

Hoosierettes Dance Team Constitution:

Preamble

The Hoosierettes Dance Team is a Poms Dance Team at Indiana University. Our purpose is to promote school spirit through dance at any Indiana University event including, but not limited to, sporting events, club events, and other student association events. We strive to be recognized as a student organization practicing respect and responsibility.

Article I: Membership

Hoosierettes Dance Team allows any interested student to participate in, become a member of, and seek leadership positions in the organization without regard to arbitrary consideration of such characteristics as age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. The limitations of membership include prior dance experience and a maximum of 25 team members due to cost and space constrictions. There are two main captains, one to two co-captains, and the team members themselves. There will be auditions following the call out meeting (in September) to select team members. Those who do not meet the dancing requirements are allowed to remain involved with the organization, but will not receive a uniform or performance time.

The responsibilities of each team member are to attend and participate in practice twice a week, learning and practicing dances on their own, while wearing proper attire to perform and practice. Failure to do so will result in removal from the performance team. Membership is not contingent on the payment of dues. The only fee required is that of the warm ups, uniform, poms and the shoes for performances.

If revocation of membership is necessary, the first step will be for the captains to confront the member in a friendly conversation discussing the problem at hand. If the problem continues for two more weeks, another conversation must be had with the member, and a vote among all captains to remove the member from the team will be taken. The member will be asked to return all team owned properties and to not continue coming to practices. Other reasons members could be removed is violating the written constitution, putting members at risk, not respecting others, and refusing to follow policies.

Article II: University Compliance

This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state, and federal laws.

Article III: Executive Officers

Executive Officers are Captains/Co-Captains. Captains are selected by a majority vote at the end of the academic year with members who express interest in holding a leadership position.

Captains (2): Captains will be held responsible for finding and organizing events, ensuring the music and choreography are appropriate, attendance of team members are taken and liability waivers are present at all practices/performance. They must contact the Athletic department or other organizational officers to schedule performances and lead practices in a positive team enriching environment. They hold the ultimate responsibility of calling meetings and practices for the team. Lastly, they must keep track of Hoosierettes finances, working with SOA.

Co-Captain (1-2): Co-captains should learn the basic responsibility of Captains with intention of becoming captain of the team the next season. They are entitled to the same responsibilities as the captain, assisting with practices and performances, while acting as the Captain in his or her absence. Co-Captains are also in

charge of the re-registration of the Hoosierettes each season and act as a secretary keeping track of meeting minutes and attendance.

Captains must stand out from the rest of the team exercising dedication and leadership. Dance experience is necessary to hold an official position, with at least one year prior membership on the team. Captains will serve for the entire season (September – April), with the option to verbally resign if she/he feels that it is necessary. Captains will be elected by first expressing interest with a leadership position, then at the end of the season the team will take a majority vote on members that they feel like will satisfy this position. Captains are typically members who have had more experience on the team and previously held a co-captain position, but it is not necessary. The newly elected executive officers will begin their duties starting in April for the upcoming year, verifying performances and re-registration for next season.

The captains will meet weekly outside of normal practice time to plan weekly practices and ensure the team is staying on schedule. It will be a “Safe” environment where executives feel like they can express their opinions. They will be responsible for setting long & short term goals. Communication will be through email and text messages.

If it is felt that a captain should be removed from office because they violate the constitution, put others at risk, not performing responsibilities. The captain at question will have a chance to explain their actions to the other reigning captains. If the captains feel that the violating captain should be removed, the team must have a majority vote for the removal with the captain present. After removal, the same process as above should be taken to refill this position if the team feels it is necessary to have the position filled for the rest of the season.

Article IV: Advisor

The Hoosierettes will have one Advisor who will support our team. They are selected by showing a genuine interest in our dance team and would like to take on this role. We will meet once every 3 months during the season, they will continue to be our Advisor until they no longer wish to hold this responsibility.

Article V: Meetings

Regular membership meetings (practices) will be held twice a week. A monthly schedule will be distributed, with communication via Group Me and Emails recapping important information. Executive officers (captains & co-captains) have the authority to call practices or team meetings and set the agenda for practices.

Emergency and special meetings will be called using GroupMe or text messaging. Again, only executive officers are allowed to call these meetings. They will be called on a basis of how ready the team is for a performance, a last minute addition to the performance schedule, or any other reason an executive officer sees fit. Attendance will be recorded by the Co-Captain to ensure team members are present at events.

Article VI: Elections

Elections will be held at the end of each academic year, usually in April, by the current team. The team will have a two week time period to decide if they want to run for a leadership position, and elections will take place at the second to last practice. Members of the current team can submit their request to run for an office and their names will be added to a ballot. It will be a unanimous vote with the majority of team members present at this meeting. The members who receive the majority of votes for Captain or Co-Captain will assume this position.

Article VII: Non-Hazing

Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

Article VIII: Dues & Budgets

The Hoosierettes will not charge regular dues, however each teammate must buy the following for practices and performances: jazz shoes, Hoosierettes warm up jacket, uniform, poms, earrings, tan tights, and black jazz pants. This is the only cost for performing privileges, which is on an as needed basis. If members do not pay for these necessities, they will not be allowed to perform with the team. The Captain will maintain the team's budget, and the budget will be revised each new season. Any leftover money at the close of the season will carry over into the next season or will go towards cutting the cost of each teammates individual performance gear cost.

Article IX: Finances

SOA account is open and active and will be used in maintaining team finances. The Captain will be in charge of maintaining finances and ensuring the SOA account is being used. They will attend necessary "Treasurer" meetings to keep the account active and fill out proper paperwork. If the group dissolves the money should be donated to a nonprofit organization of the members choosing. A majority vote can be taken to determine this organization when the times comes.

Article X: Personal Gain Clause

This organization, if raising fund, shall ethically raise and distribute profits from organizational functions to either the organization or to members who provide a service that directly benefits the organization. Individual members may not receive compensation directly from for-profit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.

Article XI: Safety

Members are required to sign a liability waiver at the beginning of every season stating that Indiana University and the Hoosierettes are not responsible for any injuries that may occur during the season, providing emergency contact information in case of emergency. The emergency contact information will be entered into an Excel Spreadsheet and will be present at EVERY practice and performance.

Stretching and warming up takes places at each practice before any physical activity. Members will not exceed their capabilities when performing. Captains will also conduct a safety check before club events to minimize risks of members and ensure no unusual circumstances are happening. In case of inclement weather, captains will assess if it is safe to travel and alert teammates via GroupMe if it is safe. If IU cancels anything due to inclement weather, practices/events will also be cancelled. Practices/events will not be held outdoors if extreme weather conditions (hot/cold) persist, and will be carried on inside.

Two team members will be CPR and First-aid certified. At least one of these members will be present at all times, in case of an emergency. If an emergency would occur, the certified individuals would first assess the situation then determine the next steps that need to be taken. They will determine what medical attention is needed (i.e. ambulance, hospital) or if it is necessary to contact the injured person's emergency contact. Captains will have fully charged cell phones at every practice in case of emergency.

Article XII: Statement of Non-Discrimination

Hoosierettes Dance Team allows any interested student to participate in, become a member of, and seek leadership positions in the organization without regard to arbitrary consideration of such characteristics as

age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Article XIII: Amendments

An email and group me notification will be used for announcements and proposing amendments. A majority vote is needed to ratify an amendment. Once approved by the organization, the new amendment(s) will be added to the constitution.

Article XIV: Programs Involving Children

This organization, when working with children will be aware of and abide by the University's Programs Involving Children (PIC) Policy.