

# Baltic Club at The Ohio State University

## Student Organization Constitution

### ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Baltic Club At The Ohio State University

### ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

To preserve, educate, and promote Baltic heritage, culture, and lifestyle. The organization's goals include increasing student engagement with the cultures of the three Baltic States—**Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia**—and fostering a welcoming community for students of Baltic descent and those interested in the region. This organization's purpose aligns with The Ohio State University's educational mission by supporting multicultural awareness, global citizenship, and intercultural understanding.

### ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

#### **Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct**

Baltic Club At The Ohio State University *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 the Student Organization Registration Guidelines.*

#### **Section B. Hazing**

Baltic Club at The Ohio State University *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.*

#### **Section C. Bylaws**

Baltic Club At The Ohio State University *retains the right 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 (CSA) Student Organization Registration Guidelines. Organizations may make amendments and changes to the bylaws without consulting the Ohio Union & Student Activities department, and changes to bylaws do not require approval. All elements of organizational bylaws shall be consistent with the organization's currently approved constitution on file and CSA constitution requirements.*

## **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section A. Membership Eligibility**

Membership is open to all currently enrolled Ohio State University students interested in Baltic Culture. At least 90% of voting members must be currently enrolled Columbus-campus students. Faculty, staff, alumni, and partners of Ohio State affiliates may participate as associate members but may not comprise more than 10% of the total membership or hold voting rights. Membership may not be automatically granted; joining is voluntary.

### **Section B. Member Selection**

Members may join by contacting a club officer or joining the Baltic Club's GroupMe group chat. Participation in at least one meeting or event is encouraged prior to formal membership.

### **Section C. Membership Timeline**

Membership is open on a rolling basis throughout the academic year.

### **Section D. Member Removal**

A member may be removed for conduct that violates the values of the Baltic Club, University policy, or laws governing student organizations, including harassment or discrimination.

Procedure for removal

1. Evidence of misconduct is presented to the Executive Board and the Advisor.
2. The member is notified in writing and allowed to respond.
3. A meeting is held, and a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board is required for removal.
4. The advisor must review and approve the decision.

## **ARTICLE V. ADVISOR**

### **Section A. Advisor Duties and Responsibilities**

The Advisor shall serve as a resource and mentor, supporting the student leadership while ensuring that the club operates in compliance with the University regulations. Advisors may not vote or hold office. Advisors must:

1. Complete advisor training every two years.
2. Complete anti-hazing training through BuckeyeLearn or [stophazing.osu.edu](http://stophazing.osu.edu)
3. Submit online approval of registration, goals, and funding requests annually.

4. Follow all University and legal guidelines

**Section B. Advisor Term**

The advisor serves a renewable one-year term, with reappointment possible based on mutual agreement.

**Section C. Advisor Selection**

The primary advisor must be a full-time faculty or administrative professional staff member. Classified civil service employees or graduate associates may serve as co-advisors. The advisor is selected by a vote where a majority in favor is obtained from the executive boards.

**Section D. Advisor Replacement**

If the advisor resigns or is unable to fulfill duties, the Executive Board will appoint a temporary advisor and initiate the selection of a new one following University policies. A vote is conducted in the executive board that needs a majority in favor to replace the advisor.

**ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP**

**Section A. Officer Positions**

The Baltic Club will maintain at least the following positions:

Primary Leader (President): Oversees club operations and meetings.

Secondary Leader (Vice President): Assists the President and liaises with the Advisor.

Treasurer: Manages finances, dues, and funding.

Secretary: Document attendance, take notes at meetings, and schedule times for the event.

**Section B. Officer Eligibility**

Only currently enrolled Ohio State students in good academic standing may hold office.

**Section C. Officer Selection Process**

Elections occur in the spring semester for the following academic year. Candidates must announce their interest and present a short statement in the form of a video. Voting is conducted anonymously by active members. A simple majority vote will determine the winners.

**Section D. Officer Removal**

Officers may be removed for neglect of duties, misconduct, or violation of University policies. A written notice must be given to the officer. Two-thirds vote of active members is required for removal. The vacant positions are filled through a special election.

**ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATION DISSOLUTION**

### **Section A. Dissolution Requirements**

Dissolution of the club will happen if there are fewer than 5 members active, and they must have a unanimous vote to dissolve the club.

### **Section B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts**

All debts must be settled; no debts may remain owed to The Ohio State University. The remaining funds will be donated to The Ohio State University Multicultural Center.

## **ARTICLE VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

### **Section A. Amendment Process**

Amendments may be proposed by any member and must be submitted in writing. They will be discussed at a general meeting and voted upon at the next meeting. Approval requires a two-thirds majority of voting members present. All approved amendments must be submitted to the Ohio Union and Student Activities Department within 30 days for final approval.