

Erindale Gaming Organization (EGO) - Club Constitution – 2023/2024

Article 1: Club Name

The club's full name is 'Erindale Gaming Organization'. This is commonly shortened to 'EGO', and may be shortened as such in the rest of this document.

Article 2: Mission Statement/Purpose

EGO hopes to provide a space for rest, relaxation, and community to the students of UTM. Our aim is to provide activities and enriching game-enhanced learning experiences to the student body, free of charge. We would specifically like to encourage the presence of board games, trading card games (TCGs), and role-playing games (RPGs) on campus.

Our goal is both to entertain and educate students and the surrounding community through our regular events, and to assist other organizations by providing equipment and knowledge for their events when requested. Furthermore, we endeavor to promote a positive gaming community on campus that is inclusive and accessible for all who wish to join.

Article 3: Membership

Membership in the Erindale Gaming Organization is open to all UTMSU members. We also welcome and encourage the participation of community members and alumni as associates to the club. There is no fee associated with a general membership, and there are no further membership tiers.

Article 4: Executives

Executive positions are as follows:

1. President

Responsible for the approval of all club activities and expenditures. Must ensure the completion of executive duties. Primary contact to the UTMSU. In the event that the President is unable to complete their duties as primary contact, the Vice President will be made interim primary contact until the President may resume. All interpersonal conflicts within the club may be brought to the attention of the President for resolution. If the conflict involves the President, one may report the event to the Vice President for resolution.

2. Vice President

Responsible for internal communications within the club. This includes the recording of minutes during meetings and stewardship of club emails. In the event that the President cannot complete their duties for an extended period of time, the Vice President may act as interim President following a majority vote of all standing executives.

3. Treasurer

Responsible for handling financial resources and cash flow; keeping records and receipts, finances, and spending. The treasurer may design budgets in collaboration with the President and other executives. The treasurer is obligated to submit bi-annual audit reports to the UTMSU, in accordance with UTMSU guidelines. In addition, the Treasurer will be responsible for stewardship of the cashbox. If the treasurer cannot keep the cashbox for any reason, another executive must volunteer in their absence, and the location of the cashbox must be recorded appropriately.

4. Events Coordinator

Responsible for generating, planning, scheduling, booking, and execution of events. The Events Coordinator will collaborate with fellow executives, and will reach out to other clubs in the event of potential collaboration. They will also be responsible for booking external events, planning catering for relevant events, and ensuring a positive experience for our membership.

5. Communications Officer

The Communications Officer will be another steward of the email account. In addition, Communications will control the social media accounts for the club, including but not limited to the SOP listing, the Wordpress space, the Discord server, the Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook, etc. They will publish appropriate announcements to these channels regarding General Meetings, events, and other club news.

6. Librarian

The Erindale Gaming Organization's librarian will be tasked with maintenance of games in the club's care, as well as the acquisition of new games, and the pruning of games which have sustained unsalvageable damage or are socially outdated, such as games containing racist, sexist, or otherwise derogatory content. Librarians may consult the *Clubs Policy Manual* if they are not sure about the content of a new acquisition or purge. The Librarian will be required to take stock of the collection twice over the course of the school year to assess needs, and will be required to report their findings during the Fall and Winter general meetings.

7. Card Gaming Representative

This executive will be responsible for organizing card gaming events during the club's operating season. They will work in association with the Events Coordinator, and will be tasked with purchasing appropriate card gaming

ephemera as required by the club, in addition to communicating with local retailers regarding events and acquisitions.

Article 5: Meetings

The Erindale Gaming Organization is obligated to hold one General Meeting per Fall and per Winter semester. These meetings are open to all Members of the club, and will be a space in which executives detail the club's goals, accomplishments, and—upon request—a detailed outline of the financial condition of the club. Further general meetings of the club's membership may be called as deemed necessary by the executive team, or at the request of our membership.

Article 6: Elections

Elections for the EGO will be open to all interested candidates, so long as they are UTMSU-registered members of the club. Individuals with valid membership will be recorded in the club's roster, as submitted to the UTMSU during the Fall and Winter audits.

The elections timeline will proceed thusly, over the course of a maximum of 25 days:

Advertising: 7 days

The EGO is required to make news of the election public, with flyers posted around campus, and through the use of mass-emails sent to all registered members. Emails regarding the election must also be sent to the Campus Groups Coordinator and the VP Student Life prior to the week of accepting nominations.

In addition, this is the time during which the Chief Returning Officer (CRO) must be recruited to supervise the elections process. The CRO must be an unbiased third party to the election, and must be approved by both the sitting executive and the Campus Groups Coordinator. The CRO must not be running for a position on the incoming executive, though they may be a former executive who is no longer sitting.

Nominations: 7 days

Students will be allowed to self-nominate during this seven day period.

Campaign Week: 7 days

Following the closure of the nomination period, nominees will have one week to campaign.

Elections: 2-3 days

Elections will consist of a ballot delivered electronically by email to all eligible Members via a service such as Google Forms. Executives may make decisions surrounding further delivery methods as are appropriate during the given election year.

Each registered member of the Erindale Gaming Organization will receive one (1) vote per election period. Members of the 'standing' executive team are permitted to vote in the 'incoming' election. They also receive one (1) vote per person. After the voting period ends, votes will be counted, and the new executive team will take office. A transition meeting may be held as deemed appropriate or necessary by the incoming/outgoing teams.

To be successfully voted into an executive position, a nominee must receive the largest percentage of votes, though it is not necessary for them to receive the majority. For example, a nominee who receives 30 votes in a pool of 75 votes where four other nominees receive 15 votes each will be considered the 'winner' of the vote.

Thus concludes the Elections Timeline.

If a position is unfilled by nominees, former executives have the right to collectively appoint a suitable candidate for the position. This candidate must be subsequently approved by the VP Campus Life.

Any complaints that arise during the course of elections or as a result of elections must be brought to the attention of the Campus Groups Coordinator in a written format within 72 hours of the election. The Clubs Committee withholds the right to nullify any club election results if evidence of gross misconduct has been found in the operation of the election. Non-occurrence of elections will result in the immediate effect of cancellation of club status. Non-submission of election results will result in later loss of club status through the Clubs Committee. If undemocratic election procedures are suspected, the election results or even the club status may be put forward to the Clubs Committee by the VP Campus Life.

Article 7: Removal From Office

The Erindale Gaming Organization's policy on removal from office is as follows, quoted directly from the *UTMSU Clubs Policy Manual*:

Removal from office can occur after a member of the Clubs Committee (ex. VP Campus Life) has issued two (2) verbal warnings and one (1) written warning. The warnings must clearly state the problem(s) and the steps to be taken to resolve them.

After such a warning, if failed to oblige, the executives can proceed to hold a vote within the executive team to remove the member from the office. The vote should be supervised by the UTMSU, and the results shall be verified by the Club's Committee. The results of the vote should be two-thirds of the executives in favour of removal.

In addition to the above guidelines, the UTMSU reserves the right to intervene as a mediator due to their independence and objectivity in the matter. The VP Campus Life has the right to ensure the procedures were followed accordingly and to rectify the removal of office.

Alternatively, an executive member may be removed from office by the club itself for failing to perform their duties as defined by the club constitution and by-laws, such removal will occur if, and only if, the following conditions are satisfied:

A request is submitted to the VP Campus Life which should:

1. Be signed by at least 30% of the Club membership or two thirds (2/3) of the club executive membership
2. Specify the alleged incidents of neglect of duty

Upon receipt of the request, the council shall be required to hold a referendum within twenty (20) days. In case of a council member being removed from office, a by-election will be held if necessary, according to the election rules as previously described under “Elections Procedures”.

Article 8: Amendments to the Constitution

Changes to the constitution may be made during the school year through the proposal of amendments at the Fall or Winter general meeting. Additional general meetings may be called for the purpose of amendment if such action is appropriate. To ratify changes to the constitution, there must be a vote which receives at least 50% ‘in favour’ votes to the change. Proposals which fail to receive sufficient ‘in favour’ votes may be brought to future general meetings and seen again.

In the event that a General Meeting may not be called for any reason, a 66% ‘in favour’ vote of the executive team shall suffice, and the constitution may be amended.

Article 9: Apoliticality

The Erindale Gaming Organization is apolitical. Its official channels will not be used to promote any political agenda or organization.

Justice is inherently apolitical. The Erindale Gaming Organization is a pro-LGBT, pro-Black, pro-Immigrant, and pro-Indigenous organization. As an extension of our amendment on Positive Space, Non-Discriminatory Language and Actions, and Anti-Bullying, we will defend marginalized associates and members within and without the club.

To clarify the language of apoliticality, the Erindale Gaming Organization will not endorse in any official capacity the candidates of National or International elections.

Article 10: Use of Equipment

To use equipment owned by the Erindale Gaming Organization outside of scheduled events, students may come to our executives’ office hours to take games and ephemera from our lending library. When a game is lent, some form of identification must be retained from the student such as their T-Card, their Driver’s License, or another form of identification.

In the case of damage to club property, the student who has borrowed equipment will be at fault for repair or replacement. In the case of theft, the student's identification will be brought to the Campus Safety office in Davis, and the theft will be reported to the university. If stolen or damaged items are not returned, a student may be banned from further use of the club's lending library, and may be banned from future events. All items may be lent for a maximum period of three hours. No overnight loans may be made without the express written permission of two executives.

Article 11: Use of Club Space

All members and associates are welcome to attend Office Hours in the club's office space when available. Students are encouraged to bring their own games to play, and to spend their leisure time in a relaxed social environment. To maintain this environment, we have banned the consumption of food by non-executives, and have banned the consumption of beverages other than water from contained, shatter-proof vessels by non-executives. This bylaw is in place to limit food or water-related damage to our equipment, and to prevent allergens from contaminating the space or our games. Exceptions or allowances may be made within reason, with permission from executives.

Article 12: Positive Space, Non-Discriminatory Language, and Anti-Bullying

The Erindale Gaming Organization pledges to uphold the guidelines on Harassment, Sexual Harassment, and Discrimination outlined by the UTMSU Club Handbook. As quoted:

The University of Toronto Mississauga Students Union (UTMSU) is committed to promoting equality and recognizes that equality can only flourish in an environment in which all members of the University, at all levels, and regardless of the nature of their work or area of study are free from harassment, sexual harassment and discrimination. Each Member of the University of Toronto Mississauga community including all students, student groups, clubs, societies and organizations as well as faculty and staff members share responsibility for respecting the dignity of, and giving fair treatment to all members of the university community. Moreover, each person is responsible for promoting and maintaining an equitable environment free from harassment, sexual harassment and discrimination.

Executives may refer to the definitions presented by the handbook in the event of an altercation. Additionally, a copy of the most recent edition of the Clubs Handbook should be made available in the club room, within easy access to members and associates of the club so that they might reference formal and informal complaint procedures.