

# Constitution of University of Toronto: Women in Sport

## 1. Name

The official name of this recognized campus group is “University of Toronto: Women in Sport” The acronym or abbreviation of this group is: U of T: Women in Sport

## 2. Our Purpose and Objectives

The purpose, objectives, mission and/or mandate of organization is outlined here:

1. **Purpose:** To provide a welcoming and supportive community for all varsity, club and intramural woman-identifying student athletes, staff, faculty, and alumni at the University of Toronto. For the purpose of this constitution, U of T members are defined as current students, alumni, staff and faculty (*see Section 3: Membership for further information*).
2. **Vision:** The community will provide a supportive and nurturing environment that encourages woman-identifying student athletes, staff, faculty, and alumni to share their experiences, meet new friends, and provide them with resources and opportunities that will facilitate their academic and athletic success.
3. **Goals:**
  - a. To create an environment in which woman-identifying student athletes feel comfortable discussing issues which are particularly prevalent within our community such as, but not limited to: body dysmorphia, mental health, inequality, life after sport, time management, relationships, careers in professional sport, respect and recognition.
  - b. To celebrate the successes of woman-identifying student athletes and provide a platform to recognise their achievements.
  - c. To give woman-identifying student athletes the opportunity to participate in a club that does not demand too much of their time, simultaneously providing them with easily accessible and highly beneficial multifaceted resources for their busy schedules.
  - d. To challenge gender stereotypes and discrimination whilst promoting gender equality, women empowerment, and shaping attitudes towards women’s capabilities as athletes and leaders.
  - e. To connect woman-identifying student athletes within a safe and supportive community.
  - f. To promote positive development of all woman-identifying student athletes including varsity, club, intramural, and athletes training outside of the university, through access to various resources, support from peers, and alternative forms of instruction / presentation.

**4. Direction:** We aim to make U of T Women in Sport last for as long as women’s sport exists at U of T. We plan to:

- a. Operate online through virtual communication platforms such as Zoom and in-person.
- b. Invite guest speakers to meetings such as but not limited to: professors specialising in topics that pertain to women and their participation in sport, nutritionists, U of T Varsity Blues alumni, sports psychologists, U of T alumni who work in male

dominated careers, academic advisors etc. to help woman-identifying student athletes realise their academic and athletic potential.

- c. Partner with groups on campus to promote and host activities that embody the values that we stand for.
- d. Host interviews with athletes who are members of our club to celebrate their hard-work and achievement and raise awareness of women's sport at U of T.
- e. Publish a bi-weekly newsletter that highlights the achievements of our club members and brings attention to recent events that have happened in the world of women in sport and resources that our members can use to achieve academic and athletic success.
- f. Partner with groups and organisations in the wider Toronto community that support and promote girls' and women's involvement in sport.

### **5. We will achieve our goals through:**

- a. A monthly meeting in which members will have the opportunity to either listen to guest speakers and receive advice or participate in a group discussion and share their own personal experiences within sport and the challenges they face.
- b. Allowing members to suggest relevant topics that are of importance to them to be discussed in meetings.
- c. Conducting interviews with woman-identifying athletes and posting them on our media pages.
- d. Using our newsletter as a way to provide our members with resources such as podcasts discussing issues that are relevant to woman-identifying student athletes.
- e. Establishing connections with groups and organisations in the wider Toronto community that support and promote girls' and women's involvement in sport.
- f. Connecting our members with resources to facilitate their academic and athletic success.

## **3. Membership**

Membership to the group will be open to any athletes who identify as women. Membership is open to all University of Toronto members (students, staff, faculty, and alumni). Membership is open to woman identifying athletes who participate or have participated in sport either on or off campus, including but not limited to:

- A. Badminton
- B. Basketball
- C. Cheerleading
- D. Cross Country
- E. Curling
- F. Dance Team
- G. Diving
- H. Dragon Boat
- I. Fencing
- J. Field Hockey
- K. Figure Skating
- L. Golf
- M. Hockey
- N. Lacrosse

- O. Mountain Biking
- P. Pom Team
- Q. Rowing
- R. Rugby
- S. Soccer
- T. Softball
- U. Squash
- V. Swimming
- W. Tennis
- X. Track & Field
- Y. Volleyball
- Z. Water Polo
- AA. Wrestling

Executive members with voting privileges shall be currently registered students at the University of Toronto.

Staff, faculty, or alumni members may hold non-voting executive positions. These nonvoting executive positions shall be limited to a maximum of one (1) or ten per cent (10%) of the full executive body, whichever is greatest. Persons holding these nonvoting executive positions cannot serve as an officer (including financial signing officer) or contact person of the Student Group.

All members must register with a designated executive by submitting their full name and a valid email address.

#### **4. Executive List and Duties**

The executive committee shall comprise 3 elected officers. These include: President, Vice President and Secretary.

*The President shall:*

- Oversee the operations, management, and success of the group.
- Work with the executive board to set annual goals for the club.
- Preside over bi-weekly meetings with the executive board's subcommittees and general club events.
- Work with the club's secretary to manage the club's finances.
- Work with the executive team to deliver and achieve the club's annual goals.
- Be the spokesperson for the group.
- Ensure the club is staying true to its mission.
- Authorise all payments on the club's credit card.
- Ensure transition of office to future executive board members.
- Contact guest speakers on behalf of the club.

*The Vice-President shall:*

- Schedule the executive board's subcommittees' bi-weekly meetings.
- Assume the duties of President in their absence.

- Attend bi-weekly meetings with the executive board's subcommittees and general club events.
- Take responsibility for the club's bank account.
- Contact guest speakers on behalf of the club.

*The Secretary shall:*

- Make and maintain a list of all club members and their contact information.
- Take notes during guest speaker events.
- Organise and manage the club's team representative program.
- Distribute the club's merchandise.
- Manage the club's CCR program.

Additional responsibilities may include:

- a. The group may appoint Directors or Coordinators for various committees such as social committee, events committee, and so on; however, such positions do not hold executive decision-making authority.

## **5. Termination of Executives or General Members:**

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, may be given notice of removal. The member up for removal shall have the right to defend their actions. A two-thirds majority vote of the current members present in favour of removal is required. The member must have the right to an appeal before the general membership, and the majority vote of the general membership will have the final say on the matter. The member will be removed from the club's membership and will lose any privileges associated with being a member of the club.

Executive members are subject to the same termination or impeachment process and, as determined by the vote, may lose their executive position along with their membership to the group.

## **6. Elections**

Only members who have attended a minimum of 3 meetings and have been a member in good standing for three months prior to election dates are eligible for voting.

Elections shall be held in March to appoint the following positions:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Any other Director or Coordinator positions for other committees such as Director of Events or Director of Communications.

The candidates for the elections shall be announced two weeks before the election week.

Candidates must be registered students at U of T, members in good standing, have attended a minimum of 4 meetings and have been part of the group at least four months prior to the nomination period.

The election will open on the Monday of the last week in March and close on the Sunday of the last week in March. During this time, members will vote on a google forms survey. Members are limited to one vote per candidate per position. In the event that this rule is broken, the member will be removed from the club.

The results of the poll will be counted and announced by the President and Vice-President, members can request access to view the results of the poll.

In the event of a tie, members will have the opportunity to vote again on a google forms survey, over a two-day period.

The candidate with the most votes shall be elected to their position.

Term of executive positions shall be one 12-month term from May 1st to April 30th.

## **7. Finances**

The Vice-President shall keep records of all income and expenses. The Vice-President shall present the group's financial health at the annual general meetings. The Executive Committee will vote on expenditures of over \$50.00 by majority vote at an executive meeting.

The group's executive or members may not engage in activities that are essentially commercial in nature. This is not intended to preclude the collection of membership fees to cover the expenses of the group, or of charges for specific activities, programs, or events, or to prohibit groups from engaging in legitimate fundraising. However, the group will not have as a major activity a function that makes it an on-campus part of a commercial organization, will not provide services and goods at a profit when that profit is used for purposes other than those of the organization, and will not pay salaries to some or all of its officers.

## **8. Meetings**

### **A) Annual General Meetings (AGMs):**

The annual general meeting will be held in March and oversee the appointment over the executive committee. All members and the executive committee are expected to attend.

### **B) Executive Meetings**

The leadership team comprising of the club's President, Vice-President and Secretary will meet bi-weekly. The club's subcommittees will also meet bi-weekly as organised by the club's Vice-President.

### **C) Member Meetings**

These will be held monthly.

## **9. Amendments**

Any registered U of T members who have attended a minimum of 3 meetings, and have been a member in good standing for three months, may propose and vote on amendments to this constitution. The Executive Committee will administer the process of having amendments discussed at general meetings.

Constitutional amendments shall require a 2/3 majority to be passed at Annual General Meetings by registered U of T members in attendance.

The Executive Committee shall formally adopt the new constitution and submit the revised constitution to the respective University offices (i.e. The Office of Student Life, The University of Toronto Students' Union, etc) within two (2) weeks of its approval by general members.