** Regular meetings shall be held bi-monthly during the academic year.
- Section 2** Additional meetings may be scheduled at the discretion of the Executive Committee. A minimum of 48 hours, excluding weekends and holidays, of notice before meeting time must be given to all members.
- Section 3** Full attendance by the Executive Committee or a collective of 50% plus 1 of members is needed to conduct official group business.

Article VI Method to Amend the Constitution:

- Section 1** Proposed constitutional amendments made by a member shall be presented to the organization, in writing, one meeting before it may be voted upon.
- Section 2** Approval by two-thirds of the voting members present at a regular meeting shall pass a proposed amendment.
- Section 3** Approval by the University is needed to change the constitution.

Article VII. Succession of officers:

- Section 1** In the event of permanent incapacitation, resignation, or removal from office, the line of temporary succession shall be as follows: Chairman, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

**Section 2** Upon the vacancy of any office, a new candidate will be elected at the next regular meeting or a special meeting.

Article VIII Statement of Affiliation:

This club shall be affiliated with the Surfrider Foundation Canada, including but not limited to all chapters within Canada. This club shall also affiliate itself with any club or organization that supports the Surfrider Foundation's mission and goals, with the permission of Surfrider Foundation Canada.

Article IX. Purpose and Dissolution:

The Surfrider Foundation Canada University of Toronto Club is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, or scientific purposes; including, for such purposes, the making of distribution to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of its members, directors, officers, or other persons except that the organization shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the exempt purposes of the organization.

In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization, including any user rights or assets on Facebook, Twitter or other social media accounts, will be turned over to Surfrider Foundation Canada Headquarters, or in the alternative if this is not possible, to one or more organizations with similar purposes or to one or more organizations described in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Article X. Elections

**Section 1** All voting positions on the Executive Committee shall be filled through an annual election.

**Section 2** All voting group members shall be eligible to seek nomination to and cast a ballot for each voting position.

**Section 3** Non-voting group members shall not be eligible to cast a ballot for any elected position.

- Section 4** The nominee winning the plurality of votes cast in the election for each position shall be deemed the winner.
- Section 5** On the condition that multiple candidates are to be elected for a single position, the nominees winning the largest share of the votes cast shall be deemed the winners until all positions are filled.
- Section 6** The elections must be held in an unbiased manner. No individual who is seeking election may participate in planning or administering the election.
- Section 7** For all unfilled positions, the remaining officers will share the duties and responsibilities until someone can be found to fulfill the position(s) through a by-election and vote of simple majority (50% + 1)

Article XI. Termination of Membership

- Section 1** The Executive Committee may revoke the membership of any member of the club who commits an act negatively affecting the interests of the club and its members, including non-disclosure of a significant or continuing conflict of interest.
- Section 2** A vote to revoke membership must be held at a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- Section 3** A two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee is required to approve any motion to revoke membership.
- Section 4** Any member facing removal shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Executive Committee to the general membership.
- Section 5** In the case of an appeal, a simple majority vote at a general membership meeting shall be required to sustain the revocation of membership.
- Section 6** Following termination of membership, the member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.
- Section 7** Executive Committee members are subject to the same termination of the membership process as general members.

Article XII. Social Media and Outreach

- Section 1** Social media posts on any social media platforms, including, but not limited to, Instagram and Facebook, must be approved by the Executive Committee prior to publication.

**Section 2** Any social media posts discriminating against race, gender, religion, or sexuality will not be tolerated and will be reported to the University.

**Section 3** The Club will not take public positions on issues on behalf of Surfrider Foundation Canada without prior approval from Surfrider Foundation Canada's Clubs Coordinator or other leadership.

**Section 4** The Club is not a political organization and may never function in a partisan manner.

Article XIII Executive Committee Composition and Duties

**Section 1** The Chairman shall:

The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the organization. He/She shall be the official spokesperson of the organization, representing policies, views, and opinions of the organization in its relations with the campus and community at large. He/She shall have such further powers and duties as may be prescribed by the organization. Preside over meetings of the Executive Committee and/or members. Ensure a transition of office from one year to the next.

**Section 2** The Vice-Chairman shall:

Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee; assume duties of the President in their absence; ensure activities of the club comply with policies of the University of Toronto; coordinate organizational recruitment efforts.

**Section 3** The Secretary shall:

Be eligible to cast votes at meetings of the Executive Committee; maintain a list of group members; maintain the group website and member contact list; record notes and motions for meetings; notify all members of general meetings.

**BYLAWS OF SURFRIDER FOUNDATION UOFT,  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (UOFT)**

Bylaw I Membership

**Section 1** Any member of the UOFT faculty and staff who has rendered

outstanding service to the organization may be conferred with honorary membership by receiving a majority vote of the executive committee. Honorary members are ex-officio.

**Section 2** Any member may be suspended or expelled from the organization for conduct contrary to the constitution of the organization or for conduct that grossly impairs the rights of the members to enjoy the benefits of the organization. The offense must be submitted in writing by a member. After the offense has been submitted to the organization, the offending member shall have the right to a hearing before the organization at a regular meeting and may be suspended or expelled only upon the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the voting members present. The offending member has the right to appeal an adverse decision at a regular meeting, and such offending members shall be reinstated only if the suspension or expulsion is overturned by a three-fourths vote of voting members present.

Bylaw II.

Officers:

**Section 1** In the event that an elected officer is unable to fulfill his/her term of office, there shall be an election to fill the vacancy at the next regular meeting or at a special meeting. Any eligible member, including those already holding office, may be nominated for a vacant office. However, an executive officer may hold only one position at a time.

**Section 2** Petition by one-third of the total number of members shall be cause for a recall election. The offense must be submitted in writing by a member. After the offense has been submitted to the organization, the offending officer has 48 hours before the hearing. A recall election shall be held at the next regular business meeting after the presentation of the recall petition and shall be conducted as a special election. Recall will require a favorable vote of three-fourths of the total voting members present.

**Section 3** The term of office for the officers of the organization shall be for one academic year. There shall be no limit to the number of terms one may serve.

Bylaw V.

Committees:

**Section 1** The Executive Committee shall have the authority to create committees to further the purposes of the organization.

Bylaw VI.

Quorum:

- Section 1** The percentage of members that constitutes a quorum shall be fifty percent plus one.
- Section 2** In voting, a majority shall consist of more than fifty percent of those voting.
- Section 3** There must be a quorum in order for any official vote or election to occur.

Bylaw VIII.

Method to Amend the Bylaws:

- Section 1** Proposed bylaw amendments made by a member shall be presented to the organization, in writing, one meeting before it may be voted upon.
- Section 2** Approval by two-thirds of the voting members present at a regular meeting shall pass a proposed amendment.
- Section 3** Approval by the University is needed to change the bylaws.