



Preamble:

We, the students at the University of Delaware, do hereby form the organization known as the Fencing Club at UD for the purpose of recreational Fencing and educating the student population in the sport of Fencing.

Article I:

We will accomplish our goals by having a minimum of two practices a week. New fencers will be given instruction on the basics until they are found ready by their instructor to begin Fencing. Experienced fencers will practice their skills and techniques with each other as well as run drills to help improve themselves and each other.

Article II: Membership

Members must attend at least one meeting a week unless special circumstances prevent them from otherwise. A member is defined as a full time, matriculated undergraduate student at the University of Delaware who agrees with the purpose and object of this group. There will be no restriction on the size of the organization, however if the number of experienced Fencers becomes too large, they should be given a different day to come and practice instead of the regular two practice days. This will be done for the safety of all fencers and to prevent interference with the experienced fencer's drills because of space requirements.

Article III: Non-Discrimination Clause

The organization agrees to adhere to all policies and procedures of the University and all local, state, and federal laws. Members will become acquainted with policies and procedures in the Official student handbook and other policies and procedures provided by the University. This organization is a viable, functioning organization, composed of at least six full time undergraduate students and we do not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, veteran, handicap status, or sexual orientation.

Article IV: Duties and Privileges of Membership

Members are welcome to use the Fencing Club's equipment for fencing purposes. All equipment must be kept at an off campus location in a locked area. Non-members can not use the club's equipment during specified practice times.

Article V: Non-voting members

Non-voting members are defined as associates, alumni, graduate students, and honorary members. If they have fencing experience they may use the club's equipment under supervision of a club officer. Non-experienced fencers must first be taught the basics before being allowed to use the club's equipment.

Article VI: Absence Policies

The club will be very understanding of a member's personal and scholastic schedule when dealing with absences. If a member is continuously absent, for more than two weeks, they will be put on probation with the club. Probation is defined for this organization as removing the members voting rights. The members must then attend at least four out of the next six meetings to be removed from probation and given full membership status back. Any member absent for more than three weeks, without valid excuse, will be removed from the club as a member.

Article VII: Policies and Procedures for Disciplining/Removing members

Any member found to be openly endangering others using the fencing equipment will be removed from the practice immediately and put on probation with the equipment. They will not be allowed to use the equipment for at least two practices that they attend. All members must wear a helmet and gloves at all times when fencing or using drills that require a fencing sword. Any member who does not wear at least a helmet and a glove will be removed from the exercise. If a member is found to be in violation of safety procedures, formal charges against the member will be declared. The charges will be explained to the club and the member will be given a chance to defend himself before the club votes on whether or not to remove him. Majority vote is required to remove a member.

Article VIII: - Officers

Section 1: Captain - This organization shall have a Captain with the duties of calling and running meetings and handling day-to-day affairs. The Captain shall be responsible for the registration of the Registered Student Organization and all required paperwork for the continuation of the organization, and Summer Contact Information. The Captain will receive all information from the Activities and Programs Office from an undisclosed email database. This information is to be used to help your RSO function, so please disseminate the information accordingly. The Captain will help to appoint all standing and special committees, such as a public relations committee to publicize all special events. The Captain will also be responsible for keeping members' current on meeting times and dates.

Section 2: Vice-President - The Vice-President shall serve the role of Captain if the Captain is absent, unable to serve the duties of Captain, or if the Captain resigns. The Vice President should also be responsible for checking the organizations mailbox and for disseminating information about other activities offered by the other Registered Student Organizations and business promotions.

Section 3: Treasurer - The Treasurer shall be responsible for all group expenditures and revenues. The treasurer should also be responsible for requesting funds from the

allocation board. The Treasurer will have checks so-signed by the appropriate administrator after they fill out the check.

Section 4: Secretary - The Secretary shall record the events of all meetings of this organization and shall maintain minutes of those meetings. The secretary shall take attendance of those present at group meetings as necessary. The Secretary should also maintain the membership list and email database.

Section 5: Instructor – This job should by default be given to the captain of the team. If the captain does not feel fit to teach, he should choose someone willing to teach the new fencers. This position must be capable of teaching the new fencers the basics of fencing including footwork and basic sword control.

Section 6: Web Master - The Web Master shall be responsible for the monthly upkeep of the Registered Student Organization web site and have it approved by the executive board. The web master may also be combined with another officer's job if said officer is capable.

Section 7: Qualifications for Officers - All Officers must be full time matriculated undergraduate students at the University of Delaware.

Section 8: Election of Officers - The best leaders are not always the best fencers. Nominations will be made by the club as to who they desire to run for the position. Each candidate will be given a small time to make a speech, explaining why they would be best for the position. All officers will be voted upon once a year and require majority vote to win. Voting will occur after the spring vacation, but new officers will not take effect until the end of the semester. This time in between will allow the old officers to train the new officers in their jobs as to allow for a smooth transition. Voting will be done by a show of hands of all members attending. Officers must also be members in good standing for at least one year.

Section 9: Procedure for Disciplining/Removal of Officers – Any officer found breaking the rules of the Fencing Club will be given a fair warning from the organization as a whole. If a second offense is incurred, the club will vote to remove the officer from their position and from the club.

Section 10: Resignations – officers may resign from their position at any time. A new election will be held within one week to fill the position, except in the case of Captain in which case the Vice President will become Captain and a new Vice President will be chosen.

Section 11: Officer Transition - Officers should be elected in the spring semester for the beginning of the fall semester. A spring election will allow time for orientation to take place. By electing in the spring, the former officers will still be around to train new officers. Elections will occur after spring vacation.

Article IX: Meetings

Meetings times will be determined at the beginning of each semester by majority vote of when the best times are based on all members scholastic schedule. Meetings should be held twice a week. The meeting should last at least an hour to give appropriate time for all exercises to be completed. Officers meetings will be held once a month.

Article X: Dues

Dues will be established each semester by the officers of the club based on the current budget situation.

Article XI: By-Laws

By-laws should be created at the beginning of each fall semester. This would allow them to be changed and updated easily as needed. They should be created by the officers at their first officers meeting. Each officer should receive a copy of the by-laws and keep them available to be seen upon a member's request.

Article XII: Selection of an advisor

The club's advisor does not need to be a fencer. The advisor may take as much or as little interest in the club as he wants. The club will vote on a new advisor if once is presented.

Article XIII: Disbursal of organizational assets should the group become defunct

The University of Delaware shall inherit the assets of any Registered Student Organization should the group become defunct.

Article XIV: Quorum

At least 50% of the club members must be there to conduct official club business and vote. Meetings should take place however regularly even if few members show. Drills and fencing should still be carried out to the best of the present member's ability.

Article XV: Rules for Ratifying the Constitution

Requires a 2/3 or simple majority vote of the organization and approval by the Activities and Programs Office.

Article XVI: Rules for amending the Constitution

Requires a 2/3 vote of the entire membership and advance notice to all members of the proposed change.



Captain's Signature

Adviser's Signature