

The Constitution for the Ohio State Chapter of Triangle Fraternity



We, as brothers of the Ohio State Chapter of Triangle, in order promote a stable and effective chapter government, establish a system of rules and bylaws, and delegate power and responsibility do hereby approve this Constitution as the governing document of the chapter in adherence to the value and principles set forth in the Ritual, outlined in the Code of Ethics, and passed through tradition.

ARTICLE I

Section I

- a) All brothers are always required to adhere to the fraternal Code of Ethics at all times.
- b) A brother who does not adhere to the Code of Ethics can be found in violation of his obligation to the Fraternity and Standards Board may choose to enforce appropriate punishment.
- c) All brothers are required to memorize the Code of Ethics.

Section II

- a) Any brother who has been initiated, is a current student at The Ohio State University, and is in good standing with the active and national organization shall be defined as an Active Brother.
- b) To be in good standing with the active chapter, you must have paid all outstanding fines and dues, meet the minimum eligible gpa, and have completed any required trainings through the university
- c) To be in good standing with the national organization, you must have paid dues, and completed any training required by the national organization.
- d) Every Active Brother shall be entitled to the rights outlined in this article with the exception of voting rights. Voting rights shall be determined by a brother's status as an eligible voter.
- e) Inactive brothers are not eligible to attend subsidized brotherhood events, the active portion of chapter meetings, and executive board meetings. Inactive brothers are treated as guests at social events. Inactive brothers also lose their right to run for an executive position at the end of that semester, and receive any triangle sponsored scholarship for that school year. If the inactive member has received a triangle sponsored scholarship within the past calendar year, it must be returned to the chapter before returning active.

Section III

- a) Every eligible voter in good standing within the chapter has a right to vote on appropriations issues beyond expenditures required by national, university, local, state, and/or federal law.
- b) Every eligible voter has the right to cast a vote either in support or opposition of pledging/initiating a new member.
- c) Every eligible voter has the right to cast a vote during elections for chapter officers.
- d) Every eligible voter in good standing within the chapter has the right to run for any officer position.

- e) Every active brother shall have the right to free access to all Triangle information, including but not limited to financial documents, chapter records, and the ritual.
- f) Every initiated member and alumni has the right to discuss during active chapter regardless of their voting eligibility.

Section IV:

- a) Any activity that a pledge is required to attend or do must also be required for the entire active chapter.
- b) Pledges and members shall never be required to do something that is purposefully meant to physically, mentally, emotionally harm or humiliate them.
- c) If during any chapter run or promoted activities a pledge or brother feels uncomfortable he shall have the right to express his concerns to Fraternity, University, or law enforcement officials.
- c) This chapter shall be a haze free environment as defined by National & University policy and State or Federal Law.

ARTICLE II

Section I

The Executive authority of the chapter shall be vested in an Executive Board consisting of eight elected members.

Section II

- a) The Executive Board shall be chaired by the President who shall be elected by the chapter during the twelfth week of Fall Semester.
- b) The President shall serve as public representative of the chapter and shall be responsible for issuing any statements regarding the local chapter.
- c) The President shall reserve the authority to structure the chapter, outside the confines of this Constitution, in order to best serve the needs of the brotherhood.
- d) During active chapter, President's time, and Executive Board meetings the President may only vote in the event of a tie.

Section III

- a) The remainder of the Executive Board shall consist of eight elected members: the Internal Vice President, External Vice President, Treasurer, Recruitment Chair, Social Chair, Brotherhood Chair, Secretary, and Philanthropy Chair.
- b) The Executive Board shall be responsible for maintaining chapter stability, promoting sustainable growth, and setting chapter policy.
- c) The Executive Board shall be vested with any powers necessary and proper to achieve the goals listed above.
- d) In extreme circumstances a unanimous vote of the Executive Board may send a motion to the active chapter suggesting the removal of a brother from active status.

Section IV

- a) Should at any time the President see it fit and with the approval from the Executive Director, he may declare a State of Emergency among the chapter which shall empower the Executive Board to serve as the sole governing authority of the chapter for a period of one month at which time normal power shall be returned.

- b) The chapter, by a 2/3rds vote, may approve the removal of any member of the Executive Board via a vote of no confidence.
- c) The Executive Board shall be required to meet weekly at a time set by unanimous vote of the executive board.

ARTICLE III

Section I

- a) The Legislative authority shall be vested within the active chapter which shall consist of every initiated brother that has earned voting rights.

Section II

- a) The active chapter shall be responsible for approving a yearly budget, fee structure, and temporary fee increases and their associated expenditures.
- b) At the discretion of the Recruitment Chair, the active chapter shall vote to extend bids to potential new members to become pledges of the chapter.
- c) At least 24 hours before the initiation of any pledges, the chapter shall vote whether or not to approve or deny the initiation of a pledge. If one brother votes in the negative, the pledge shall not be permitted to be initiated until the decision is unanimous.
- d) When motioned by the Executive Board, the active chapter may vote to remove a brother's active status via a 3/4ths vote.

Section III

- a) The President shall chair the meetings of the active chapter and shall enforce Robert's New Rules of Order.
- b) The active chapter shall meet once a week.
- c) The President reserves the right to cancel meetings due to appropriate circumstances.

ARTICLE IV

Section I

- a) The Judicial authority of the chapter shall be vested in the Standards Board.

Section II

- a) The Standards Board shall consist of three members. It shall be chaired by the Internal Vice President who will appoint another member of the Executive Board to serve. The remaining Executive Board will elect the third brother from the remaining active chapter.
- b) A member shall be eligible to serve on the Standards Board unless he has been summoned to account for any grievances, there is a conflict of interest, is unable to attend due to a health or family emergency, or is not in good standing.
- c) Should a member of the Standards Board be deemed ineligible the remaining permanent member(s) of the Standards Board shall by unanimous consent appoint temporary member(s) to fill the positions of ineligible brothers.
- d) Should all three members of the Standards Board be deemed ineligible, the eligible members of the Executive Board shall serve as the Standards Board.

Section III

- a) The Standards Board shall have the authority to find a brother guilty of a violation of chapter and/or national policy and levy a fair and just punishment to hold said brother(s) accountable.
- b) Any sentence by the Standards Board can be overturned by a 3/4ths vote of the active chapter.
- c) No punishment levied may violate chapter, national, local, state, and/or federal law.

ARTICLE V

Section I

- a) At any time, by a 2/3rds vote of the active chapter, this Constitution may be amended
- b) An Amendment cannot be brought to vote until at least one week after it has been introduced.
- c) Any active brother may motion to amend the Constitution.

Section II

- a) This Constitution will serve as the supreme law of the chapter, second only to the ritual itself and the National Constitution, Bylaws, and National Fraternity Regulations.
- b) Any chapter policies, rules, or actions in violation of this Constitution are considered null and void.
- c) If at any time this Constitution conflicts with national or university policy, and/or local, state, or federal law the provisions in question are hereby null and void.

Section III

- a) A brother found in severe violation of chapter, national, or university policy and/or local, state, or federal law can have their active status removed by a 3/4ths vote of the total active chapter.
- b) A motion to remove a brother's active status can only be made after the chapter President has discussed the issue with the alumni President, the National Executive Director, and the brother in question.

Section IV

- a) A minimum of five percent of membership dues every semester are required to be deposited into an emergency fund account to be used only for extenuating circumstances.
- b) The emergency fund may only be used by a 2/3rds vote of the total active chapter.
- c) In the instance of an emergency either the President or Treasurer may access the emergency account without prior approval.
- d) Within two chapter meetings of accessing the Emergency Funds a vote must be held regarding the emergency expenditure. Should the approval of the use of the Emergency Funds fail to pass by the required 2/3rds majority of the active chapter the officer who authorized the use of the funds shall be summoned to the Standards Board.

ARTICLE VI

Section I

- a) Membership rules shall be regulated by appropriate provisions of the National Constitution and the Ohio State IFC rules.
- b) No man within the academic programs of Triangle may be denied membership on the basis of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status or other factors not established as expectations for a Triangle member.

ARTICLE VII

Section I

- a) Establishes a set of Bylaws for the chapter upon a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the chapter.

BYLAWS OF THE OHIO STATE CHAPTER OF TRIANGLE

ARTICLE I

Section 1

If at any time a provision of the Bylaws of the Ohio State chapter of Triangle conflict with national, chapter, or university policy, and/or local, state, or federal law the provisions in question are hereby null and void.

Section II

- a) At any time, by a majority vote of the active chapter, the Bylaws of the Ohio State chapter of Triangle may be amended.
- b) Any active brother may motion to amend the Bylaws.

ARTICLE II

Section I

Allows for the establishment of a Recruitment committee

Section II

- a) The Recruitment committee shall consist of a minimum of 3 members.
- b) The Members shall be the Recruitment chair, at least one executive board member, and at least one general member.
- c) Each member (other than the recruitment chair) shall be elected to the committee starting first with a nomination process.
- d) The nomination process and the election can occur in the same meeting.
- e) Resignations or removals from the committee must be made during regular meetings.
- f) Removals require a 50% vote from the chapter. Resignations can be made at the discretion of the resigning member at minimum one week following the time their power was assigned.

Section III

- a) The recruitment committee must have their powers vested with them by unanimous vote of the voting chapter members at a chapter meeting.
- b) Vested powers may only last until the next chapter meeting or one week, whichever comes first.
- c) Vested powers include: New member discussion, Letter of Intent decisions, and Bid decisions
- d) All vested powers will be on behalf of the chapter and all votes must be unanimous amongst the committee.

ARTICLE III

Section I

Allows for the establishment of a Standards committee that must be reestablished should the head of the committee change, resign, or be removed from the committee. This committee shall fill the role of and act as the Standards Board as described in Article 4 of the constitution. Inheriting Sections 1 and 3, and overriding Section 2 with this Article's Section 2.

Section II

- a) The Standards committee shall consist of a minimum of 3 members.
- b) The Academic chair shall lead/head the committee unless otherwise unable to.
- c) The Members shall be the Academic chair, Risk Manager, and at least one active member not on the executive board.
- d) Non-executive members shall be elected to the committee starting first with a nomination process.
- e) The nomination process and the election can occur in the same meeting.
- f) Resignations or removals from the committee must be made during regular meetings.
- g) Removals require a 50% vote from the chapter. Resignations can be made at the discretion of the resigning member at minimum one week following the time their power was assigned.
- h) Members will be removed should they fail to meet the standards as outlined in the Standards Guidelines Document.
- i) Should the Academic chair be unable to head the committee, the current Risk Manager will assume the role and a tertiary Executive Board member will be nominated to fill the vacated seat.
- j) If the current Risk Manager is unable to head the committee, the tertiary Executive Board member will assume the role and another tertiary Executive Board member will be nominated to fill the vacated seat. This process is repeated for further cases.

Section III

- a) The Standards committee must have their powers vested with them by unanimous vote of the voting chapter members at a chapter meeting.
- b) Vested powers include: Enforcement of the standards and administration of punishments, as described in the Standards Guidelines Document.
- c) All vested powers will be on behalf of the chapter and all votes must be unanimous amongst the committee.

Section IV

- a) A Standards Guidelines Document must be drafted upon establishment of the Standards committee.
- b) The document must be ratified by the chapter body through a simple majority vote.
- c) The document will outline standards as decided by the Standards committee.
- d) The Standards Guidelines Document must include the following,
 - i) A recommended GPA
 - ii) Actions to take should a brother fall below the recommended GPA
 - iii) A required GPA
 - iv) Actions to take should a brother fall below the required GPA
 - v) Any other recommendations or guidelines to improve the overall standard of the chapter, at the discretion of the Internal Vice President

ARTICLE IV

Section I

- a) The election process shall consist of three weeks in which the date of the election of the president still falls within the guidelines of the constitution.
- b) The nomination process and elections will occur during Active Chapter.

- c) The first week shall consist of the nomination of presidential candidates.
- d) The second week shall consist of the presidential elections and the nomination for other Executive board roles.
- e) The third week shall consist of the elections for the other executive board roles.
- f) The election of non-Executive board roles can be held at any time when necessary.
- g) Elections can occur at other times of the year in the event of a position vacancy.

Section II

- a) For a man to be elected to a position he must be elected with a majority of the brothers present at the election meeting but with no less than 1/3 of the active chapter's votes.
- b) In the event that no man meets the number of votes required to win an election with more than two men, the man with the lowest number of votes will be dropped and another round of voting will ensue.
- c) In a two man race any vote to abstain will count toward the man with the highest vote total if there is no tie vote.
- d) A revote will be held in the event of a tie during a two man race following a 3 minute discussion period.

Section III

- a) Each candidate for a position will be given 5 minutes to speak followed by 7 minutes of questions by the chapter.
- b) Any question answer must be restricted to 1 minute.
- c) No other candidate for the same position should be present during the speech or questions.
- d) No candidates for a position should be present for the discussion on the position.
- e) The order of candidates to speak shall be pin order or last name when necessary.
- f) Once each candidate has spoken and been questioned, 5 minutes of discussion will be given.
- g) Pledges may be present for the speeches, questions, and discussion.

ARTICLE V

Section I

- a) The Internal President shall be the Ritual Chair, keeper of the Ritual and leader of Ritual discussions and setup.
- b) The Internal Vice President shall be the Academic Chair, responsible for the general academic welfare of the Fraternity.
- c) The Internal Vice President is also responsible for overlooking the Brotherhood, New Member Education, and Treasurer Chairs.

Section II

- a) The External Vice President shall be responsible for overlooking the Recruitment, Social, Alumni, and Philanthropy Chairs.
- b) The External Vice President shall also help coordinate E-Council activities and representatives.

Section III

- a) The Social Chair shall be responsible for the organization and planning of chapter social events.
- b) The Social Chair shall be the acting Risk Manager should the latter position be left vacant.
- c) The Risk Manager shall be responsible for the general safety of the Fraternity.

Section IV

- a) The Recruitment Chair shall be in charge of active and prospective membership.
- b) The Recruitment Chair shall be in charge of the chapter's recruitment efforts, including organizing rush week and communications with potential members.

Section V

- a) The Treasurer shall be responsible for the chapter finances.
- b) The Treasurer shall maintain and propose a chapter budget each semester.
- c) The Treasurer shall manage and approve TEF Committee requests upon approval by the chapter.

Section VI

- a) The Secretary shall be responsible for organizing meeting minutes and sending these to the active brothers.
- b) Along with the President, the Secretary shall help manage national and local chapter requirements, such as forms and Standards of Excellence.
- c) As Communications Chair, the Secretary shall oversee social media, website, and other communications regarding the Fraternity as seen fit.

Section VII

- a) The Philanthropy Chair is responsible for hosting and managing philanthropic events and communicating with other Greek and non-Greek philanthropic opportunities.
- b) The Philanthropy Chair is also the Service Chair and is responsible for chapter community service efforts and should aid each active brother in receiving 15 service hours per semester

Section VIII

- a) The Brotherhood Chair shall be responsible for the promotion of brotherhood through activities and events.

ARTICLE VI

Section I

If the President cannot perform their duties, the order of succession is as follows:

- i) Internal Vice President
- ii) External Vice President
- iii) Risk Manager
- iv) Descending seniority (by pin) through the Executive Board.
- v) Descending seniority (by pin) through the general chapter.

ARTICLE VII

Section I

- a) *This organization does 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.*

- i) As Triangle Fraternity is recognized as a social fraternity, it is therefore exempt from membership practices, in accordance with 20 U.S.C. § 1681(a)(6)(A) and 34 C.F.R. § 106.14(a).