

AAJA NACHLE CONSTITUTION

Last Updated: Spring 2025

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The full name of the student organization is “Aaja Nachle.” This roughly translates to “let’s dance” or “come dance” in Hindi.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE STATEMENT

Purpose Statement: Aaja Nachle is a noncompetitive Bollywood dance club dedicated to creating a fun and inclusive space where students can come together to teach, learn, and enjoy Bollywood dance. Our goal is to foster a sense of community through the shared love of dance, providing a platform for individuals of all skill levels to express themselves, learn new techniques, and have fun while celebrating the vibrant culture of Bollywood. Aaja Nachle offers a welcoming environment for everyone, whether they are a beginner or experienced dancer, to participate and grow in their dance journey.

ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct

Aaja Nachle agrees that it will not engage in sexual misconduct nor any harassment or discrimination 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 basis in accordance with these guidelines.

Section B. Hazing

Aaja Nachle agrees to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for hazing, in compliance with Ohio State University and Collin's Law. All members must conduct themselves in a manner that supports an environment free from hazing. Hazing includes any activity, regardless of consent, that causes or creates a substantial risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm or humiliation to any individual as part of membership or affiliation with the student organization. If found responsible for hazing, members and/or the organization may face disciplinary actions.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership Eligibility, Selection, and Timeline

- Membership in this organization is open to any individual (preferably a student at The Ohio State University) that demonstrates an interest to learn and participate in Bollywood dance or any other activities being coordinated by Aaja Nachle.
 - Active members specifically have an attendance rate of at least 50% for our meetings/workshops each semester or have provided a board member with a valid reason for missing more than 50% of the meetings.

- Non-members can become members by attending a club meeting and filling out a membership form/survey that includes writing their name, OSU email, personal email, and a brief description of their reason for joining the club.
- Non-members can become members typically at the start of either the fall or spring semesters, but exceptions can be made to induct new members at any point during a semester if the non-member has consistently attended meetings and filled out the form as mentioned above.

Section B. Composition of Membership

All members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment. 90% of the voting membership must be currently enrolled Columbus campus Ohio State students. Faculty, staff, alumni, and the partners of students, faculty, staff, and alumni of Ohio State may participate in the activities and programs of student organizations as associate members but may not comprise more than 10% of the total membership.

Section C. Member Removal

Members may be removed at any point if they demonstrate any sort of behavior that encourages or may lead to harm to another person or for any conduct that violates any behavior as listed in this document (specifically in Article III).

Members may request for another member to be considered for the removal process at any point. To remove a member, the accusing member(s) must present evidence or a valid reason for requesting removal of the other member to the board. The executive board will consult other members as needed to gather additional evidence and present the evidence to the advisor. Then, the executive board and advisor will set a meeting time to vote to remove the member. A majority vote among the executive board and advisor is required to remove the member.

ARTICLE V. STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR

Section A. Duties and Responsibilities

The organization must have at least one advisor who is a member of the faculty or administrative professional staff. The advisor's duties and responsibilities primarily include completing the required training as required by *Registration Guidelines for Student Organizations at Ohio State* and working with the board to communicate and approve goals set for each year.

Section B. Selection Method

The advisor will be selected by the board with a majority vote.

Section C. Term

The advisor term will last at least one year with possibility of reappointment if a majority of board members are in accordance.

Section D. Process of Replacing the Organization's Advisor

In the case where there are grounds for considering replacement of the organization's advisor or if the advisor has asked to be relieved of their duties, the board and advisor should ideally set a meeting time to discuss next steps, including setting a time for conclusion of duties and discussing other advisor candidates.

If the advisor leaves immediately and/or denies meeting with the board, the board can set a meeting time to discuss other advisor candidates and vote for a new advisor. A majority vote is required to select a new advisor.

ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS

Section A. Officer Positions

- **Primary Leader - President**

- **Duties:**

- Serve as the official representative and spokesperson for Aaja Nachle.
- Oversee all organizational operations and ensure alignment with the group's mission and purpose.
- Lead general body and executive board meetings.
- Coordinate with university advisors and Student Activities for compliance and registration.
- Delegate tasks and support exec members in their respective roles.
- Mediate conflicts and facilitate team cohesion.

- **Secondary Leader - Co-President or Vice President**

- **Duties:**

- Support the President in all duties and assume leadership responsibilities in their absence.
- Assist in strategic planning and implementation of organizational goals.
- Serve as a liaison between subcommittees and the executive board.
- Step in to support other exec roles as needed, especially during large events or performances.

- **Treasurer**

- **Duties:**

- Manage the organization's finances, including budgeting, reimbursements, and fundraising.
- Maintain accurate financial records and prepare reports as needed.
- Apply for funding through OSU or external sources (e.g., student government, sponsorships).
- Ensure responsible allocation of funds for costumes, props, events, etc.

- **Outreach/Social Media**

- **Duties:**

- Manage the organization's presence on social media platforms (e.g., Instagram, TikTok, websites, etc.).
 - Create and promote content that highlights team activities, events, and recruitment.
 - Collaborate with other OSU organizations to build partnerships and co-host events.
 - Lead recruitment campaigns and maintain the org's public image.

- **Events Chair**

- **Duties:**

- Plan and coordinate all organizational events including performances, socials, workshops, and fundraisers.
 - Book venues, manage logistics, and handle day-of coordination.
 - Work closely with the Choreography Lead(s) to schedule rehearsals and shows.
 - Ensure events are inclusive, fun, and aligned with the org's mission.

- **Secretary**

- **Duties:**

- Keep accurate records of all meetings, including attendance and minutes.
 - Maintain a calendar of events, deadlines, and important organizational dates.
 - Manage internal communication within the executive board and with general members.
 - Organize documentation, such as constitution updates or waivers.

- **Choreography Lead(s)**

- **Duties:**

- Design and teach choreography for performances and workshops.
 - Lead rehearsals and provide feedback to team members.
 - Select music, style, and themes for routines in collaboration with the team.
 - Ensure an inclusive and supportive environment during practices.
 - Coordinate with the Events Chair for performance logistics and scheduling.

The Primary Leader and Treasurer must be enrolled as full-time students. In order for the club to function, there must be a Primary Leader, Secondary Leader, and Treasurer.

Section B. Criteria for Office Eligibility & Selection

Subsection 1. Officer Eligibility

To be eligible for an officer position within Aaja Nachle, a member must meet the following criteria:

- **Active Membership:** The individual must be an active member of Aaja Nachle, having participated in regular meetings, rehearsals, and events for at least one full academic semester prior to running for office. Exceptions to the one-semester guideline can be made if the candidate shows an exceptionally strong desire to promote the club's mission and purpose.
- **Enrollment Status:** The candidate must be a currently enrolled student at The Ohio State University in good academic standing, as defined by the university.
 - Primary Leader and Treasurer must be full-time enrolled students.
- **Commitment to the Mission:** Candidates must demonstrate a strong commitment to the mission and values of Aaja Nachle, including inclusivity, cultural expression, and team collaboration.
- **Leadership and Reliability:** Candidates should show initiative, responsibility, and the ability to work well with others. Prior leadership experience (in or outside the organization) is encouraged but not required.
- **Compliance with University Policies:** All officers must uphold the non-discrimination policies outlined in Articles III and IV of this constitution.

Subsection 2. Officer Selection Process

Officers for Aaja Nachle shall be selected through an internal appointment process conducted by the Executive Board. The procedure is as follows:

1. Nomination Procedures
 - a. Application Submission: Interested members must submit an application to the Executive Board, detailing their qualifications, experiences, and motivations for the desired position.
2. Eligibility Verification:
 - a. The Executive Board will review applications to ensure candidates meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the constitution.
3. Interview Process
 - a. Candidate Interviews: Eligible candidates will be invited to interview with the Executive Board to discuss their vision and suitability for the role.
4. Selection and Appointment
 - a. Deliberation: The Executive Board will deliberate on candidates based on applications and interviews.
5. Voting: Each Executive Board member will cast a vote for their preferred candidate for each position.

- a. Majority Decision: A candidate must receive a majority vote from the Executive Board to be appointed.
 - b. Tie-Breaking: In the event of a tie, the President's vote will serve as the tie-breaker.
6. Announcement
 - a. Notification: Selected candidates will be notified promptly.
 - b. Public Announcement: The new officers will be announced to the general membership during the next scheduled meeting or via official communication channels.

Generally, applications will open around a month before the conclusion of the academic year and applications should be open for at least a week.

Section C. Removing Officers & Vacancies

Officer Removal

An officer may be removed from their position for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to fulfill the duties and responsibilities outlined in the constitution
- Violation of university policies or any policies outlined in this Constitution
- Inappropriate behavior or actions that harm the reputation or functioning of Aaja Nachle
- Prolonged inactivity or absence without valid justification

Removal Procedure:

- Initiation: A removal discussion may be initiated by any member of the Executive Board.
- Review: The Executive Board will meet to review concerns and allow the officer in question an opportunity to respond.
- Vote: A vote will be conducted by the remaining Executive Board members. A two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority is required to remove the officer from their position.
- Notification: The removed officer will be informed in writing, and the decision will be communicated to the general membership.

Filling Vacancies

If an officer resigns, becomes ineligible, or is removed:

- The Executive Board will open a call for applications from eligible members within two weeks of the vacancy.
- Interested candidates will submit an application and may be interviewed by the Executive Board.
- A new officer will be appointed by a simple majority vote of the Executive Board.
- The newly appointed officer will serve for the remainder of the original term.

ARTICLE VII. DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION

In the event that Aaja Nachle is to be dissolved, the following procedures shall be followed to ensure an orderly and responsible conclusion of organizational affairs:

1. Proposal for Dissolution

- a. A formal proposal for dissolution must be submitted by a current Executive Board member.
- b. The proposal must be approved by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the Executive Board.
- c. Once approved by the board, the proposal will be shared with the general body for final input and record.

2. Settlement of Debts

- a. All outstanding debts and obligations must be settled prior to dissolution.
- b. Under no circumstances shall Aaja Nachle leave any debts or financial responsibilities to The Ohio State University or any of its affiliated entities.
- c. The Treasurer, in coordination with the Executive Board and University advisors, will oversee the resolution of all debts.

3. Distribution of Assets

- a. Any remaining assets (including costumes, props, equipment, or funds) purchased with University funds (e.g., through Student Activity Fees or departmental sponsorship) must be returned to the appropriate University unit, in accordance with university policies.
- b. Assets not purchased with University funds may be donated to a university-affiliated organization, a similar student group, or a charitable cause, as determined by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

4. Notification

- a. The student organization must notify the Ohio State Student Activities Office and any affiliated university departments of the organization's dissolution.
- b. All records, including the final meeting minutes and financial summaries, shall be submitted to the Student Activities Office for official documentation.

ARTICLE VIII. BYLAWS FOR AAJA NACHLE

Aaja Nachle may elect to maintain separate bylaws to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements set forth by local, state, and federal laws, the Ohio State University's regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Council on Student Affairs Registration Guidelines for Student Organizations at Ohio State. Amendments and changes may be made to the bylaws and shall be consistent with the Office of Student Life approved constitution on file and the Office of Student Life's constitution requirements. Should the organization transition leadership in between

registration cycles, the articles set forth in this document will remain in place unless a new constitution is provided to the Office of Student Life and is approved.

Any articles the organization wishes to describe that are not included in this document should be maintained in a separate bylaws document.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

1. Proposal of Amendments

- a. Amendments to the Aaja Nachle constitution may be proposed by any active member of the organization.
- b. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing to the Executive Board for initial review.

2. Review and Discussion

- a. The Executive Board will review proposed amendments and, if deemed reasonable, present them to the general membership for discussion.
- b. A minimum one-week notice must be given before voting on any proposed amendment.

3. Approval Process

- a. A proposed amendment must be approved by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of the active membership present at the meeting where the vote occurs.
- b. Quorum must be met for the vote to be valid, with quorum defined as at least 50% of active members.

4. Submission to University

- a. All approved amendments must be submitted to the Ohio Union and Student Activities for official review and approval before taking effect.
- b. The amended constitution will not be considered valid until it has been reviewed and accepted by the university.