

Club Softball at Ohio State 2024 - 2025 Constitution

Preamble:

We the members of the Club Softball Team at Ohio State hereby set forth in this constitution on this day, the 2nd of September, the purpose and laws of our club.

Article I: Name, Purpose, Nondiscrimination Policy

Section 1: Name

Our official name is Sport Club Softball at The Ohio State University.

Section II: Purpose

The Club Softball team will work to build relationships between players, teams, and fans, while playing a competitive schedule against softball programs from Ohio and surrounding states. We strive for success in all competitions, with the goal of qualifying for regional and national tournaments.

Section III: Nondiscrimination Policy

This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Article II: Membership

Section I: Tryouts

Tryouts are held the first week of September. Returning players are expected to facilitate the running of tryouts, including, but not limited to, running drills, organizing paperwork, and evaluating players. The President and Vice President, as well as the coach (if there is one) will use the evaluations garnered from tryouts to decide which new players will be invited to join the team.

Section II: Membership Eligibility

A player must {either} be an undergraduate {or graduate} student deemed academically eligible by the standards of the National Club Softball Association, or whatever governing body the club team is currently being sanctioned by.

Section III: Paid Dues

Dues will be set at the beginning of each season by the president and the treasurer, by taking into consideration the current finances and projected costs of the upcoming season. Player dues will go toward league fees, paying umpires, travel costs, and, depending on whether the entire team will be getting new uniforms, the dues may be higher for new players than returning.

For example: for the 2019 - 2020 season, the team will be purchasing two new jerseys as well as pants, belts, and socks. The team will also purchase a matching sweatshirt and t-shirt for each club member. Returning players will have dues of \$300, while new players will pay \$400, to cover the cost of their jerseys. These fees will be used to purchase the jerseys and apparel as well as cover other costs such as those listed above.

Article III: Membership Removal

If a member conducts themselves in a manner deemed detrimental to advancing the purpose of the organization – whether by not paying dues, not participating in team activities (including but not limited to fundraising and community service events, as well as meeting minimum practice

requirements) or are in violation of the OSU Student Code of Conduct, they can be removed from the team. The mechanism for removal will be a proposal by one of the executive board officers, followed by a vote by the entirety of the team, with a 2/3 majority being the threshold for removal.

If at any time a member feels that she cannot uphold her duties on the team then she can step down as a general member – effectively remove herself from the team, though she will be barred from rejoining the team for the remainder of the academic year.

Article IV: Officers

Section I: Executive Board

The executive board shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, all of whom will be elected by returning members at the end of the previous school year (this way the executive board will be in place over the summer when it's necessary to begin scheduling and planning tryouts). Returning members may nominate themselves or others, and a simple majority vote will decide whom the position will go to. If there are multiple candidates and no one receives a majority, the top two vote getters will proceed to a runoff.

President: the president has full control of the club, including but not limited to setting up practices, contacting other teams, acting as team liaison to both the university and the National Club Softball Association (or other sanctioning bodies), and, in the absence of a nonplayer coach, the president will assume all coaching duties.

Vice President: the vice president is responsible for the president's duties when she is not available, and also assists the president with coaching, scheduling, and contacting other teams, to whatever extent the president requests and sees fit.

Secretary: responsible for helping the other officers in the organization of team activities and game day events. Also responsible for keeping track of team meeting notes (if meetings are had) and relaying them to team members if need be.

Treasurer: the treasurer handles all team funds, including but not limited to the collection of member dues and fundraising revenue, and the paying of league fees, umpire fees, and all other costs. She, along with the president, is responsible for establishing the amount of dues charged new and returning members, as well as how and whether travel stipends and reimbursements will be distributed.

Section II: Other Officers

Other officer positions may include heading and coordinating the efforts of fundraising, apparel, community service, and social media. Other officer positions may be added at the president's discretion and based on club need. To become chair of one of these positions, a general member (nonexecutive board) should notify the president of their interest and qualifications; the president should make an effort to find all interested members a position and responsibility (i.e., officer positions can be created and adapted to match the interest level of the general members), but in the case that two or more members are seeking the same position, it will go to a vote of the whole team, with a simple majority determining the winner.

Section III: Risk Manager

The Risk Manager may be someone who already holds another officer position (including executive board), who must be CPR certified and First Aid trained, and able to be the first to respond in the result of injury to another player.

Article V: Officer Removal

Section I: Executive Board Removal

If a member of the executive board conducts themselves in such a manner deemed detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, is delinquent in performing their officer duties, or is in violation of the OSU Student Code of Conduct, any member of the team may call a referendum and the executive board member will be removed from leadership if 2/3 of the full team votes for it to be so. If at any point an executive board member feels they are unable to uphold their responsibilities, they are permitted to step down from their position and still remain a member of the team, though they are barred from seeking any officer position in the future. If an executive board member is removed, their replacement will be selected using the procedure outlined in Article IV, Section I.

Section II: Other Officer Removal

If one of the other officers conducts themselves in such a manner deemed detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, is delinquent in performing their officer duties, or is in violation of the OSU Student Code of Conduct, they can be removed through the unanimous vote of the executive board, though any member of the team can call for such a vote to take place. If removed, an officer's replacement will be selected using the method described in Article IV, Section II.

Article VI: Meetings

Practices are held Monday through Friday at Fred Beekman Park in the fall and spring, and during the winter practices are held at the ARC two days a week, with additional workouts at the RPAC or JOs at the discretion of the executive board. Players are expected to attend a minimum of two practices a week during the fall and spring, and one per week during the winter, with a valid excuse (work or class) for any missed practices. Players are also required to attend any other team meetings or fundraising, or community service events scheduled by the executive board or relevant officer. Games are scheduled well in advance and on weekends, so any player missing a game for any nonemergency reason may be required to sit out future games as a disciplinary action.

Article VII: Funds

Fees are collected from all members and are due before the first spring game. That money, in addition to any money gained from fundraisers or OSU funding will be used for things that will benefit the club, such as umpires, conference fees, game balls, extra uniforms, warmups, and travel expenses. The treasurer is in charge of all funds.

Article VIII: Coach

There is no requirement that the team have a nonplayer coach, but should there be a qualified volunteer, and the executive board unanimously sees fit, the team may ask an individual or individuals to adopt the role of coach. The coach must be registered with both the university and the NCSA (or other sanctioning body) and would be expected to help at games and practices to whatever extent the president sees fit. This may include responsibilities such as organizing and running drills and practices, game warmups, creating lineups, on field and in game coaching, giving signs, and communicating with umpires and other teams. A unanimous vote of the executive board may request that the coach step down from their role, if it's deemed that their involvement has become detrimental to the team's success.

Article IX: Advisor

The team has a faculty advisor as well as the rec sports advisor. The faculty advisor is Chad Lowe, who is also the Club Baseball coach. The president is in charge of all communication with both the faculty advisor and staff from the rec sports office.

Article X: Amendments

Amendments to the constitution may be proposed, in writing, by any member of the team, and put to a vote by the full membership. An amendment to the constitution requires 2/3 approval to go into effect.

Article XI: Code of Student Conduct

The Ohio State University Code of Student Conduct applies to the team and its individual members.

Article XII: Continuity in Case of Suspension

If the team is suspended for violating the Code of Student Conduct, Competitive Sports will appoint an Interim President and an Interim Treasurer. The Interim President and Interim Treasurer may (1) transfer signatures and check writing authority for the organization's bank account to themselves within thirty days of the suspension, (2) pay existing financial obligations out of the organization's current funds, and (3) when the period of suspension ends, take appropriate steps with Student Activities to reregister as a student organization. Further, the Interim President and Interim Treasurer shall inventory the organization's equipment and write a plan for its storage and safekeeping during the suspension period. This plan must be submitted to Competitive Sports within the first thirty days of the suspension. During this suspension no new coaches or staff should be hired during this time. All club assets are frozen during this suspension period meaning nothing should be bought or sold during this time. Should the Interim President or Interim Treasurer wish to take any additional actions, they must seek advance approval from Competitive Sports.

Article XIII: Return to Competitive Sports

In order to return as a recognized Sport Club team, The Interim President must provide Competitive Sports with documentation that team is a recognized student organization. The Interim President must also provide a roster of at least 15 students to Competitive Sports along with a written plan to hold elections. This plan should, to the extent possible due to the terms, length and timing of the suspension, resemble the provisions contained in Article IV.