

University of North Texas Fencing Club Constitution

Sport Club: University of North Texas Fencing Club

Date Adopted: Thursday, April 27th, 2006

Date Amended: Wednesday, December 4th, 2017

Article I – Name

This club shall henceforth, or until change by amendment, be known as the “University of North Texas Fencing Club,” and may also be referred to as the “UNT Fencing Club,” “UNT Fencers,” or for the purpose of this document “UNTFC.”

Article II – Purpose

Section 1:

The establishment of a fencing club at the University of North Texas is recognized as being granted by the University of North Texas, the university’s Student Activities and Organizations Office, and the university’s Department of Recreational Sports. All rules and regulations as listed by the Student Activities and Organizations Office and the Department of Recreational Sports are recognized as the primary authority in the operation and structure of the UNTFC. This organization shall comply with all University policies, including the Code of Student Conduct, as well as local, state, and federal laws.

Section 2:

The purpose of the UNTFC is to promote the interests of recreational sports in general as stated by the club sports manual. In addition, the UNTFC seeks to promote the sport of fencing for the following purposes:

- To provide an opportunity for students to learn and practice the sport of fencing.
- To provide opportunities for students to be competitive in the sport of fencing; the provision of such opportunities includes the coordination with the activities of the North Texas Division of the United States Fencing Association (USFA) as well as other branches of USFA.

Section 3:

Membership in the UNTFC is limited to any student service fee paying student who is currently enrolled at the University of North Texas.

Membership is open to all students without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, political affiliation, disability, marital status, ancestry, genetic information, citizenship, or veteran status.

Article III – Definitions

Student:

Anyone who is enrolled in courses at UNT and is eligible for participation in UNT's sports club program, according to UNT and Recreational Sports policies.

Student Fencer:

Any student as defined above who wishes to attend practice at the UNTFC. Student fencers may fence and participate in drills and footwork.

Member:

A student fencer must pay the thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) due each semester to be recognized as a member of the UNTFC. Members may fence, attend tournaments, check out equipment, nominate officers, vote, and run for office. Members may also be referred to as voting members when discussing elections.

Officer:

Any Member, as defined above, that holds an office as outlined in article VI.

Student Coach:

A member, as defined above, that is chosen by the student instructor to coach club members, as outlined in Article XI, Section 11.

Volunteer Coach:

A non-member, as defined above, that volunteers to coach club members, as outlined in Article XI, Section 10.

Apprentice:

Any member who volunteers to be taught the workings of a particular office in order to ensure the continuation of management skills and knowledge within the club.

Dry Fencing:

Fencing with a non-electric weapon and without the use of body cords, electric scoring equipment, or a lamé.

Electric Fencing:

Fencing with an electric weapon, a body cord, electric scoring equipment, and a lamé.

Article IV – Participation

Section 1: Fencers and Free Fencing

A new student fencer will not be allowed to fence dry or electric for his or her first two practices. During this period, the new student fencer will learn the basics of fencing and fencing safety. To promote the safety of all participants of club practices, and in order to use a weapon during the free-fence period in practice, a beginning

student fencer must demonstrate a working knowledge of the basics of fencing and fencing safety to a club officer after the first two practices.

Section 2: Fencers and Electric Fencing

A new member will not be allowed to fence dry or electric for his or her first two practices. After this period, the new member will be allowed to fence dry. A beginning member will be allowed to fence electric after he or she demonstrates a working proficiency with the basics of fencing during a fencing bout with the student instructor.

Section 3: Tournament Participation

To participate in a tournament, a member must demonstrate to their coaches the following criteria in the specified order of importance: sportsmanship, active participation at practices, and skill level.

Sportsmanship may be determined by conduct at club practices, tournaments, and club-sanctioned events, attitude on and off strip, and general expressed respect for authority figures and other club members. For further clarification regarding conduct, refer to Article XI, Section 13, Code of Conduct.

Active participation may be determined by a 1) attendance rate of at least 51% at practices, starting from the date a member joins the UNTFC each semester, and 2) involved fencing of at least one hour at practices attended.

Section 4: Tournament Equipment Requirements

To compete in any tournament, a member must obtain for himself or herself the equipment required for participation in the tournament, be it SWIFA or USFA. A member may check out equipment from the UNTFC Armory under the regulations outlined under Article XI, Sections 1 and 2.

Article V – Meetings

Practices will take place during the time designated by UNT Recreational Sports, which is currently 8:15pm to 11:30pm, unless it is a day upon which the university was closed for any reason. Special meetings involve tournament meetings and extra practices. Extra practices can be established outside the normal club hours but must be approved by the club as well as Recreational Sports. Tournament meetings are simply meant to include participation in tournaments as a group.

Article VI – Officers

President:

The president shall be responsible for travel and budget. He or she must attend all meetings with recreational sports or find another officer to go in his or her stead. The president shall be responsible for maintaining a tournament travel log book. He or she must be able to oversee the activities of the other officers and delegate tasks to the other offices.

Vice-President:

The vice-president shall be responsible for attendance records, keeping the minutes at officer meetings and other non-practice meetings, and all public relations, including the semi-annual sport club fair. He or she should attend monthly meetings with recreational sports. He or she will be responsible for tasks delegated by the president.

Student Instructor:

The student instructor shall be responsible for creating policy dealing with club practices, inner-club conduct, and workouts. The student instructor shall delegate the building and fielding of teams to appropriate student or volunteer coaches; in the event there is not a student or volunteer coach for a particular weapon, the student instructor shall be responsible for fielding the team or teams in question. He or she shall lead footwork and blade work drills, as well as oversee fencing. He or she must be an experienced fencer. He or she should attend all monthly meetings with Recreational Sports.

Student Armorer:

The armorer shall be responsible for all club equipment including inventory, maintenance for practice and tournaments, repairs, checkout and reclamation, and the equipment rotation system. He or she shall collaborate with the president to place equipment orders.

Historian:

The historian shall be responsible for recording and posting announcements and important decisions rendered at club practices, tracking tournament results, and taking pictures. The historian shall additionally be responsible for keeping the club scrapbook, whether that scrapbook is physical or digital. He or she must attend all tournaments or make provisions for another club member to take pictures in his or her stead.

Social Media Director:

The social media chair shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining the club's social media presence through accounts on social media platforms. This may include, but is not limited to, upkeeping accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, or any other applicable and appropriate platform, as well as frequently posting on the aforementioned platforms. Appropriate updates may be photos, tournament results, practice nights, fundraising events, socials, and interactive dialogues. The social media chair shall also be responsible for maintaining the club's webpage on OrgSync.

Article VII – Elections**Section 1: Taking Office**

Any voting member, as defined by Article III, is eligible to be elected to a position of office.

Any voting member may vote in elections or nominate any other voting member for an office, provided that the nomination is seconded, the nominee is present at the election, and the nominee accepts the nomination. There will be no absentee voting. If a member cannot make an election meeting, they should provide prior notice and arrangements will be made if possible. These arrangements may also include accepting nominations, declining nominations, and voting by proxy.

A member may be elected to an office by winning a majority (50% plus one) of the votes during elections, which shall be held at the end of each long semester. Officers will take office at the beginning of the next long semester. No one person may hold more than two offices and the president and vice president may only hold one office each. Attendance at officer meetings is mandatory for all people holding elected positions.

Section 2: Holding Office

An elected officer holds office for the entirety of the long semester following that officer's election. An officer must be in good standing with the university, Recreational Sports, and other club members. An officer must maintain a 75% attendance rate to maintain his or her office. If an officer fails to maintain a 75% attendance rate, see Section 3: Impeachment, below.

Section 3: Impeachment

If an elected officer fails to perform his or her duties to the satisfaction of the club members, he or she will be given written notice of the grievances. He or she will have three weeks to rectify the offending behavior. If the situation is not remedied, a special meeting will be called and a vote held to determine whether or not to impeach the officer. The officer will be impeached if a 2/3 majority of the members attending the meeting vote in favor of his or her impeachment. An election will be held following the impeachment to replace the impeached officer. An impeached officer may again hold office the semester following their impeachment, provided they are elected at the end of the semester. Any officer may step down from his or her office at any time, without penalty. An election will follow to replace the officer.

Section 4: Replacement

If for any reason, an officer cannot fulfill his or her duties for an extended period of time due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. family emergency, serious illness, injury, etc.) and they do not wish to step down, then their tasks will be taken over as follows:

- The president's duties will be handled by the vice president
- The vice president's duties will be handled by the president, followed by the student instructor
- The student instructor's duties shall be taken over by the next most experienced member
- The armorer's duties shall be taken over by a member with good understanding of the equipment
- The historian's duties shall be taken over by anyone willing to take those duties

Section 5: Apprentices

A member should not be nominated or elected to an office for his or her last semester at the University of North Texas. Also, officers should find a member willing to learn the skills needed for an office two semesters prior to that officer's expected departure from the university or the UNTFC.

Example: Should the president anticipate graduation in two semesters, he or she should locate a member willing to learn the skills of being president (an apprentice) during the first of the remaining two semesters.

During the second of the two remaining semesters, the former president should not hold office, but should instead continue to educate his or her apprentice and assist in managing the club until such time as he or she graduates.

Article VIII – Advisor

The UNTFC's faculty advisor can be any person interested in fulfilling the duties required of them, and must be approved by the club's current officers. Approval requires a majority vote for the candidate by the officers (three of five). The faculty advisor is responsible for the handling of money from Recreational Sports to the club for all club activities.

Article IX – Coach/Manager

The UNTFC utilizes student leadership to its core. We have a student instructor that serves as a coach, while the student president acts as the club's manager. These positions are outlined in Article VI.

Article X – Amendments

Only officers may propose amendments to the UNTFC constitution. This is meant to encourage member interaction with officers. Should a member wish to amend the constitution they must first convince an officer to make the proposal. Once an amendment has been presented by an officer, the next club meeting will allow for debate and discussion of said amendment. The debate will last as long as necessary to assure complete understanding of everything implied by the amendment. The following meeting, after the meeting involving discussion, a vote will be held amongst all the members of the club. The amendment requires a 2/3 majority of votes to be approved by the members.

Article XI – Bylaws

Any new rules that are not covered specifically in other sections of the constitution are to be added to this section. New bylaws require all the requirements of an amendment except that only a majority vote is needed to approve a new bylaw, it does not need to be a 2/3 majority. Following is a list of currently established bylaws:

Section 1: Equipment Checkout Between Practices

A member must attend at least four of the last six practice to be eligible to check out equipment (in other words, a member may not check out equipment until he or she has attended practice for at least three weeks and paid dues). Should that member miss two consecutive practices, he or she must turn in all checked out equipment until the four in six requirement is met again.

Section 2: Equipment Use

Equipment furnished by the UNTFC shall only be used during club practices and tournaments. The equipment shall be used only by the person to whom it is checked out. Non-members shall not handle club equipment outside of practice. The person checking out club equipment is entirely responsible for that equipment until such time as it is returned to the armorer and checked in by the armorer.

Section 3: Equipment Checkout Sheet

Equipment used outside of practice and in competition must be checked out by filling out the equipment checkout form provided by recreational sports as well as any other form provided by the armorer. This equipment shall be returned at the end of the time period stated in the sign-out sheet or the student will be held responsible for the equipment.

Section 4: Gloves

For the safety of the student fencer, he or she must have access to a standard fencing glove by his or her twelfth practice. The fencer must either buy or borrow a regulation fencing glove.

Section 5: Broken Blades

Any student using club weapons for practice and/or competition is allowed one broken blade per semester. Any additional blades broken shall be replaced with a blade of equal or greater value at the expense of the student responsible before the end of the long semester in which the blades were broken. This will include all parts of the blade lost or damaged during the break of the blade and may include: tip, tip screws, pressure spring, contact spring, wire, barrel, blade, bell guard, socket, pad, grip, and pommel nut.

Section 6: You Break It, You Make It

Any member of the club who is using club equipment and breaks it, experiences a break, or is seen to be misusing the equipment, will be required to do the following:

- Notify the Armorer of the issue and provide all relevant information about how the equipment was damaged or misused,
- At a time of the Armorer's choosing, be instructed in the proper way to fix, repair, and/or properly use the equipment.

Section 7: Tournament Transportation

In order to volunteer to drive students to a tournament location, the volunteer must be a member of the club and have a valid United States drivers' license.

Section 8: Disciplinary Action

All disciplinary action, except for that pertaining to the armory in regards to equipment care or general upkeep of the armory, shall be prescribed and executed by the president or with the president's approval. Any disciplinary action pertaining to the armory, as described above, shall be prescribed and executed only by the armorer, contingent upon the approval of the president. In the absence of the president, veto falls to the vice president. In the absence of the vice president and president, veto falls to the student instructor.

Section 9: Elections Voting

The UNTFC officer voting process shall henceforth be a confidential affair. Nominations and elections shall be cast on the same night, to be determined based on the availability of the majority of club members, and to be set no less than three practices prior to the last club meet of the semester.

Nominations shall be cast at the beginning of the designated night. The Vice President shall be charged with the task of recording for all to see the names of those nominated and their associated positions. Once nominations are finalized, the President shall then be tasked with distributing ballot sheets to club members. Club members will then write in the names of the nominees they feel to be best qualified for the positions in question.

The President, Vice President, and Historian will count the number of votes for each position, and sign off on the number of votes each officer nominee received in order to check for accuracy of counting between them.

Section 10: Volunteer Coaches

Volunteer coaches shall provide unpaid supplementary fencing instruction to club members. Additionally, volunteer coaches shall share the responsibility of fielding teams for tournaments, along with the student instructor. Volunteer coaches shall have a working knowledge of a particular style or styles of fencing, as well as either significant experience fencing, United States Fencing Association ratings, coaching certifications, or any combination of all of the above. Volunteer coaches shall be responsible for filling out and submitting all necessary paperwork to Rec Sports and will be approved on an annual basis at the discretion of the club president and Rec Sports. Volunteer coaches shall be allowed to utilize coaching equipment provided by the club and at the discretion of the armorer. Volunteer coaches shall be as well as to fence on strip.

Section 11: Student Coaches

Student coaches shall be experienced club members, as outlined in Article III, who can coach a single or multiple fencing styles. Student coaches shall be chosen from the club ranks by the student instructor and approved by the president.

Section 12: Code of Conduct

All UNTFC members shall abide by the following Code of Conduct. Violation of any part of the UNTFC Code of Conduct is subject to disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the president, per Article XI, Section 8.

Maintenance of Sportsmanlike Behavior

- UNTFC members shall be expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner at practices, tournament venues, and official club or university events.
- Sportsmanlike behavior will be governed by regulations set forth by the Southwestern Intercollegiate Fencing Association and United States Fencing Association.

- When fencing, lose with honor and win with dignity.

Drugs/Alcohol/Bullying/Hazing/Physical Safety/Harassment

- The UNTFC adheres to and defers to the University of North Texas Student Code of Conduct with respect to issues involving drugs, alcohol, bullying, hazing, physical safety, and harassment.

Article XII – Interpretation

In the event that any question is raised regarding the meaning of an article, section, bylaw, or amendment, the accepted interpretation will be decided upon by a majority vote of the officers.

