

IU Swing Dance Club Constitution

Preamble

As students of Indiana University Bloomington, in order to encourage, advance, and promote the social, mental, and physical benefits of swing dancing, and awareness of its history and heritage, among the students of Indiana University and members of the surrounding community, we do hereby establish the Indiana University Swing Dance Club for that purpose, with this Constitution as its guiding document. This organization shall concentrate its resources and efforts on historical partnered dances from the “swing jazz era” of the 1930s-1940s, including but not limited to East Coast Swing, Lindy Hop, Charleston, Shag, Balboa, and Blues, as well as swing-inspired group and/or solo dances such as the Shim-Sham. This organization shall provide its members with the means and opportunity to learn and practice swing dancing skills, to socialize at swing dancing events, and to learn about the historical roots and cultural significance of swing dancing in America. However, this organization shall respectfully eschew the style of swing dancing associated with ballroom dance, and will not encourage its members to compete in ballroom dance competitions.

Article I — Title

This organization shall be known as “The IU Swing Dance Club” (hereinafter “the Club”).

Article II — University Compliance

The Club shall comply with all Indiana University regulations pertaining to registered student organizations, and with all applicable local, state, and federal laws.

Article III — Membership

§1. Participation in the Club and its activities is open to all interested individuals without regard to characteristics of age, race, skin color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, veteran status, disability, or other arbitrary and irrelevant considerations.

§2. Membership in the Club is open to all students, faculty, and staff of Indiana University (hereinafter “IU”). In addition, membership is available to persons in the community with an interest in swing dancing.

§3. In accord with IU regulations, a majority of the Club’s membership must be comprised of students, faculty, or staff of IU.

§4. Swing dancing involves certain moderate but inherent risks. All members of the Club, and non-member attendees at Club lessons, workshops, dances, or other events, must understand and acknowledge that they will not hold IU, the Club, or any member thereof responsible for any injuries or damages resulting from participation in such events.

§5. Club dues will be collected once per semester (including summer session), at a rate established by the Board. Paying such dues shall be considered a necessary and sufficient condition for membership in the Club (although any visitor shall be welcome to attend any single weekly Club session at no cost). Because the Club wishes to attract both novice and experienced swing dancers, Club membership shall be available at multiple levels, as follows:

1. Basic membership: this entitles a member to attend weekly open dancing sessions, and receive a discount on admission (at the discretion of the Board) at social dances for which an admission charge applies.
2. Full membership: in addition to the benefits described above, full membership also entitles a member to attend weekly dance lessons, at least one series of which shall be offered each semester, with details determined by the Board.

Returning members, who were paid and enrolled for full membership the previous semester, shall be entitled upon request to a discount from the cost of renewing that membership, at a rate determined by the Board.

§6. Voting privileges in Club elections are attendant upon membership. Non-members shall not have voting privileges.

Article IV — Officers

§1. Governance of the Club shall be entrusted to the Club's elected officers, who collectively shall comprise the Club's Board. In accord with IU regulations, the Club's elected positions shall include (at a minimum) the office of President and Treasurer, as well as such other positions as the Board may deem necessary in any given year.

§2. All terms of office shall be one year in length, and shall begin in August on the first Monday of IU's fall semester. Offices may be held for consecutive terms, and there is no limit to the number of terms an officer may serve. However, all elected officers must be enrolled as IU students for the academic year corresponding to the term of office.

§3. In accord with IU regulations, the Club will also elect an official Advisor, who must be a current IU faculty or staff member. The Advisor may serve consecutive terms, without limitation.

Article V — Officer Duties

§1. President.

The duties of the Club President shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Enforce the Constitution, Board directive, and IU regulations that apply to the Club, as described in this document and any other governing documents.
2. Schedule and hold at least one Board meeting per month, for purposes of Club governance and planning.
3. Call and preside over the election of new club officers at the end of each academic year.
4. Represent the Club in an official capacity as necessary.

§2. Treasurer.

The duties of the Club Treasurer shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Maintain the Club financial accounts with the Student Organization Accounts (SOA) office and the Club Sports Federation (CSF) office.
2. Collect Club dues, fees, and other revenues, and deposit them into the SOA account on a timely basis.
3. Oversee all Club expenditures, and process the necessary paperwork with SOA and CSF to ensure that all Club obligations are paid on a timely basis. However, the Treasurer may not spend Club funds on his own authority without prior authorization from the Board.

§3. Other officers.

Additional officer positions, either elected or appointed, may be established and dissolved by the Board as it deems necessary. As part of any such decision, the Board shall also define corresponding duties for each position. Elected positions shall be for terms of one year, and shall be considered voting members of the Board. Appointed positions with more specific duties can be created and filled for more limited terms, and need not be filled by enrolled IU students.

Examples of additional positions include but are not limited to the following:

- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Webmaster
- Communications Coordinator
- Public Relations Chair
- Workshop Planning Chair

Article VI — Elections

§1. A quorum, consisting of one quarter (25%) of paid members of the Club, shall be required for any election of officers or other Club-wide vote to be considered valid.

§2. Each paid member of the Club (whether Basic or Full) may cast one vote. All voting shall be conducted in a manner that can be tabulated and recorded for later review if necessary (e.g., paper ballots, e-mail, or online survey).

§3. The current Club President must preside over the annual election of officers, and ensure an honest and consistent nominating and election process. Any member in good standing, who expects to be in good standing during the term of office, and who is an enrolled student at IU, may run for any elected Club position.

§4. In the event an officer resigns or becomes unfit for office (e.g., by sacrificing student enrollment status, or by recurring absences from meetings), the Board may re-delegate that officer's responsibilities, and/or appoint a replacement by majority vote, as circumstances require. The Board may also, at its discretion, direct the President to call a special election of the membership to fill the vacancy, if the needs of the Club allow sufficient time for the election process.

Article VII — Instructors

Instructors for each semester's lessons will be selected in advance by the Board, according to criteria determined by the officers. All instructors will be compensated at an hourly rate determined by the Board.

Article VIII — Meetings

§1. The Club President shall be responsible for scheduling and calling at least one meeting of the Board each month, for purposes of Club governance and planning. Elected officers are expected to attend these meetings, and appointees are strongly encouraged to do so. These meetings are also open to any interested members who may wish to attend. However, only elected officers are entitled to vote on any decisions taken by the Board. Club decisions concerning governance, planning, and policy require a majority vote of elected officers in attendance.

§2. No official Club decision can be made without reasonable advance notice to elected officers of the time and place of a meeting, except under exigent circumstances where a majority of elected officers (A) is present (either physically or electronically) and (B) concurs on the decision at hand.

Article IX — Responsibility

All persons accepting membership in the Club understand and agree, attendant upon that membership, to be governed by this Constitution and by the decisions of the Board.

Article X — Code of Conduct

§1. The Club is committed to providing a safe, enjoyable environment for all participants at its lessons and events, regardless of race, religion, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, or other characteristics. We do not tolerate harassment or disruptive behavior of any kind, and participants who violate this rule may be sanctioned or ejected from Club activities at the discretion of the Club officers, acting as described in the "exigent circumstances" clause of Article VIII.

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

§3. In addition, although the Club cannot and will not attempt to police anyone's conduct outside our event spaces, the Club fully supports and cooperates with Indiana University's policy on sexual misconduct, as detailed at the links below. Any sexual misconduct reported to Club officers in connection with Club events may be reported to IU officials for appropriate investigation and resolution.

<http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/policies-terms/index.html>

<http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/policies-terms/key-terms.html>

<http://stopsexualviolence.iu.edu/prevention-resources/welfare.html>

Article XI — Personal Gain

The Club shall raise and distribute revenues from Club functions in an ethical manner, and distribute them only to members who provide services that directly benefit the Club. Individual members may not receive compensation directly from for-profit companies for any activities undertaken as a representative of the Club (or of any student organization).

Article XII — Amendments

This constitution may be amended at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Club Board, or at any special meeting called for that purpose. A two-thirds (67%) majority of elected officers must agree to any proposed amendment for that amendment to be adopted. All amendments to this constitution (and any attendant by-laws that may be created) are subject to the approval of the Office of the Dean of Students.

Originally ratified August 31, 2001

Last amended February 11, 2015