

## **Constitution of Beekeeping Club at IU**

### **Preamble**

The Beekeeping Club at IU was established in response to the tragic and sweeping decline in honeybee populations. Our mission is to raise awareness about the societal and environmental impact of Colony Collapse Disorder and the importance of local beekeeping and agriculture. We strive to inspire IU students to be on the frontier of a more bee-friendly society.

### **Article I: Membership**

Participation in Beekeeping Club at IU must be 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 Beekeeping Club at IU welcomes students of all majors with or without a specific interest in the activity of beekeeping, but with an interest in pursuing the social mission of the club.

All members are required to pay a \$5 Membership Fee at the beginning of each Academic Year to cover expenses in maintaining and expanding the beekeeping operations. These dues will go towards initial orders for merchandise, for bees and equipment, and for other activities.

The Beekeeping Club at IU does not collect dues at this time. Membership is contingent on members' concerted and selfless effort to make the world more habitable for bees. Members holding leadership positions are also required to visit the hives at least once a semester (unless otherwise approved by at least one member of the Executive Board. Members are encouraged to attend monthly Colony meetings (general membership meeting open to everyone), volunteer at the beehives, and volunteer for committees and events.

Members can be removed from the club by the Executive Board if their conduct conflicts with the mission of the Beekeeping Club at IU as stated in the preamble, or if clearly outlined and defined tasks are not attempted or completed in a timely manner repeatedly. Members will be removed if they do not behave with respect to the hives and the environment while visiting the Hilltop hives. Members will also be removed if they are unable to treat other members with respect and dignity. Members may be removed after the President is notified of misconduct by another member or Executive. Before taking any actions to remove a member, the President will meet with the member to discuss the misconduct to ensure the claims are substantiated. The President will then bring the issue up at the following Executive Board meeting, where a majority vote is needed to remove a member. In the event of a tied vote, a discussion will continue until a majority agrees.

### **Article II: University Compliance**

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

### **Article III: Executive Board**

#### Section I

The seven Executive Officers positions referred to as Director positions include President, Marketing Director, Treasurer, Program Director, Human Resources & Outreach Director, Recruitment Director, and the Beekeeping Operations Director. All directors must be current students at Indiana University, dedicated to the mission of the club, but do not necessarily need prior beekeeping experience. Committees will be set up under each director as needed with increased membership.

#### Section II

The President serves as “Head Beekeeper” and is responsible for annually training an apprentice beekeeper (Beekeeping Operations Director) and maintaining the beehives. The President also meets with the advisor, oversees all operations of the club, and stays up to date on the progress of various goals of the club into strategic plans in order to prepare agendas for Executive Board and colony meetings. The President also re-registers the club annually on the MyInvolvement, schedules meetings. Presidential candidates, in order to be considered for election, must serve at least one semester as Beekeeping Operations Director or on the Beekeeping Committee.

The Creative Director manages the social media accounts and prepares and distributes the newsletter and all other promotional material.

The Treasurer manages the SOA account and annual budget, leads fundraising, grant applications and all other financial aspects of the club.

The Outreach Director (Secretary) serves as a liaison to other IU student organizations and members of the local agriculture community. This position also works closely with professors to coordinate work-study opportunities and other semester projects for classes. This position is also responsible for representing the organization at Student Sustainability Council General Assembly meetings and any other council the Beekeeping Club at IU partners with. This position is in charge of all correspondence to outside organizations. Responsible for recruiting and managing communications with all members, any volunteers and the listserv, including students and community members interested in visiting the hives with the President and Beekeeping Operations Director. This is an important duty because the limited number of veils limits the number of volunteers that can get close to the open hive. This position will also record topics discussed during colony meetings and update members via email listserv.

The Beekeeping Operations Director works closely with the president to manage the hives and is essentially a beekeeping apprentice to the President. This position should be held by a student with freshman or sophomore standing in order to gain enough knowledge about beekeeping so they can sustain the hives and become the club’s new president. The Beekeeping

Operations Director is also in charge of the hives' summer upkeep and maintenance. The Beekeeping Operation Director is also responsible for the risk management, including distributing and maintaining the liability waivers, retaining emergency contact information, and registering with ProtectIU for activities with children. These waivers will be organized in a binder kept at Hilltop and uploaded to the Google Drive.

Officers are expected to uphold their duties as expressed in the constitution and attend Executive and Colony meetings. Any officer may be removed after the President is notified of misconduct by another member or Executive. The President will then bring the issue up at the next Executive Board meeting, where a majority vote is needed to remove a member. In the event of a tied vote, a discussion will continue until a majority agrees. In the event of a vacant Director position, the opportunity to apply for the position will be announced on the club listserv and all social media. Elections for this position will follow the procedure detailed below.

#### **Article IV: Elections**

Officer position elections are held at the last Colony meeting in the Spring to allow for transition from old to new officers and summer duties to be fulfilled. Candidates nominate themselves by filling out an application for the specific position, then present a brief speech at the election meeting. Incumbents have the option to run again against potential new candidates, and positions are selected by majority vote of the Colony. In the event of a tie, the President will make the deciding vote.

#### **Article V: Advisor**

The advisor to the Beekeeping Club at IU is responsible for attending at least one Executive and one Colony meeting per semester and works with the President to stay up-to-date on club activities. The advisor also supervises any student internships and uses their professional influence to the benefit of the club. The advisor also will hold Executive Officers accountable to the constitution, and support the mission and values of the club.

#### **Article VI: Meetings**

Executive Board meetings will be held bi-weekly, with additional meetings to be scheduled as necessary. Call-out Colony meetings will occur at the beginning of each semester, and meetings open to non-Executive members will be held monthly. All members will be notified of meetings via the email list and social media.

#### **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: Budget/Finances**

Our financial information, including payments, receipts, and fundraising, will be handled by our Financial Director. The Beekeeping Club at IU does not collect dues at this time.

**Article IX: Personal Gain Clause**

This organization, if raising funds, 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 from for-profit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.

**Article X: Beekeeping Operations and Safety Plan**

Insect stings usually are minor annoyances. But they can cause serious and sometimes even deadly reactions in people who are allergic to them.

Insects that can trigger allergic reactions include honeybees, yellowjackets, hornets, wasps, and fire ants. When they sting, they inject venom into the skin.

Allergic reactions to stings usually don't happen when an individual is stung for the first time, but rather when the individual is stung for a second time, or even later.

If you have been diagnosed with an insect sting allergy, keep injectable epinephrine (a medicine that your doctor can prescribe) on hand in case of a severe reaction. Share emergency plans with anyone who cares for you, including student organizations, relatives, and school officials. Also, consider wearing a medical alert bracelet.

Talk with your doctor about seeing an allergy specialist to discuss the possibility of allergy shots. These can help the body react less to insect venom, which can make a serious reaction less likely.

If you think that you might have had an allergic reaction to an insect sting, call your doctor, who can help you understand the difference between a typical reaction and an allergic reaction. The doctor also can see if an insect sting site is infected, which requires different treatment than an allergic reaction.

If the doctor thinks you might have an insect sting allergy, you'll probably be referred to an allergy specialist for testing.

What Happens in an Insect Sting Allergy

When someone is allergic to insect stings, the body's immune system, which normally fights infections, overreacts to proteins in the insect's venom. When stung, the body sees these proteins as harmful invaders.

The immune system responds by working very hard to fight off the invader. This causes an allergic reaction, in which chemicals like histamine are released in the body. The release of these chemicals can cause someone to have these symptoms:

- wheezing
- trouble breathing
- coughing
- hoarseness
- throat tightness
- stomachache
- vomiting
- diarrhea
- itchy, watery, or swollen eyes
- hives
- red spots
- swelling
- itching
- a drop in blood pressure, causing lightheadedness or loss of consciousness

If a stinger remains in the skin, use your fingernail or a credit card to scrape the stinger from the skin. Removing the stinger quickly can help prevent more venom from going into the body. Don't use tweezers because they can cause more venom to be released.

### Anaphylaxis Is a Life-Threatening Reaction

Insect sting allergies can cause a severe reaction called anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis can begin with some of the same symptoms as a less severe reaction, but these can quickly become worse, leading someone to have trouble breathing or to pass out. Anaphylaxis that's not treated can be life-threatening.

If someone starts having serious allergic symptoms, like swelling of the mouth or throat or difficulty breathing, give the epinephrine auto-injector right away. Every second counts in an allergic reaction. Then call 911 and take the individual to the emergency room. The individual needs to be under medical supervision because even if the worst seems to have passed, a second wave of serious symptoms often happens.

An epinephrine auto-injector comes in an easy-to-carry container about the size of a large marker or a smartphone. It's simple to use. Your doctor will show you how to use it. Those who are old enough can be taught how to give themselves the injection.

University staff should know that the individual has an insect sting allergy. Together, agree on a plan in case of a serious reaction at school, including making sure that injectable epinephrine is available at all times.

Your allergy plan also could include giving an over-the-counter antihistamine for milder allergy symptoms. But the antihistamine should be given *after* the epinephrine in the case of a serious, life-threatening reaction.

### Insect Sting Allergy Safety Tips

The best way to prevent allergic reactions to insect stings is to avoid getting stung in the first place.

- Avoid walking barefoot while on the grass.
- Avoid playing in areas where insects like to be, such as flower beds.
- Avoid drinking from open soda or juice cans and be sure to keep food covered when eating outside. Check for insects in drink cups and straws when outside.
- Remain calm and quiet around stinging insects. Moving slowly, back away without any arm-waving or swatting.
- Never disturb an insect nest. Have an exterminator get rid of nests near your home.
- When in wooded areas, keep as covered up as possible. Long-sleeved shirts, long pants, socks, and closed-toe shoes can help keep the bugs away. (Loose clothing can allow insects to get between the clothes and skin.)
- Avoid perfumes, scented body products, and brightly colored and flowered clothing because they all attract insects.

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Hirsch, Larissa. *Insect Sting Allergy*. The Nemours Foundation, 2015, pp. 1–2, *Insect Sting Allergy*.

No person affiliated with or interested in Beekeeping Club at IU may partake in any beekeeping activities without express acknowledgment of the various risks by signing our waiver of liability. Individuals partaking in beekeeping activities will be required to provide emergency contact information so that these will be available at every event. These liability waivers will be kept on sight at Hilltop Garden in a binder so that they are available for returning volunteers during every beekeeping outing. These waivers will be managed and maintained by the Beekeeping Operations Director, and copies of these waivers will be uploaded to the Google Drive. Before every beekeeping activity, there will be a briefing to explain the risks and

appropriate behavior around the bees, in order for the participant to be fully aware of the necessary safety protocol around the bees.

All beekeeping will be conducted during Hilltop public hours so that a staff member will always be present in the event of emergencies. This staff member will be alerted of the time when the beekeeper should return, and in the event the beekeeper does not return by that time, the staff member will check in on the person to ensure no emergency has occurred.

No special training or knowledge about beekeeping is required to join either the President or Beekeeping Operations Director in beekeeping activities, but those allergic must carry an epi-pen.

In the event of a bee sting at our hives, the Executive Officer on location will remove the stinger and close the hive in accordance with the Beekeeping Manual and apply soothing after-sting cream that is in the first aid kit at Hilltop. The Beekeeping Manual is a living document on the club's google drive intended to be a training and reference source for the beekeepers. The patient shall be closely monitored for signs of a systemic reaction or anaphylactic shock or other distress, and the 911 will be dialed in the event of either situation and the emergency contact list will be used if necessary. Refer to the *Safety Policies and Action Plan* for more details on how to handle an insect sting.

When working with children, the club will require parents to sign our waiver of liability to give the child permission to be around an open hive. These activities will also be registered with Protect IU.

### **Article XI: Risk Policies and Liability**

The Beekeeping Club at IU members shall exercise extreme care and responsible behavior when traveling or working with children in the performance of official club activities. The procedure for handling a bee sting is found under Article X.

The Beekeeping Club at IU will adhere to the IU Travel Policy when traveling officially as a club. This does not include travel on campus or in the Bloomington. Before trips there will be a meeting to brief participants about safety protocol during the trip.

All members volunteering to work with the bees must sign a liability waiver before participating. The waivers will be given to and kept by the Beekeeping Operations Director, who will add them into a binder kept at Hilltop and upload them to the Google Drive.

### **Article XII: Amendments**

#### Section I

Amendments to this constitution will be ratified following a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board, then a majority vote of the Colony. All members will be notified of amendments via email.

#### Section II

Amendments can only be proposed at club meetings. Amendments will be proposed and then voted on at the following meeting.

### Section III

The President has the power to veto any proposed amendment.