Art of Freedom at The Ohio State University

Constitution & By-Laws

***Article l - Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization.***

**Section 1-Name:**

The name of this organization is Art of Freedom Dabke Troupe at The Ohio State University (AOFxOSU)

**Section 2- Purpose:**

The Art of Freedom Dabke Troupe at The Ohio State University (AOFxOSU) is a professional dance organization based in the state of Ohio that aims to preserve and showcase the rich Palestinian culture and heritage. AOFxOSU will aim to provide dabke classes and/or open dabke sessions for students to learn more about the dabke culture by creating routines and performing at various events without being on another dabke troupe. We will also attend and/or create events for students to get to know others within the community and spread the culture.

**Section 3- Non-Discrimination Policy**

All members of the Art of Freedom Dabke Troupe do not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment. As a student organization, Art of Freedom Dabke Troupe at Ohio State University expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here: <https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf>. If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at [http://titleIX.osu.edu](http://titleix.osu.edu) or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleIX@osu.edu.

***Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership***

**Section 1: Membership Qualifications**

1. Active members shall include individuals who are actively teaching and/or performing dabke on behalf of AOFxOSU. Active members shall have voting privileges, be willing to hold office in the administrative or performance operating team and may serve on the Board of Directors. Minimum participation requirements must be met to maintain Active status as determined by the Board of Directors
2. Student Members shall be individuals enrolled in dabke classes taught by AOFxOSU coaches or attendance at open dabke sessions/club meetings. Student members do not have voting privileges but may apply or audition to become an active member. They may not hold an officer position or serve on the Board of Directors.
3. Honorary members shall include individuals who were AOF active members for more than two years and have made notable contributions to the growth of AOF. Honorary members shall be nominated by active members and approved by the Board of Directors. Such members shall not vote, hold an officer position, or serve on the Board of Directors.

**Section 2: Membership Dues**

Dues for the upcoming semester will be determined by the executive board and be required for membership. These dues will go towards the funding of this organization to help achieve all its goals and for no personal purpose.

***Article III: Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers***

III.a. If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization’s constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization’s advisor.

III.b. Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes but is not limited to violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization’s advisor.

III.c. In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g., while an investigation is pending), {00312468-1} the executive board, in consultation with the organization’s advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

***Article IV - Non-Compete Policy***

As a member of Art of Freedom Dabke Troupe at Ohio State University, you are not permitted to perform, participate, or have any affiliation with any organization that competes with our dance troupe during your membership with us. This includes but is not limited to, performing any type of dabke dance, Middle Eastern dance, or any similar performances that can be directly considered as competition with Art of Freedom Dabke Troupe at Ohio State University. Members are also prohibited from teaching, choreographing, or providing any other services that would compete with the services provided by our troupe. Members who violate this non-compete policy will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or termination of their membership with Art of Freedom Dabke Troupe at Ohio State University. By agreeing to be a member of Art of Freedom Dabke Troupe at Ohio State University, you acknowledge and agree to abide by this non-compete policy.

***ARTICLE V - Independence and Partnership of Academic Entities and Professional Entities:***

While both teams operate under the AOF umbrella, they are distinct in their objectives, activities, and management. AOF Zaffa and AOFatOSU are recognized as separate entities with distinct goals, leadership, and membership. Each organization shall operate independently, managing its activities, finances, and decision-making processes. However, if AOFatOSU cannot reach a unanimous decision, AOF Zaffa will have the authority to intervene and make the necessary decisions. While maintaining their independence, AOF Zaffa and AOFatOSU are encouraged to collaborate on events/performances that are mutually beneficial and align with their respective objectives.

***Article VI - Organization Leadership:***

**Primary leader-** President and their position will be held for at least one year. In the case of appointing new members, they will be elected by the executive board through an application process and majority vote. Their responsibilities will include planning and organizing events, communicating with board members, ensuring that all members are on task and doing their responsibilities, and creating and planning board meetings.

**Secondary leader-** President and their position will be held for at least one year. In the case of appointing new members, they will be elected by the executive board through an application process and majority vote. Their responsibilities will include planning and organizing events, communicating with board members, ensuring that all members are on task and doing their responsibilities, and creating and planning board meetings.

**Treasurer-** The Treasurer is responsible for handling all the finances of AOFxOSU along with keeping track of all spending and funding. They will be elected by the executive board through an application process and a majority vote.

**Advisor-** The advisor is responsible for making sure that the AOFxOSU organization is meeting organization standards. Along with this, they will meet with the executive board at least once a month to check in and see how the organization is growing.

**Article VII- Election / Selection of Organization Leadership**

Elections for the executive board will be held in April of each year through an application process. Only active members will be eligible to hold a board position. The fulfillment of positions will be determined by a majority vote and will begin in May of each year.

**Article VIII - Executive Committee: Size and composition of the Committee**

The executive committee shall consist of two presidents, a treasurer, and two additional assistant coaches.

**Article IX: Meetings and events of the Organization:**

Required meetings and their frequency Attendance at 50% of all general meetings and organization-held events may be required for membership each academic term except for summer.

**Article X: Attendees of Events of the Organization:**

To ensure commitment and participation in AOFatOSU activities, members are expected to attend all scheduled events and practices. Absences must be communicated and excused in advance with board members and/or coaches. Three unexcused absences may result in disqualification from performing at university events for the current season. The organization reserves the right to address member or event attendee behavior where the member or event attendee’s behavior is disruptive or otherwise not in alignment with the organization’s constitution.

**Article XI: Method of Amending Constitution:**

Proposals, notice, and voting requirements Any proposed amendments should be presented to the organization in writing and should not be acted upon when initially introduced. Upon initial introduction, the proposed amendments should be read in the general meeting, then read again at a specified number of subsequent general meetings and the general meeting in which the votes will be taken, and should either require a two-third or three-quarter majority of voting members (a quorum being present) or a majority or two-thirds of the entire voting membership of the organization, present or not. The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently.

**Article XIl: Method of Dissolution of Organization**

The organization may be dissolved following a majority vote-based decision from the Board of Directors. If assets exist after the dissolution, all profits will be donated to a non-profit organization determined by the AOFxOSU Board of Directors. Should debt exist following the dissolution, then it will be the responsibility of the board members to settle this debt. Along with this, student activities will be contacted to remove the organization from the website.