

CONSTITUTION OF FLORIDA FENCING

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization is Florida Fencing. Florida Fencing will report to the Sports Club Office and Department of Recreational Sports at the University of Florida.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION

As outlined in the RSO Classification Policy, Florida Fencing is considered a General Registered Student Organization. As a GRISO, our organization is a separate 3rd party entity, not considered a part of the University of Florida. Through registering with the University, our student group agrees to follow its policies and operate on campus with access and/or eligibility for specific campus benefits.

ARTICLE III. PURPOSE STATEMENT

The primary purpose of this organization is to provide fencing opportunities for members across a broad range of skill levels and experiences. Florida Fencing is a training ground for leadership, organizational development, and teaching. Florida Fencing offers opportunities for both competitive and recreational fencing. This organization shall not be for-profit or commercial in nature.

ARTICLE IV. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT & UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Upon approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement, Florida Fencing shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. Florida Fencing shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes, but is not limited to, the University's regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment (including sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

Section A. Non-Discrimination

Florida Fencing agrees that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act. Discrimination on the basis of the protected classes described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policies) is prohibited.

Section B. Sexual Harassment

Florida Fencing agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment. Behavior that could create a hostile environment include sexual harassment (which could include inappropriate sexual comments), sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking and repeated instances of cyber abuse. Sexual harassment as described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policy) is prohibited.

Section C. Hazing

Florida Fencing agrees that it will not initiate, support, or encourage any events or situations that recklessly, by design, or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for any purpose including but not limited to initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student group or organization. Hazing as defined in the University of Florida Regulation 1.0081 (Prohibition of Hazing; Procedures and Penalties) and 4.040 (Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code) is prohibited. If found responsible for hazing, sanctions may be imposed against the organization, its leaders and/or members.

Section D. Responsibility to Report

The University of Florida identifies Responsible Employees and Campus Security Authorities to support the health, safety, and wellbeing of campus. If Florida Fencing becomes aware of any such conduct described in this article, they are encouraged to report it immediately to staff in Student Engagement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, the University's Title IX Coordinator, or to their Student Organization Advisor, who are identified as mandated reporters.

Section E. Officer Eligibility

Florida Fencing understands, acknowledges, and agrees to uphold and abide by the specific minimal requirements regarding officer eligibility as defined in the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-enrolled students, spouses, faculty, and staff are prohibited from holding membership, office or voting power. All members and associate members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

ARTICLE VI. BYLAWS FOR FLORIDA FENCING

Florida Fencing may elect to maintain separate bylaws document to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements sent forth by local, state, and federal laws, the university of Florida's regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Student Engagement constitution requirements. Amendments and changes may be made to the bylaws and shall be consistent with the Student Engagement approved constitution on file and student engagement's constitution requirements. Should the organization transition leadership, all bylaws and guiding documents will be transitioned to new student organization leaders and/or advisor(s). Florida Fencing agrees to provide all unaltered by laws and guiding documents and/or clarify its procedures in writing to any University of Florida student, faculty, or staff upon request.

ARTICLE VII. STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR

Each registered student organization must have an eligible student organization advisor. The student organization advisor must be a full-time, salaried faculty or staff member not on extended leave for 4 consecutive weeks or longer during their advisor term. The student organization advisor shall serve as a resource person providing advisory support to officers and members and may not vote or hold office in the organization. The officers will decide who is

suited best as faculty advisor at the beginning of the year. The term will last from the beginning of summer semester to the end of spring semester (one academic year). In the event that the faculty advisor needs to be replaced, the officers will ask members for their suggestions of staff and decide who would be suited best as a faculty advisor.

ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS

Registered student organizations are required to have a minimum of a President, Treasurer, and Vice President as elected officers. These officers must abide by the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy. The elected officers of Florida Fencing shall be President, Vice President, and Treasurer. At no time should one person hold more than one of these positions. Elected officers include the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and two to four captains per weapon squad. No more than three members from the same gendered squad (men's/women's) may be captain of the same weapon squad. Each squad captain must receive a minimum of 50% of votes from their respective weapon to be elected. Chairs, such as fundraising, service or social chair, are appointed by majority approval of the executive board. Each term of office per position will start at the end of spring semester after elections and last one full year until the next election. The current president in accordance with the Florida Fencing Constitution and Bylaws shall oversee elections. The election shall be held in a secret ballot in which a plurality wins. Outgoing officers will be expected to assist incoming officers in a transition period consisting of the month of April and the summer term, if applicable. In the event an officer wishes to resign, a letter must be presented to the other officers, and a re-election will then be held. If an officer can no longer perform their duties and/or becomes ineligible, the officers will consult and if termination is needed, then a re-election shall be held.

ARTICLE IX. ELECTIONS

Nominations of all officers will be held annually at the end of each spring semester. Any active member is allowed to nominate another active member. Nominations may only occur prior to the election. Voting will occur by secret ballot and a simple majority vote is required to elect an officer. Nominations can be made by any active club member without need for a second. If there are more than two candidates running and no candidate receives a majority vote, there shall be a runoff vote between the top two vote recipients at the next general meeting. Protest votes may be cast. If the protest votes form a plurality in any election, the seat will remain unfilled and a re-election may occur. Voting is required even in an uncontested election. Abstentions are also allowed, in which case the vote is disregarded completely; it is not the same as a protest. Elections will occur in mid to late April. In the case of a tie, the candidate with the lowest vote count will be eliminated and a revote will be taken. In case of a tie between all candidates, each of the tying candidates will be given the chance to make a short speech and a vote-off will be conducted.

- i. For Officer elections: If the vote-off results in another tie, a random method will be employed to determine the winner, e.g. coin toss.
- ii. For Captain elections: If the vote-off in another tie, active members of the opposite gender in the same squad will be allowed to vote. The final vote count will consist of the votes of both women and men of that squad. If this results in another tie, a random method will be employed to determine the winner, e.g. coin toss. Absentee ballots will only be accepted with prior approval from the officers due to extenuating circumstances.

In the absence of clear direction on election, amendment, and /or voting procedures, Florida Fencing agrees to follow the guidance and instruction of Robert's Rules of Order for the election or amendment process.

ARTICLE X. FINANCE

As a General Registered Student Organization, Florida Fencing does not receive any funding or resources from other UF Departments or Colleges, rather, this organization is funded by: Student Government annually. Florida Fencing does not require mandatory dues. However, it may be required of members wishing to partake in off-campus events to pay fees involved with necessary coaching, competitive opportunities, promotions, transportation, and accommodations. Florida Fencing will raise funds through volunteering at sports events and home tournaments with mandatory member attendance. Raised funds will be used for traveling in out-of-state tournaments, tournament fees, and sports equipment.

ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION

Upon dissolution, student organizations are prohibited from leaving their organizational assets to any individual or any other student organization. Rather, student organizations may designate a specific charity that will receive such organizational assets. At the time of dissolution, after all outstanding debts are paid, Florida Fencing will leave any assets and outstanding funds to the American Cancer Society.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Student Engagement has established a process through which constitutions may be amended, reviewed, and approved. Student organizations wishing to amend their constitutions must utilize their constitution on file listed on GatorConnect to make amendments and submit those changes to Student Engagement. Any active member can propose an amendment and submit it to the officer board. Amendments to this constitution may be made at any general body meeting provided notice of the proposed amendment was given one week prior to a vote. To be ratified, amendments must receive a majority vote of all active members present. All amended constitutions must be submitted directly to Student Engagement for review and approval.

BYLAWS OF THE FLORIDA FENCING CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. OFFICERS

Section A. Elections

Elected officers include the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and two to four captains per weapon squad. No more than three members from the same gendered squad (men's/women's) may be captain of the same weapon squad. Each squad captain must receive a minimum of 50% of votes from their respective weapon to be elected. Chairs, such as fundraising, service or social chair, are appointed by majority approval of the executive board. Each term of office per position will start at the end of spring semester after elections and last one full year until the next election. The current president in accordance with the Florida Fencing Constitution and Bylaws shall oversee elections. The election shall be held in a secret ballot in which a plurality wins. Outgoing officers will be expected to assist incoming officers in a transition period consisting of the month of April and the summer term, if applicable. In the event an officer wishes to resign, a letter must be presented to the other officers, and a re-election will then be held. If an officer can no longer perform their duties and/or becomes ineligible, the officers will consult and if termination is needed, then a re-election shall be held.

Section 2. President

The president is responsible for delegating and overseeing any tasks that may arise that fall outside of normal officer duties. The president shall represent the club in all official capacities as well as lead general body meetings. The term of office is summer, fall and spring semester after being elected.

Section 3. Vice-President

The vice-president is to assist the president in all official capacities and to fulfill the role of president in the absence of the president. The term of office is summer, fall and spring semester after being elected.

Section 4. Secretary

The secretary will record and document all official proceedings of Florida Fencing. The secretary will retain a record of practice attendance, meeting minutes, and all other significant material. The term of office is summer, fall and spring semester after being elected.

Section 5. Treasurer

The treasurer will be responsible for making all necessary expenditures, payments, keeping accurate financial records. The treasurer will prepare budgets as required in conjunction with the Department of Recreational Sports and Sport Club Office. The term of office is summer, fall and spring semester after being elected.

Section 6. Chairs

The officer board has the ability to appoint an individual to chair any special tasks that arise, fulfilling their duties, or facilitating the functioning of Florida Fencing. This may include but is not limited to travel chair, fundraising chair, and public relations chair. The term of office is summer, fall, and spring semester after being elected.

Section 7. Captains

The active competitive membership has the option to elect squad captains. Squad captains shall be chosen by a majority vote of their respective weapon-specific squad. Squad captains are responsible for taking attendance at practice consistently and determining tournament lineups prioritizing the best interests of the team, which may include past tournament results and future team development. In the case of protest on line-ups from members of the team, officers are responsible for determining a resolution in the best interest of the team. Captains will be expected to have knowledge of their squad's capabilities. If a squad is dissatisfied with their selected captain, they may vote to impeach at any time. If a captain is impeached, the squad may select a new one at any time. New captains will be elected in accordance with the officer election procedure. The term of office includes summer, fall, and spring semester after being elected.

Section 8: Special Circumstances for Vacancies

In the event an officer wishes to resign, a letter must be presented to the other officers, and a re-election will then be held. If an officer can no longer perform their duties and/or becomes ineligible, the officers will consult and if termination is needed, then a re-election shall be held.

ARTICLE II. MEETINGS

The executive board, consisting of all officers and appointed chairs, will hold officer meetings as deemed necessary by the needs of the Florida Fencing. General body meetings for all members will be held semesterly, or as deemed necessary by the executive board. All meetings are to be led by the executive board. Any Florida Fencing member that wishes to express a concern or idea is encouraged to do so at officer and general meetings. Florida Fencing members are responsible for representing themselves to the officers.

ARTICLE III. MEMBER STATUS

Section 1. Status

All members must meet all of the status requirements in accordance with the Sport Club Handbook, Florida Fencing Constitution, and these Bylaws. A member's status within Florida Fencing will be determined, and then re-evaluated, before all elections; competitive events, e.g. intercollegiate meets; and at the end of each semester. Membership status will be determined by the executive board at the times previously stated. If an inactive member wishes to be an active member, a declaration of status must be made to the Secretary in writing. A member's status may be changed without notification if they no longer meet all the requirements of their declared status. Termination of a member will coincide with regulations stipulated by the Sports Club Handbook. Attendance will be monitored by the Secretary with assistance from squad captains. Squad captains are expected to facilitate the check-in of the members of their squad, so that their attendance is accurate, and collect semester schedules. Individual fencers are ultimately responsible for reporting their attendance. In the event of a dispute over the accuracy of attendance, a majority vote of the team captain, squad captain, and the Secretary will be held to determine a fencer's status. For attendance to count for the day, the fencer must be present and actively participating for at least half of their practice time.

Section 2. Membership Classification

Florida Fencing shall consist of two primary classes of fencers: Active and Inactive. In addition, an active member will be classified as Recreational or Competitive.

1. Inactive- If a member does not declare a membership status, they will be considered inactive. They may exercise use of recreational facility time and equipment as frequently, or infrequently, as they wish. Inactive members are not eligible to vote in Florida Fencing elections and decisions. Florida Fencing will not subsidize the costs associated with any tournaments that an inactive member may attend.

2. Active- All active members have access to recreational facility time, recreational equipment, and the tournament calendar.

a. Recreational:

i. Recreational members must attend 50 percent of all practices.

ii. Recreational members are eligible to vote in Florida Fencing elections and decisions.

iii. Florida Fencing will not subsidize the costs associated with any tournaments that a recreational member may attend.

b. Competitive

i. All competitive members must participate in at least two tournaments per semester.

a. A tournament shall be defined as events participated in one day of fencing.

ii. All competitive members must attend 50 percent of practices per semester.

a. If a member is not able to attend a practice, they should notify their squad captain to receive an excused absence.

b. Excused absences do not count against a member's attendance percentage, and will be recorded as they occur.

c. Any unexcused absences will be regarded as a practice not attended and will count against their attendance percentage. However, any days spent at a fencing tournament, and/or traveling will be recorded as an excused absence.

d. If a member has extenuating circumstances that do not allow them to attend 50 percent of scheduled practices, an appeal to maintain their status may be submitted in writing to the Secretary for review by the executive board.

iii. All competitive members must fulfill recruitment, fundraising, community service, etc. requirements as determined by the executive board annually.

iv. All competitive members are eligible to vote in Florida Fencing elections and decisions.

v. Florida Fencing may or may not subsidize the costs associated with tournaments that a competitive member attends.