

Constitution
Last Update- 11/27/02

Article 1
Name

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be **Tufts Ballroom Dance Team & Club**

Article 2
Purpose

Section 1. The purpose of the Ballroom Dance Team & Club is to educate the college populace in ballroom dancing, promote physical fitness through ballroom dancing, build self-confidence, encourage personal discipline, promote friendship and loyalty among its members, and, in general, to support the aims of the college community through ballroom dancing.

Article 3
Membership

- Section 1. Membership shall be open to any undergraduate or graduate member of the Tufts Community who has paid the Student Activities Fee or member dues.
- Section 2. The ability to compete in Ballroom Dance competitions shall require attending at least two lessons with an instructor and two team practices per week. For those who choose not to compete, they may attend Club lessons.
- Section 3. Membership for the Tufts Ballroom Dance Team shall also require a minor fee, no more than \$30 per semester to help cover the cost of dance instruction and competition fees. The exact fee shall be decided by the club and team officers before the first team meeting each semester.

Article 4
Meetings

Section 1. Meetings will be held on a regular basis during the academic semester, as decided by the officers of the team, given room and instruction constraints.

Article 5
Officers and Elections

- Section 1. The officers of the organization shall be Team Captains, Competition Coordinator, Social Dance Coordinator, and Signatories who may or may not be captains.
- Section 2. Elections will be held at the end of the Fall Semester. Therefore, each position is held for exactly 2 semesters. In the case of an emergency election, the election will be held as soon as possible and the person elected to the vacated office will hold the position until the next Fall Semester Election.

- Section 3. An emergency election may be held if an officer is incapable of continuing his or her responsibilities in office (due to personal crisis or per stipulations of **Article 7**). The same voting procedure in **Article 5** shall be followed.
- Section 4. All undergraduate members are eligible to run for any position, and any non-senior member has the right to vote.
- Section 5. Officers will be elected by a simple majority vote. In the case of a tie, the current offices shall decide the winner.
- Section 6. There is no limit to the amount of times that team members may hold an office.
- Section 7. In times of emergency or when an officer has been removed from office, the other team officers may share the responsibilities of the inactive position until the position is filled.

Article 6

Duties of Team Members and Officers

- Section 1. **Newcomers** (Newbies): Newcomer status is for one year, starting in September. Newcomers will typically compete at the Newcomer level in competitions for one semester and then proceed to the next level, Bronze, by the second semester. Newcomers are responsible for attending 2 instructed lessons and a guided/tutorial practice on Sundays. All other practice times and spaces are open to them for unstructured practice. Senior members of the team complete partnering for newcomers but it is the newcomers' responsibility to open the lines of communication with their individual partner(s).
- Section 2. **Syllabus**: This section encompasses returning members who are dancing at the Bronze, Silver, or Gold level. They may move up in accordance with the YCN proficiency points system, if a partner is or must move up, or if they feel the desire to do so (with the consent of their partner). Syllabus members are responsible for attending one two-hour lesson per week, a mentoring session with advanced members, and running the guided/tutorial practice on Sundays for the newcomers. Partnering may be on or off the team (as long as the partner adheres to team policies), and syllabus members are responsible for finding their own partner when the team cannot offer one. This may be done on the MIT Partner Search or by inquiring other schools. Syllabus members are also responsible for teaching the Club lessons that take place once a week.
- Section 3. **Advanced**: Advanced team members are returning members who exhibit seniority on the team and are usually dancing at the Open/Pre-Champ Level. Advanced members share responsibilities as senior members of the team. They are responsible for teaching the newcomer lessons or mentoring the syllabus team members in return for money provided by the team for private lessons and competition fees. This results in the "filtering" of knowledge from older members to newer members. At this level, partnering is up to the individual.
- Section 4. **Team Captains**: Team Captains are elected each year in December, before Winter break. In the spring, the current Team Captains (up to 3 individuals) will train each newly inducted captain. The responsibilities of the Team Captains include: emailing/communications, organizing and overseeing team practices, organizing private instruction for the Team, act as the liaison between the Tufts Ballroom Dance Team and other University Ballroom Dance Teams, registration for competitions, budget handling (act as a co-signatory), securing transportation, and partnering of the newcomers.
- Section 5. **Competition Coordinator**: The Competition Coordinator has the responsibility of organizing the Tufts competition. This role may be dispersed among other members of

the team. Team members will be expected to help the Competition Coordinator and their responsibilities include: acting as runners for scrutineering sheets, judges' attendants, helping at the registration desk, setup/clean up, and other odd behind the scenes jobs.

- Section 6. **Social Dance Coordinators:** A committee of people will be responsible for the organization of social dances that will take place throughout the year to promote Tufts Ballroom on campus and among local schools. SDC's responsibilities will include: booking rooms, publicity (table tents, chalking, emails, flyers, etc), music, organizing a lesson, set up/clean-up, collecting money, and refreshments.

Article 7 Impeachment Procedures

- Section 1. Any voting member of the team has the ability to bring an officer for impeachment and at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the team must be present at the proceeding. A $\frac{2}{3}$ vote is required to remove an officer from office.
- Section 2. Once removed from a position, the team member may continue to be part of the team, depending on the reason for removal from office. However, under no circumstances may the member run for any office in the next non-emergency election.
- Section 3. Factors for impeachment
- a. missing consecutive meetings for reasons other than illness or personal crisis
 - b. not fulfilling office duties
 - c. not treating the team mission and/or members with respect

Article 8 Amendments

- Section 1. When a change in **Article 5**, **Article 6**, or **Article 7** is deemed warranted by the members of the team, a $\frac{2}{3}$ quorum from a majority of the team (i.e. more than half) must be had to allow the change into the Constitution.
- Section 2. For any other change in the Constitution, other than clarifying terminology, a simple majority vote is required by more than half the team in order to amend the Constitution.
- Section 3. In any proceeding to change the Constitution, at least 3 officers must be present during the change proposal and voting process.
- Section 4. All additions to the Constitution are subject to approval by the Tufts Community Union Judiciary.

Article 9 Transition and Renewal Procedures

- Section 1. During the Spring Semester after elections, the old officers shall aid the new officers in the responsibilities of their new positions. However, during the Fall Semester, the new officers **MUST** be self-sufficient and only call on the old officers in the case of extreme emergency.
- Section 2. After the election process, all files, documentation, and assorted equipment (radio, music, etc.), shall be passed from the old officers to the new officers before the first meeting of the Spring Semester.

- Section 3. The yearly renewal forms will be processed by the Team Captains, with the help of old members. However, responsibility for the forms will rest solely on the newly elected Team Captains.
- Section 4. When the team budget is due, the Captains and Signatories shall meet to complete and update the proposed budget. The Social Coordinator should try to be at this meeting to advise the other officers, but his or her presence is not mandatory to the budget procedure.
- Section 5. When the club is required to be re-recognized by the TCUJ, the Captains will act as the liaison between the TCUJ representative and the Tufts Ballroom Dance Team & Club. Failure to complete re-recognition word assigned by the Captains may be considered grounds for impeachment (**Art 7, Sec 3b**).