

The Constitution of Special Olympics at Indiana University

Preamble

Special Olympics is a global organization changing lives by promoting understanding, acceptance and inclusion among people with and without intellectual and physical disabilities. Special Olympics unleashes the power of the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sports, every day around the world.

The Special Olympics chapter of Indiana University's Bloomington campus aims to foster positive, mutually beneficial interaction between Indiana University students and organized student groups on campus with the Monroe County, Indiana affiliate of Special Olympics.

Article I: Membership

Special Olympics at Indiana University allows any interested student to participate in, become a member of, and seek leadership opportunities in the organization. There are no requirements to join and we currently do not require membership dues. This organization is willing to accept anyone who is interested in volunteering. Special Olympics at Indiana University will not tolerate any discriminatory practices with regards to members of this student organization and with regards to the athletes and coaches with whom we work. Members who are caught displaying discriminatory practices towards any of the parties previously mentioned will be removed from the organization by an executive officer.

Participation and election to leadership positions in Special Olympics at Indiana University will 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.

Article II: University Compliance

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

Article III: Executive Officers

Special Olympics at Indiana University will be led by four executive officers:

President - responsible for facilitating weekly executive officer meetings, leads brainstorming sessions, plan activities and programs throughout the year, delegates tasks, and oversees the successful completion of tasks. Will be responsible for guiding the overall direction of the organization towards fulfilling its mission.

Vice President - responsible for supporting the president in all aspects. Primary objectives will be to write up the agendas, plan activities and programs throughout the year with the help of the president, oversee the functions of the different committees, work with treasurer in ventures for securing funding, and assist the president with developing a sense of community among all members. Will preside over meetings in an absence of the president.

Treasurer - responsible for keeping organization financially sound, maintains the organization's budget and finances, finds fundraising opportunities and options for programs and activities, collects receipts from program/activity expenses, delivers receipt and specified financial documents to appropriate entity, estimates/projects costs for planned activities and programs in accordance with budget. Will keep track of the budget on spreadsheet(s). Will be primary person to manage, collect, and oversee funds for the council.

Secretary - responsible for keeping the executive officers organized, will keep track of meeting notes, send email correspondences to all members, maintain schedule of meetings and events throughout the year for the organization, assist in planning and implementing activities and programs throughout the year. Will be the primary means of communication within the organization besides the president.

Should an officer choose to resign, he/she must tell the other officers and faculty advisor. If such an opening occurs unexpectedly, new officer(s) will be chosen by the remaining officer(s) via a majority vote.

If an officer were to be suggested for removal from the organization for violating any of the values held by the organization, he/she will meet with the president to discuss measures going forward.

Executive officers will meet on a weekly basis if not multiple times per week. Strong communication between officers throughout the week is expected. If at any time an officer decides to hold an impromptu meeting, he/she should discuss with other officers on a proper place and time.

Should a new officer position be required, all current officers will vote by majority from applications to determine the new officer.

Executive officers are responsible for informing the faculty advisor of any important developments in regards to the organization and must maintain a feasible budget for the organization.

Article IV: Committees

Committees will be created for the purpose as found to be needed and effective. Committees will consist of committee members and two executive positions – chair and vice chair. The chair and vice chair of each committee will be responsible for the overall direction of their individual committees in the committees designated role in the benefitting the overall direction of Special Olympics at Indiana University. The committee chair and vice chair will have the similar roles to the president and vice president, except only in the context of their individual committees.

Article V: Advisor

Special Olympics at Indiana University will maintain one faculty advisor who oversees the general welfare of the organization in regards to fulfilling its mission and to ensuring compliance of standards, set by the entire Special Olympics international community.

Article VI: Meetings

As mentioned in Article III the executive officers will meet on a weekly basis. If any officer cannot make it to this meeting, he/she must make him/herself available for communication when possible to discuss the matters at hand.

Organizational meetings, led by the executive officers, will be held once a month and be open to all members to discuss the state of affairs for Special Olympics at Indiana University. The agenda for these meetings will vary by nature of the discussion but will be centered over the need to go over comments, problems, ideas, and an explanation of current and upcoming volunteering opportunities. It is required that all committee members attend the monthly meetings previously stated to keep up-to-date on information presented by the officers and to encourage positive discussion among members on a consistent basis. It is strongly encouraged for any and all other members not on a committee or executive officer role to attend, but not required.

Members will be notified via email with regards to upcoming monthly meeting dates but are not expected to reply to the notifications.

Members will receive a newsletter one to four times per month stating any important news information and volunteer opportunities possibly not explained during the organizational meetings.

Article VII: Elections

There will be elections for available executive officer positions once each spring. There will be elections for committee positions once every semester. Any member who demonstrates an interest to helping out with the overall direction of the organization may apply for a committee or executive officer position. Selections for both committee and available executive officer positions will be voted upon by the current executive officers with a majority vote. Routine participation and a commitment to helping the organization in achieving its mission and goals will heavily weigh in the voting process of both elections.

Article VIII: 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 IX: Dues & Budgets

Participation with and/or joining Special Olympics at Indiana University will not currently require dues. The budget will consist of any appropriate outside funding received and will be maintained by the treasurer, with the assistance of the president. The treasurer is expected to keep all records of spending up-to-date.

Article X: Finances

The president and treasurer will be in charge of all of the financial affairs for Special Olympics at Indiana University. Any financial requests proposed by any party must be communicated to either the president or treasurer before the funding is to be formally requested. This may occur through an email sent to either the president or treasurer, or may occur in person during an organizational or executive officer meeting. This organization plans on applying for/maintaining a Student Organization Account (SOA). All members including officers will abide by the policies and procedures enforced by the university's Student Organizations Accounts Office. The treasurer will maintain the majority of the responsibilities associated with the Student Organization Account.

Article XII: 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 XIII: Amendments

Should any amendment proposed and enacted by the executive officers affect any party, he/she will be notified of said amendment prior to its institution, likely via email. Should the amendment cause any controversy, it will be put up for a majority vote to the relevant parties.

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.



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(signature of president of Special Olympics at Indiana University)