

**STUDENT ORGANIZATION CONSTITUTION REQUIREMENTS**

**FOR UNIVERSITY-SPONSORED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (USSOS)**

**2024-2025**

# ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

# The name of this organization is Florida Gator Baseball Club. This organization will be referred to as UF Club Baseball for other club baseball organizations as well as for UF Recsports requirements. Florida Gator Baseball Club is affiliated with the NCBA, or National Club Baseball Association. The website of NCBA is <https://clubbaseball.org/>. As a sports club, we are sponsored by UF's Department of Recreational Sports, or also known as UF Recsports.

# ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION

As outlined in the USSO Classification Policy, Florida Gator Baseball Club considered a University Sponsored Student Organization. As a USSO, our organization is an extension of the University and serves one or more aspects of the University’s mission. 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 Florida Gator Baseball Club Team is a competitive collegiate club team who strive for excellence and comradery. We compete with other club baseball teams throughout the year, with the goal of winning the NCBA World Series title in June for both of our teams. The team’s purpose is to create a competitive and inclusive environment that allows players to grow and develop as students athletes through the game of baseball.

# ARTICLE IV. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

Upon approval by the Department of Student Activities and Involvement, [Florida Gator Baseball Club] shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. [Florida Gator Baseball Club] 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.

# ARTICLE V. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

**Section A. Non-Discrimination**

Florida Gator Baseball Club 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 Gator Baseball Club agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment. Behaviors 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 Gator Baseball Club 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 Gator Baseball Club becomes aware of any such conduct described in this article, they are encouraged to report it immediately to staff in Student Activities and Involvement, 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 Gator Baseball Club 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 powers. All members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

**ARTICLE VI. BYLAWS FOR Florida Gator Baseball Club**

Florida Gator Baseball Club may elect to maintain separate bylaws and guiding document(s) to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included within the constitution. If so, Florida Gator Baseball Club agrees its bylaws and any amendments or changes to its guiding documents will be consistent with and not take precedence over local, state and federal laws, the University of Florida’s regulations, policies and procedures, and SAI constitution requirements. Florida Gator Baseball Club also agrees to provide University of Florida student, faculty, or staff all unaltered bylaws and guiding documents, and/or clarify its procedures upon request.

# ARTICLE VII. STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR

The advisor and *UF Recsports* holds the responsibility to oversee the day-to-day functions and operations of Florida Gator Baseball Club, including the management of its finances, the selection of its members, and ensuring the organization adheres to University and department policies.

RecSports Liaison:

* Duties & Responsibilities: Sport Club Liaisons are responsible for advising the club on

 operations, finance, event planning, risk management, etc. Liaisons will meet with Club leadership once per month at minimum and can meet more regularly at the Club’s request.

* Selection Method: Sport Programs Professional Staff will assign the club their Liaison for the Academic Year. If the liaison is no longer able to perform their duties, a new one will be assigned.
* Term: The Academic Year in question, spanning from July 1st to June 30th of the following year.
* Process of replacing the organization’s student organization advisor: If a club wishes to replace their advisor, they must reach out to the Sport Programs Associate Director providing a detailed explanation for requesting the replacement.

# ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS

**Section A: Officer Roles**

The elected officers of Florida Gator Baseball Club shall be President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Internal Affairs, and Executive-at-Large:

* The President is the leader of the Club and the Board. As President, you are responsible for running practices, communicating with RecSports, the NCBA, and other clubs, as well as coordinating with umpires and fields. This is a very time-consuming position and should not be taken lightly. The President must abide by the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy (See Article IV Section E).
* The Vice President assists the President in his responsibilities and fills in for him when he is unavailable. You are also expected to be a leader on and off the field and regularly be engaged with the club and with the board's decision making. The Vice President must abide by the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy (See Article IV Section E).
* The Treasurer manages all of the finances of the club. You are responsible for collecting all of the payments from the club members and fundraisers. You are also responsible for managing the club budget, which is thousands of dollars and needs to manage very seriously. The budget includes hotels, equipment, uniforms, fields, umpires, as well as other smaller expenses. This is also a very time-consuming position. The Treasurer must abide by the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy (See Article IV Section E).
* The Secretary manages the club's social media accounts and the public image of the club. You are also responsible keeping record of the various forms and documents sent and submitted by the club members throughout the year. This position should be held by someone who is regularly present at club events.
* The Internal Affairs officer focuses on making sure the club meets the classification requirements with RecSports, such as volunteer hours and attending home events for other clubs. The Internal Affairs officer also schedules social events for the club and with other clubs. This position is good for a younger player looking to gain board member experience before taking on a larger role.
* The Executive-At-Large has no specific responsibilities other than helping the other board members out with their responsibilities as needed. This position is good for a younger player looking to gain board member experience before taking on a larger role.

**Section B: Duties**

Officers shall assume their official duties at the announcement of the election results or on a date agreed upon with their predecessors. They each serve a one-year academic term, covering the Summer, Fall and Spring Semester.

**Section C: Impeachment Proceses**

Along with over 50% of the club requesting for their immediate removal, any officer of Florida Gator Baseball Club Team may be removed from office if all remaining officers vote in favor of removal. His replacement will be decided with at least 2/3 vote from the remaining officers.

* Impeachment of an officer can be brought up by anyone in the club to either the President, Vice-President, or Treasurer.
* The officer who the impeachment was brought to will bring up the issue to all the other officers except for the officer in question. They will have meeting to talk on the issue and then reach out to the "accused" officer.
* At the meeting with the "accused" officer, that officer will have a chance to defend himself. Following this meeting, all the other officers will take a vote on whether to impeach the officer in question or not. The decision will be made on a 2/3 majority. While this is occurring, the club members will take their vote on whether an officer should be removed, and it will be over 50% majority in favor of the matter.

**Section D: Resignation from Officers**

In the case of officer vacancies due cases like resignations, ineligibility, impeachment, etc. the officers will appoint an interim at that position and they will carry on the duties of that role through the remainder of the season. The decision will be made on a 2/3 majority as well to bring in the interim officer by the current board.

# ARTICLE IX. ELECTIONS

# In order for a club member to be eligible to hold an elected officer position he must:

# Be enrolled in a degree-seeking program at the university as an undergraduate, graduate, professional, or postgraduate student.

# Meet the requirements for full-time registration and academic standing as outlined by UF.

# Have been involved with the Club for at least one semester.

#  Nominations for all officers will take place annually from all club members at the end of the Spring semester. Any member may nominate any other voting member, including himself. Any club member can vote in elections. Voting will occur by secret ballot and a simple majority vote is required to elect an officer. If there are more than two candidates running and no candidate receives a majority vote, there shall be a run-off vote between the top two vote recipients. A simple majority vote will decide who the winner is.

# Elections should take place before the summer break, so that officers go into the break knowing their responsibilities. The new officers must meet at least once before leaving for break to establish any projects or responsibilities that may be needed to work on before the Fall semester.

# It is the responsibility of the newly elected officers to get in touch with their predecessors and request the information they need to fulfill their roles and responsibilities. Predecessors are recommended to give out their contact information just in case they need to get in touch afterwards.

# ARTICLE X. FINANCE

# Florida Gator Baseball Club Team may not charge dues or fees to any member of the organization. Florida Gator Baseball Club received funding directly from RecSports according to the classification system and the Sports Council Decision. This funding in addition to the funds raised throughout the year are pooled together and used to cover club expenses.

# The funds should cover the NCBA team fee, tournament fees, and traveling costs. Each year some of the funds should be used to acquire equipment such as baseballs, bats, catching gear, helmets, and anything that can be beneficial to the club. Florida Gator Baseball Club will raise money throughout the year by hosting at least one fundraiser each semester. This fundraiser can be but is not limited to hosting a game, hosting a tournament, hosting a fundraiser, etc. All club members have a responsibility to participate in the fundraising events held by the club. In accordance with Student Government guidelines, any university sponsored student organization seeking or receiving funding from Student Government is in violation of University policy Contact Student Government for more information on funding policies and procedures.

# ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION

In the event Florida Gator Baseball Club Team dissolves, all monies left in the treasury not belonging to individuals will be given to RecSports, after outstanding debts and claims have been paid. In the case that RecSports doesn't accept any assets or there are leftover assets, these shall be donated to a charity of choice by the current officers. The charity should be chosen via a secret ballot vote, with the majority winning. Dissolution would only occur if any benchmark required to maintain a club by the SAI is not upheld.

# ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Any active member of Florida Gator Baseball Club Team may propose an amendment at any official meeting, provided they inform the President or Vice-President of their intention to propose an amendment beforehand. Proposed amendments must be given one week prior to a vote on the amendment, to give the officers enough time to do their due diligence. All proposed amendments will be reviewed and considered by the elected officers. There is a ¾ majority required for any amendments to be affirmed and introduced to the constitution. All amended constitutions must be submitted directly to the Department of Student Activities and Involvement for review and approval.