

Whitman College Fencing Club Constitution

Article I. NAME

This organization will be known as the Whitman College Fencing Club or, in less formal situations, simply as the Fencing Club.

Article II. MISSION

The Whitman College Fencing Club exists to provide information about and training in classical and historical swordsmanship for Whitman students, faculty, and staff. The Fencing Club will primarily practice various formulas of Southern Italian classical fencing schools for the foil, épée, and saber. The Fencing Club will also practice a variety of European styles of historical fencing, which includes rapiers, longswords, and knives. The Fencing Club also strives to organize trips to regional events and host programs, including workshops and tourneys, on the Whitman campus.

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Membership

- A. Membership in the Whitman College Fencing Club will be extended to all students, faculty, and staff of Whitman College, excepting those students who have defaulted upon the mandatory Associated Students of Whitman College (ASWC) fee.
- B. No person will be denied membership on account of race, sex, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, color, political views, mental or physical handicaps, or personal creed. However, all members must realize that fencing is a physically demanding sport and, like all sports, requires a certain amount of athletic exertion. Potential members and their doctors should determine whether participation in fencing is suitable and prudent.
- C. To remain in good standing and maintain voting rights, a member must attend at least ten (10) regularly scheduled meetings per semester.

Article IV. OFFICERS

Section 1: Offices

1. The Whitman College Fencing Club will have six (6) offices: President, Vice President, Head Instructor, Armorer, Budget Representative, and Webmaster. These offices constitute the Council.
2. The offices of Budget Representative and Webmaster may be held by a member who also holds another office, with the following exception: The President may not also hold the office of Budget Representative.

Section 2: Duties of Office

- A. President
 - a. Requirements:
 - i. Must have regularly attended the club's meetings for at least 3 semesters.
 - ii. Must have achieved the Third Rank.

- b. Duties:
 - i. The President is responsible for directing all club meetings.
 - ii. The President is in charge of researching and creating new events for the Fencing Club to participate in, as well as being in charge of planning and logistics for symposiums, tournaments, demonstrations, and other Club events and activities.
 - iii. The President is responsible for updating the Fencing Club Constitution.
 - iv. The President is responsible for making sure the Club's Recognition Update Form is filled out and turned in at the beginning of each semester.
 - v. The President is responsible for assigning someone to attend at least one Town Hall meeting per semester.
 - vi. The President, in conjunction with the Vice President, is responsible for recruitment and publicity.
 - vii. The President is responsible for booking space in Sherwood for weekly practice at appropriate times.
 - viii. The President is responsible for presiding over the proceedings of the Appeals Board.

B. Vice President

- a. Requirements:
 - i. Must have regularly attended the club's meetings for at least 2 semesters.
 - ii. Must have achieved the Second Rank.
- b. Duties:
 - i. The Vice President is responsible for acting in the place of the President should they be unable to do so.
 - ii. If not already trained, the Vice President must attend an ASWC Budget Manager Training session.
 - iii. The Vice President is responsible for working with the Budget Representative to establish a budget for the next fiscal year to present to the Council.
 - iv. The Vice President is responsible for recruitment and publicity.
 - v. The Vice President holds a position on the Appeals Board.

C. Head Instructor (Captain)

- a. Requirements
 - i. Must have regularly attended the club's meetings for at least 4 semesters.
 - ii. The Head Instructor must have attained the Third Rank in the Fencing Club's recognition system (and thus be recognized by the club leadership as capable of instructing).
 - iii. The previous Head Instructor's vote in the contest for the office of Head Instructor will be weighted as 5 votes.
- b. Duties:
 - i. The Head Instructor is responsible for the creation and general progress of both semesterly lesson plans and Club Bylaws^[1].
 - ii. The Head Instructor is responsible for the enforcement of proper club safety and etiquette.
 - iii. The Head Instructor is the primary instructor in all weapons and schools, but may delegate teaching responsibilities to other members of at least the Third Rank.

- iv. The Head Instructor is responsible for administering rank tests to all members of the Fencing Club; tests must be offered at least once per semester and the date scheduled in advance.
- v. The Head Instructor serves as the default director for all tournament bouts held at Whitman.
- vi. In the case of the absence of the President and Vice President from a Club meeting, the Head Instructor will act as the President for the remainder of the meeting.
- vii. The Head Instructor holds a position on the Appeals Board.

D. Armorer

- a. Requirements:
 - i. Must have regularly attended the club's meetings for at least 2 semesters.
 - ii. Must have achieved the Second Rank.
 - iii. Must have trained under a previous Armorer if possible.
- b. Duties:
 - i. The Armorer is responsible for arranging for the fencing room to be opened for practice and locked at all other times.
 - ii. The Armorer is responsible for collecting an inventory of all equipment once per semester and presenting the Council with the results.
 - iii. The Armorer is responsible for maintaining the condition of the equipment. At least once per semester the Armorer must undergo a cleaning and maintenance regimen to remove deposits that naturally occur on blades and to test the condition of blades to avoid unsafe levels of metal fatigue.

E. Budget Representative

- a. Requirements:
 - i. Must have regularly attended the club's meetings for at least 2 semesters.
 - ii. Must have achieved the Second Rank.
- b. Duties:
 - i. If not already trained, the Budget Representative must attend an ASWC Budget Manager Training session.
 - ii. The Budget Representative will inform the Fencing Club of happenings within ASWC, and will in turn represent the interests of the Fencing Club in the legislative body.
 - iii. The Budget Representative is responsible for turning in all receipts and money requests to ASWC in a timely manner.
 - iv. The Budget Representative is responsible for reporting to the Club how much money the Club possesses at any given time to inform purchasing decisions.
 - v. In the Spring semester, the Budget Representative, with the aid of the Vice President, is responsible for creating and submitting a professional and thoughtful request for an appropriate budget for the following year to be approved by the Council.

F. Webmaster

- a. Requirements:
 - i. Must have regularly attended the club's meetings for at least 1 semester.
 - ii. Must have achieved the First Rank.

- b. Duties:
 - i. Maintain the Whitman College Fencing Club website with up-to-date information regarding meeting times, officers, upcoming events, and other information.
 - ii. The Webmaster is authorized to seek aid outside the club for the maintenance of the website.

Section 3: Terms of Office

- A. One term of office will be two (2) consecutive semesters within one school year. There will be no limit on the number of terms that any member may serve.
- B. In the case of Officers studying abroad or taking a Leave of Absence from the College, a replacement officer will be elected under the following provision (Section 4 of this Article).

Section 4: Vacancy of Office

Should an office ever be left vacant, an election will be held in the following meeting to select a replacement officer. Vacant offices will be left unfilled until the following meeting.

Section 5: Impeachment

- A. Impeachment proceeding may be initiated against any Officer by any member of the Fencing Club in the form of a written charge. An Officer may be impeached for:
 - a. Violation of the ASWC Constitution.
 - b. Violation of the Fencing Club Constitution.
 - c. Abuse of power(s).
 - d. Neglect of the duties of the office.
- B. The charge for impeachment will be read during the next meeting as the first order of business; time must be allowed for an orderly discussion of the charge.
- C. The officer undergoing impeachment proceedings will be removed from office if the membership agrees to the impeachment in a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

Article V. MEETINGS

Section 1: Quorum

Quorum for a meeting will be declared if a simple majority of the club membership is present.

Section 2: Club Meetings

- A. The club will meet for practice a minimum of two times weekly. The dates will be decided on a semesterly basis by the Officers, with the members of the club providing input.
- B. All club business and voting will take place at the beginning of each scheduled meeting, with instruction time and free bouting to follow.

Article VI. VOTING PROTOCOL

Section 1: Voting

- A. Only club members in good standing may cast ballots. These may be cast in person during the meeting or 24 hours prior to the election via documented communication directly with the President.
- B. Each club member shall have a number of ballots to cast equivalent to the rank which they have achieved. For example, a member who has achieved the Second Rank may cast two ballots.
- C. Voting will only occur during a meeting that has declared a quorum.

Section 2: Officers

- A. Officers will be elected by ballot and selected by simple majority.
- B. Officer elections will occur no later than two full weeks before the end of Spring semester.

Article VII. NEW OFFICERS

New officers, once elected, will work with outgoing officers to learn the skills necessary for the office. The new officers will assume full office at the first meeting of the new academic year.

Article VIII. SAFETY AND LIABILITY

Section 1: Safety Policy

- A. The Whitman College Fencing Club stresses safety and trains members in the proper, controlled use of classical and historical fencing weapons. Fencing is a strenuous activity, and all members must approach the sport with an understanding of the possibility that injuries could potentially occur.
- B. It is the policy of the Fencing Club that no members ever engage in unprotected or uncontrolled bouts for any reason. Infractions will be dealt with as addressed in subsections (a) through (c).
 - a. In the case of a first minor infraction, the trespassers will be reprimanded and may be placed on probation at the discretion of a majority vote of the Officers.
 - b. In the case of a second infraction of this rule or of a flagrant violation, the trespassers will be reprimanded and placed on probation for two (2) semesters.
 - c. Any safety infraction, however minor, during probation will result in immediate ejection from the club and all club sponsored events by the Head Instructor with the possibility for its permanence pending review by the Appeals Board.
- C. It is the duty of all members of The Whitman College Fencing Club to keep practices safe. In the event that a member witnesses unsafe conduct, it is the responsibility of those who saw it to report the incident immediately to the Head Instructor.

Section 2: The Appeals Board

- A. The Appeals Board shall consist of the Head Instructor, President and Vice-President.
- B. The Appeals Board is responsible for reviewing all contested decisions made by the Head Instructor regarding unsafe conduct or the Club Bylaws. They shall also be responsible for deciding upon the appropriate long-term punishment for any infraction(s).
- C. The Appeals Board's Decision to overturn the ruling of the Head Instructor shall require a 2/3 majority vote by the Board. The decision regarding punishment shall require the same.
- D. Should a member of the Appeals Board be indicted, their position as juror on the Board shall be held in trust by the Budget Representative.

Section 3: Liability Waivers

All club members must sign liability waivers releasing Whitman College, the Fencing Club, and their associates from liability incurred during any Fencing Club related meeting, practice, or activity, including liability for any loss, damage, personal injury, or death. Any participation in the club will also be considered tacit agreement to the safety and liability policies of the College and of the Fencing Club. Further, no member may participate in any drills, practices, or events, including free bouts, which involve any sort of weapon, until a waiver is signed.

Article IX. AMENDMENTS

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote in any club meeting that has declared a quorum.

Respectfully submitted this fourteenth day of December, A.D. 2007:

Stephen Parkin
President, '07-08
ASWC Rep., '07-08
Webmaster, '07-08

Will Petillo
Lead Instructor, '07-08
Budget Manager, '07-08

Nicholas Holce
Keybearer, '07-8

Amendments respectfully submitted this seventeenth day of May, Anno Domini 2012:

Kyle A. Moen
Head Instructor, '12
President, '11-12

Eric J.R. Schmidt
Head Instructor, '11
Armorer, '11-12

Sam J. Schonfeld
Assistant Instructor, '11-12

Andrew R. Molina
Assistant Instructor, '11-12

Elizabeth C. Levin
President Elect, '11-12

Amendments respectfully submitted this eighth day of October, C.E. 2015:

Ian Becker
President, '15-16

Sean Nagle-McNaughton
Head Instructor, '15-16

James McKinney
Vice President, '15-16

^[1] The Club Bylaws in this instance refer to the Bylaws concerning the club's ranking systems, qualifications necessary to attain a given rank, and privileges that come with such a rank as well as issues pertaining to the safety of the club and its members.